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POWER

NEWS & TECHNOLOGY FOR THE GLOBAL ENERGY INDUSTRY SINCE 1882

EDITORIAL PREVIEWS

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COVER FOCUS: OPTIMIZING PLANT EFFICIENCY AND RELIABILITY

Advanced Process Control Strategies That Improve Plant Efficiency and Reliability

Operating profiles of traditional power generators are changing due to the variability of renewables. Original control strategies for many of these units were not engineered to manage these highly variable conditions. This article will describe the limitations of conventional PID-based control schemes, and explain how advanced process control strategies can help. The application of field-proven advanced model-based solutions have resulted in improved and more reliable ramp rates and load flexibility.

FEATURES

Lifeline: HVDC's Growing Prowess in an Increasingly Complex Power Landscape

Consensus has finally begun to gather that the world will need more high-voltage, direct current (HVDC) transmission to enable the interconnection of ever more complex power systems. In anticipation of this significant role, HVDC technology developers have ramped up advancements to achieve more optimal voltage levels, transfer capacities, and transmission lengths. This article will survey the current HVDC technology scene and markets, as well as provide analysis on key challenges related to future applications, prospects, and trends.

Innovative and Highly Functional C&I Power Systems

Commercial and industrial (C&I) power systems are driving the growth of distributed energy. Businesses recognize the need for reliable, resilient electricity, and are placing more emphasis on controlling their energy costs. C&I customers want readily available, quality electricity to mitigate disruption, protect valuable equipment, and support their bottom line.

Solar Power Plant Maintenance with Thermal UAV Inspection Technology

Solar power generation utilizes photovoltaic (PV) modules, high-voltage power equipment, inverters, power cables, and DC/AC string boxes. To ensure proper operation, the equipment requires maintenance. One of the most important aspects of this involves thermal imaging inspections, and perhaps the best way to accomplish that is using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Electrical Commissioning and Acceptance Testing Are the Foundation for Total Electrical System Lifecycle Management

To manage the challenges of today's complex electrical power systems and tightening budgets, facility managers

need to understand the critical connection between electrical commissioning and acceptance testing, and planning for lifecycle management. To assist in this responsibility, this article will review the scope of services required for each stage of electrical system lifecycle management and provides details on how proper commissioning and acceptance testing should inform the design of a maintenance program that fits the needs of a specific facility.

Gaskets and Fasteners May Not Be Sexy, but They're Vitrally Important

While basic nuts and bolts haven't changed much over the years, some of the materials used in them have evolved and designs have become much more precise. The same can essentially be said for gaskets—more complex sealing solutions have been developed. This article will explore what's keeping joints held tightly together these days, and keeping contaminants out and fluids in piping systems.

Repurposing Power Plants and Real Estate

There have been a lot of power plants shuttered in recent years. So, what's being done with them? This article will look at some of the unique ways old facilities are being repurposed and review how previously plant-occupied real estate is being revitalized to enhance local communities.

How to Prevent Condensation-Induced Water Hammer

Steam and liquid water in a pipeline do not always play well together. Situations where they are unexpectedly brought into contact can be volatile. Condensation-induced water hammer (CIWH) is the term commonly used when describing a variety of transients that occur when water vapor is rapidly condensed by cold water. This article will describe the various types and causes of CIWH, how to estimate the velocities and pressures involved, and will provide readers with solutions they can use to prevent it.

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