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Siemens Yatala secures major deal with Californian utility

- Largest single order for Fusesaver™ from a Californian utility to help reduce risk of wildfires
- New, locally researched and developed product that replaces decades old market technology launched to offer sustainable alternative for future network challenges
- Three new countries added to Fusesaver export portfolio – Ukraine, Egypt and Oman

One year since moving to a state-of-the-art new home, Siemens' Yatala manufacturing facility has expanded its export market and secured its largest deal in the US. The order from a major Californian utility for Fusesaver™ is to help reduce the risk of wildfires in the state and to also help in the stabilisation of the network.

The Yatala factory is home to the innovative Siemens Fusesaver, a home-grown product that is helping eliminate up to 80 percent of sustained electricity outages on rural networks in over 30 countries. As the world's fastest medium voltage circuit-breaker, it also means that it can react in 10 milliseconds to prevent sparks from faulty power lines or traditional pole fuses. This makes Fusesaver particularly interesting to countries and communities with high bushfire or wildfire risk.

"We're now exporting Fusesaver to over 35 countries, right here from Queensland," said Jeff Connolly, CEO and Chairman of Siemens Australia Pacific. "We've even recently added the Ukraine, Egypt and Oman to our export list."

“I’m really proud that a home-grown innovation, with the backing and support of Siemens, has created such global demand. Energy utilities across the world are seeking greater energy reliability and reduced costs and Fusesaver is helping deliver this.”

“Australia can clearly be a competitive manufacturing nation if you create the right environment and scale globally. And with further investment into research and development I’m really pleased to see another innovation, the Compact Modular Recloser, that provides a sustainable alternative to future energy network challenges.”

Launching the Compact Modular Recloser (CMR)

Only 12 months since the official factory opening in Yatala, the team behind Fusesaver also launched a new, locally researched and developed Compact Modular Recloser (CMR) that replaces dated technology from mid-1900’s.

“There is a great demand for innovative products and solutions to assist companies around the world as they tackle the energy transition - and we have the engineering and R&D knowhow to do this right here from Queensland,” said Dr. Brett Watson, one of the co-founders of Fusesaver.

Developed by Australian engineers, the CMR addresses common problems of obsolete hydraulic devices with rudimentary capabilities. Showcasing world first technology, the new auto-recloser is designed to help energy networks in the fight against outages caused by transient faults. The lightweight device features integrated self-powering from line-voltage, a small footprint and the ability for wireless firmware and configuration updates. Addressing a range of utility requirements, CMR is very cost-effective and permits easy installation and fast commissioning.

“While the team is pleased with the positive response and success, it doesn’t come as a surprise,” said Dr Watson.

“There aren’t many products in the market that can do what the Fusesaver and CMR are capable of. With the introduction of voltage powered technology, a world first, we are providing a glimpse into possibilities and the innovative potential of our team. We keep pushing the boundaries to further enhance existing products and develop new ones to fill a gap and help solve problems— be it energy security and availability,” said Dr. Watson.

In addition to the above, the Yatala factory also decreased its carbon emission by 50,701 kg/year with the installation of 120 solar panels - the equivalent of 838 tree seedlings grown for 10 years.

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How Fusesaver™ works

Flagship product of the Yatala facility is Fusesaver™ which is the world's fastest medium voltage (MV) outdoor vacuum circuit breaker. It protects overhead distribution networks in rural areas. As a fuse is unable to distinguish between temporary and permanent faults, it blows on all faults, causing downstream customers to lose power and requiring a line crew on site.

In rural networks it may take hours for the line crew to drive to site, patrol the line and reconnect supply. This leads to high operating costs for the utility. Fusesaver™ can detect, open and clear a fault in as little as 10 milliseconds, which protects the fuse and line while enabling higher network reliability. Its unique fault clearing speed makes it the fastest MV outdoor vacuum circuit breaker. This feature also reduces the risk of bushfires dramatically because it diminishes the probability of an arc ignition causing a fire.

Information about Compact Modular Recloser (CMR):

- Superior ratings to cover more network applications
- Quick installation facilitated by its small footprint and light weight (20 kg excl. mounting bracket)
- Dependable operation due to voltage power and rechargeable battery back-up
- Improved operator safety from fully insulated design
- No need for periodic inspection and maintenance

Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a global technology powerhouse that has stood for engineering excellence, innovation, quality, reliability and internationality for 170 years. The company is active around the globe, focusing on the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization. One of the world's largest producers of energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies, Siemens is a leading supplier of efficient power generation and power transmission solutions and a pioneer in infrastructure solutions as well as automation, drive and software solutions for industry. With its publicly listed subsidiary Siemens Healthineers AG, the company is also a leading provider of medical imaging equipment – such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging systems – and a leader in laboratory diagnostics as well as clinical IT. In fiscal 2017, which ended on September 30, 2017, Siemens generated revenue of €83.0 billion and net income of €6.2 billion. At the end of September 2017, the company had around 377,000 employees worldwide. Further information is available on the Internet at www.siemens.com.