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REMOTE MONITORING AND DC PLANT MANAGEMENT

A highlight of this years E21C conference was Century Yuasa's range of Intelepower DC standby power solutions. Now Century Yuasa takes a look at the importance of DC plant management, and in particular the increasingly important role of remote monitoring systems.

The adherence to properly conceived maintenance practices is fundamental to the attainment of maximum performance and lifetime from a DC plant installation.

Developments in total DC system control and monitoring mean an efficient balance can be achieved between reliability and availability, delivering significant reductions in plant outage times and improved management of plant performance.

Having completed a design in compliance with specifications, it is still necessary to maintain performance during the equipment's lifetime. Normally, this is achieved through a maintenance program recommended by the manufacturer of the components.

Availability management extends the reliability issue further, taking into account access to spares to swap-out faulty components (or repair them) and the presence of personnel trained to understand the maintenance task to be carried out.

Released at the recent E21C conference in Brisbane, Century Yuasa's Intelepower range of products ensure the highest level of integrity and effectiveness in maintenance, by incorporating the very latest technology in remote monitoring capability. Such capabilities present key advantages in terms of reliability management.

The Intelepower remote monitoring system LAN based access allows remote management of the entire standby system using a standard internet browser. The system is assigned an Internet Protocol (IP) address and is managed remotely via a TCP/IP protocol or from a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP). Web monitoring means that no software is required.

An operator can access critical system data on site or from a remote location. Battery testing can also be conducted from a remote location, reducing on-site maintenance and service expertise requirements.

Remote monitoring technology is a far cry from traditional corrective procedures, whereby maintenance would be carried out on an ad hoc basis in response to failure or reduction in performance of the DC plant in its ability to support its primary application.



Press Release

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Response time of personnel involved in these situations would need to be fairly rapid and there would be heavy reliance on maintenance personnel to have familiarity with the installation.

The Intelepower remote monitoring feature increases the level of data available and improves fault management and condition monitoring, meaning an improvement in overall asset performance management. Not only does the technology allow critical decisions to be made without physically visiting the site, but more importantly, it also delivers a reduction in maintenance costs. Previous installations have reported a reduction in site visits of up to 16% and dramatically reduced outage times.

Also in terms of availability management, Intelepower systems incorporate hot swappable rectifier modules to further reduce maintenance times. Rectifier modules can be removed or changed while the system remains on-line, making service easier. Furthermore, additional modules can be installed for rectifier redundancy or expansion of system capacity.

In addition to supplying DC systems, Century Yuasa provides a total service solution, utilising its extensive national service network to aid in minimising response times to on-site alarms. For more information on Century Yuasa's Intelepower range, please contact Geoff Fussell on (08) 8354 2141.



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