Alcad nickel-based batteries now play a vital standby power role at over 400 Northern Powergrid substations

Dale Power Solutions is currently installing Alcad batteries at around 60 Northern Powergrid substations a year

June 26, 2013 – Alcad, world-leading supplier of battery systems for standby power, recently passed the 400 mark for Northern Powergrid substations fitted with its reliable, low-maintenance nickel-based Vantage batteries. These substations now rely on the Vantage standby battery systems to provide a cost-effective method of ensuring the autonomous operation of critical tripping and circuit breaker switching operations in the event of a loss of their main power supply, helping Northern Powergrid in its mission to deliver electricity safely and reliably to some 3.8 million customers.

Northern Powergrid is the UK electricity distribution business for northeast England, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire with a network of more than 31,000 distribution substations. To provide the very highest levels of reliability, autonomy and optimized total cost of ownership (TCO), the utility has engaged Dale Power Solutions, a specialist contractor, to upgrade its substations by fitting Alcad Vantage batteries. Five years into the programme, Vantage batteries are now being installed at some 60 substations every year.

The origins of this major upgrade programme go back to the late 1990s when Alcad nickel-based batteries completed successfully a year-long trial for Northern Powergrid. This trial, at a 33 kV/11 kV substation in Sheffield, closely monitored both the electrical performance and the condition of the batteries. It confirmed that, in this application, nickel-based batteries would prove more reliable than traditional lead-acid batteries as well as having a lower TCO based on a predicted 20-year service life combined with reduced maintenance requirements.

‘Lifetime cost and a high level of reliability are the key factors for Northern Powergrid’ says Mike Kelly, Sales Manager of Dale Power Solutions. ‘The long-term trial showed that while nickel-based batteries are initially more expensive to buy, they have a longer life, while the Alcad Vantage battery in particular requires very little maintenance, all of which contributes to a low TCO.’

The 110 V Vantage batteries being installed at the Northern Powergrid substations have capacities ranging from 48 Ah up to 300 Ah. Normally, the batteries will deliver six hours of autonomy for the substation switching and tripping operations. However, at more remote sites the autonomy required can be stretched to 24 hours.

Alcad’s Vantage battery is designed to provide cost-effective and reliable stored energy for critical industrial and commercial applications. With capacities ranging from 8 Ah to 850 Ah, the Vantage requires no topping up over a 20-year operational life and ensures ultra reliable operation at temperatures up to +40°C.
About Alcad

Alcad (www.alcad.com) has long been recognized as one of the world’s leading suppliers of standby power thanks to its extensive range of battery types, all designed to deliver power, safety and reliability. Alcad’s unrivaled advantages: reliable cutting-edge technology products, global reach of services, uncompromising focus on quality and over a century of experience. Alcad makes the essential task of sizing, ordering and installation easy. Whatever your location, the friendly and responsive after-sales service, the reliable products and Alcad’s motivated and enthusiastic team support you from the start with an uncompromising focus on quality. Alcad’s production sites benefit from over a century of knowledge and experience in nickel-cadmium battery production to supply today’s global advanced technology battery market.

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