

## ABB launches online technology briefings

*Highlights recent breakthroughs in power and automation technologies*

Zurich, Switzerland, November 17, 2003 - ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, today launched two online technology briefings on its Web site ([www.abb.com](http://www.abb.com)). The briefings highlight the group's spending on research and development – US\$ 799 million or 4.5 percent of revenues in 2002 – and a long list of technology breakthroughs.

“We've been working successfully for more than 100 years in power and automation – a history steeped in technology – and despite market fluctuations, we've always maintained a stable portfolio of research programs,” said Markus Bayegan, ABB's chief technology officer.

This year's technology briefings include strategic overviews from division technology heads Georg Schett and Peter Terwiesch, customer case studies from China, Argentina, Finland and the United Arab Emirates, and a special section on product innovations.

In power technologies, the briefing includes:

1. Power grid technologies that can help utilities prevent blackouts – particularly relevant to North America and Europe at the moment
2. A new generation of circuit breakers that will revolutionize a global market
3. New polymer materials which become conductive in high electrical fields, and cut costs by 75 percent in power connecting devices
4. Software with new mathematical formulae that helps manage cross-border power networks

Said Peter Smits, head of Power Technologies: “The scientists in our research organization are continuously searching for opportunities offered by new materials, processes and other technologies. This results in our customers benefiting from advanced products and systems, delivered both quickly and economically.”

In automation technologies, the list of successes includes:

1. New “sensitive” robots that can handle delicate equipment
2. A breakthrough field bus plug, the technology used to bridge the gap between devices in a plant or factory and the control panel running them
3. A special web -imaging technology that helps detect flaws in paper production
4. Environmentally superior mini-drives used to control speed in a number of industries



Said Dinesh Paliwal, head of Automation Technologies: “Continuing research is a vital part of our effort to provide automation customers with a measurable return on their investment in ABB. Our R&D efforts focus increasingly on harnessing the power of our products to deliver application-specific benefits in terms of greater efficiency, more consistent quality, and management of complex manufacturing processes.”

The briefing also includes a look at the future of power and automation technologies.

ABB runs ten research programs. The programs, managed by strategic technology teams that cut across the businesses and corporate headquarters, are aligned in two core areas: power technologies and automation technologies. Each global laboratory combines research units in the U.S., Europe and Asia. ABB is building up its R&D activities in India, Singapore and China.

ABB ([www.abb.com](http://www.abb.com)) is a global leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 120,000 people.

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