

## ABB wins \$260 million power order to upgrade HVDC link in the U.S.

### Converter station upgrade to improve power reliability

Zurich, Switzerland, Feb. 6, 2013 – ABB, a global leader in power and automation technology, has won an order worth around \$260 million from the U.S. utility Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a power marketing agency within the U.S. Department of Energy, to upgrade the existing Celilo HVDC (high-voltage direct current) converter station in Oregon. This station is an important part of the electricity link between the Pacific Northwest and southern California commissioned more than 40 years ago in 1970. The order was booked in the fourth quarter of 2012.

The Celilo converter station is located at the north end of the Pacific DC Intertie, also known as Path 65, which has a capacity of 3,100 megawatts (MW) and originates near the Columbia River. This Intertie is 846 miles long and connects to the Sylmar converter station in the south.

The Pacific DC intertie transmits electricity from the Pacific Northwest to as many as three million households in the greater Los Angeles area. During the winter, the north consumes significant quantities of power for heating while the south requires less, but in the summer, demand is reversed with more power needed in the south for cooling. The Pacific Intertie allows power to flow between the Northwest and Southern California, helping to balance supply with demand.

Key components of the station upgrade include valves, controls, transformers as well as switchgear and cooling equipment. In addition to modernizing the converter station, the upgrade will also make it feasible to boost capacity up to 3,800 MW. ABB carried out a similar upgrade of the Sylmar converter station in 2004.

“The converter station upgrade will enhance the reliability of this important HVDC link, thereby reducing the risk of blackouts and helping to secure power supply in the region,” said Brice Koch, head of ABB's Power Systems division.

ABB pioneered HVDC technology almost 60 years ago and remains the world leader in this highly-efficient technology, having completed over 70 HVDC projects around the world with a total transmission capacity of more than 60,000 MW.

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 145,000 people.

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