

ABB wins US\$ 28 million contract to boost Venezuelan electrical transmission system

Flexible AC system cuts time and costs for Enelven

Zurich, Switzerland, December 19 - ABB, the global power and automation technology group, has won a US\$ 28 million order from Enelven, a state-owned electric utility in Venezuela, to install systems which will increase the capacity of existing overhead transmission lines serving the petroleum and petrochemicals center of Maracaibo by 20 percent.

ABB said the use of flexible AC transmission systems (FACTS) - a number of technologies which increase capacity and flexibility in AC power transmission - would save Enelven from investing in more expensive and time-consuming alternatives.

“The Enelven project is an excellent example of how ABB capabilities in the area of flexible AC transmission systems can quickly solve a difficult problem for a utility customer” said Richard Siudek, executive vice president and head of ABB Utilities division. “In this case, Enelven is gaining a very substantial and almost immediate increase in available power, at around one fifth of the cost of adding new transmission capacity.”

The project will make an additional 300 MW of power available to help meet growing demand for power in the Maracaibo region, and enables Enelven to defer major investment in additional transmission lines or new generating capacity.

Under the terms of the turnkey contract, ABB will design, build, install and commission five series compensation stations, one for each of five existing 400 kV transmission lines. The project is to be completed on an accelerated schedule over 15 months to provide Enelven with extra transmission capacity as quickly as possible.

Conventional solutions to Enelven’s anticipated shortfall in power would be to build additional transmission infrastructure to permit more electricity to be imported into Maracaibo, or to build new generation plants to produce power at the point of demand. But these solutions would require major investment, have a considerable environmental impact and could take several years to receive the necessary site permits.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a global leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering their environmental impact. ABB has 160,000 employees in more than 100 countries.

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