

ABB to supply gas-insulated switchgear for substation in Saudi Arabia

State-of-the-art equipment to reinforce network and improve power supply

Zurich, Switzerland, Mar. 5, 2009 – ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, has been awarded an \$18 million order to supply 380 kV gas-insulated switchgear (GIS) equipment for a new substation called Mecca West being established by the Saudi Electricity Company in the western region of Saudi Arabia.

The substation will reinforce the utility network and improve power supply to the city of Mecca. ABB's scope of supply includes 15 circuit breakers with control panels, which will be installed, tested and commissioned in a fast-track project scheduled for completion in around 18 months. The GIS will be supplied by ABB's high voltage GIS manufacturing unit in Switzerland.

“This is a highly reliable solution with extremely low space requirements which is ideal for densely populated areas, thereby minimizing environmental impact,” said Stefan Ranstrand, global head of the High Voltage Products business within ABB's Power Products division.

The standardized bay construction and compact design make it easy to access the switching equipment from a maintenance perspective. By optimizing the components, their number and weight is reduced, allowing the dimension of the bay and the carrying capacity of the building foundations to be substantially reduced. High quality materials and the latest technology lower the maintenance effort and extend service life.

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

For more information please contact:

Head of Communications
ABB Power Products & Power Systems
Harmeet Bawa
Tel: +41 43 317 6480
Fax: +41 43 317 6482
harmeet.bawa@ch.abb.com