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COVER FOCUS: SMART GRID

Smart Grid Infrastructure and Technologies

Ukraine has implemented several projects to upgrade its power grid. Some examples include a Digital Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS) that was implemented through a partnership between DTEK Grids and General Electric; inspection of power lines using drones and special software from Hepta Airborne; and dephys' GridEye system, which allows constant monitoring of grid parameters.

Preventing Blackouts and Improving Power Systems with Smart Grid Technology

Two significant challenges that face power networks include aging infrastructure and intermittent power flows, resulting from the energy transition. Countries around the world, including the U.S., face a growing need to invest in the grid and to create efficient energy highways to prevent blackouts and improve power systems. Underground cables, digitalization, advanced interconnectors, and superconductors, along with the cost-effective reinforcement of electricity networks in congested urban areas, could all be part of the solution.

FEATURES

Utility Spotlight: New Era for NextEra

Since its inception as Florida Power & Light Co. in 1925, NextEra Energy has transformed into the largest electric utility company in the U.S. based on market capitalization. Today, the company boasts a renewables portfolio that is the largest in the world, and it stands among America's largest capital investors in infrastructure. This story, the first of *POWER's* "Spotlight" series, will chronicle how NextEra fielded growth and navigated turmoil even as it was entrenched in the U.S.'s ever-morphing policy and market landscape.

Doing the Work to Support the Workforce

The rapid pace of change in the power generation sector, coupled with the pandemic-induced labor shortage, means utilities and others in the energy space need to be creative when it comes to recruiting and maintaining a workforce.

A Team Approach to Power Plant Retrofits

Many small to midsize power houses are using equipment dating back to the 1950s and 1960s, and that equipment is nearing the end of its lifespan. Therefore, power companies need to replace or upgrade equipment such as fans, pumps, boilers, and tanks if power stations are to remain useful. Three sources teaming together—the company's own staff, equipment vendors, and a trustworthy independent engineering firm—can make this process easier, ultimately leading to success.

Taking Biomass Power Generation to the Next Level

Biomass is among the oldest forms of fuel used in the world, but that doesn't mean there aren't innovative things being done to enhance biomass technology. High-efficiency fluidized bed combustion, co-firing with fossil fuels, combined heat and power cogeneration, and gasification are common today, and a range of newer technologies, such as pelletization, torrefaction, and pyrolysis, have been developed to improve processes, making them more efficient and cost effective.

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: A Look at Where Carbon Capture and Sequestration Schemes Are, and Where They're Going

Climate change concerns have been driving the development of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology worldwide. Many people feel CCS projects need to be developed quickly. What needs to be done to make that happen? This article looks at CCS efforts in California over the last 10 years, identifies project challenges and opportunities that exist today, and addresses impediments to project permitting in the future.

The EU Taxonomy: Are Natural Gas and Nuclear Power Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution?

The European Union (EU) is developing a classification system for sustainable activities called the EU Taxonomy. It is expected to be a central tool in the sustainable finance agenda. What it means for the future of natural gas-fired generation and nuclear power is a question that's up for debate.

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