

Case Study: EDF Energy



Serving the East of England, the South East and London, distributing electricity to 7.8 million homes and businesses, EDF Energy Networks constantly makes significant investments to its robust underground 11kV network, in order to adapt to increasing demands for power from its customers.

The Requirement

EDF Energy Networks approached Lucy Switchgear to develop a more dynamic automated RMU solution, that would provide them with rapid and responsive, normally open, quarter and mid-point switching, via remote monitoring and control. They required a solution that could be deployed across the EDF Energy networks, but did not result in a solution that was over-engineered and costly, for when their switching requirements were more basic.

The Solution

Lucy Switchgear were able to further develop their current Sabre VRN2a ring main unit, delivered with a Gemini G2-RTU attached to the side of it. This meant that one turnkey solution could be sent anywhere amongst EDF Energy's secondary network, as all of the hardware required for an automated RMU is supplied on one delivery pallet. This helps to reduce installation delays due to missing or incorrectly delivered hardware.

Cost Advantageous

An integral fault passage indicator (FPI) was also incorporated into the G2-RTU to replace the traditional, discrete hardware device and this change showed a cost saving as well as improved performance. In addition, Lucy Switchgear enabled the Extended WISP+ protocol to be used with their G2-RTU – a legacy protocol widely used across EDF Energy. By embedding this protocol on the G2-RTU and communicating it back via the Paknet data network, it avoided a further monetary investment for their secondary network protocol strategy.

“By providing a solution that is scalable and logistically uncomplicated, as well as being extremely cost effective, versatile and future-proof, EDF Energy Networks is able to take this technology forward and utilise it to meet forthcoming technical and commercial demands”, said Andy Courtney, European Business Development Manager for Lucy Switchgear, UK. **“We have also further developed the suite of products to include a Maximum Demand Interface, which is available as a retrofit option.”**



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