

## ABB wins \$35 million HVDC upgrade order in Canada

### Upgrade to enhance grid reliability, improve efficiency and enhance power availability

Zurich, Switzerland, July 18, 2014 – ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, has won an order worth about \$35 million from Hydro-Québec to upgrade the 350 megawatt (MW) Madawaska high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission link, that connects the grids of New Brunswick and Hydro Québec in southeast Canada. The order was booked in the second quarter of 2014.

The project scope includes installation of ABB's MACH control and protection system and the upgrade of the valves and valve cooling system. The back-to-back converter station has been in operation for more than 25 years and the modernization is expected to significantly improve grid reliability and help reduce maintenance needs. The new station is scheduled to go into full operation in 2016.

"This upgrade will enhance power availability, reduce outages and improve grid reliability in the region" said Claudio Facchin, head of ABB's Power Systems division. "The project also reiterates our continued focus and commitment to growing our service business."

ABB has built up significant experience in upgrade of HVDC links around the world as many such installations are coming of age. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> major HVDC modernization project and the 15<sup>th</sup> upgrade of control and protection systems awarded to ABB since 1990.

ABB's MACH system is the world's most extensively deployed control solution for HVDC and Flexible Alternating Current Transmission Systems (FACTS) installations, with over 1,100 such systems in operation throughout the world.

ABB pioneered HVDC technology nearly 60 years ago and has been awarded around 90 HVDC projects representing a total installed capacity of more than 95,000 MW, which accounts for about half of the global installed base. ABB remains at the forefront of HVDC innovation and is uniquely positioned in the industry with in-house manufacturing capabilities for all key components of HVDC systems, including power semiconductors, converters and high voltage cables.

Hydro-Québec generates, transmits and distributes electricity, mainly using renewable energy sources, in particular hydroelectricity. It is Canada's leading electric utility and among the biggest in North America.

ABB ([www.abb.com](http://www.abb.com)) is a 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 150,000 people.

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