Altitec Launches Rope Ascender Rental Service

Powered rope ascender systems such as the ActSafe Ascender are able to considerably reduce climbing times for rope access technicians. (Courtesy: Altitec)

Altitec, the distributor and service partner for ActSafe Ascenders for the UK, Ireland, and Baltic countries, has launched a rental service for the powered rope ascender system that will transform the speed and efficiency of rope access across multiple sectors.

It will provide a cost-effective solution for reducing inspection and maintenance times in the energy, telecoms, and construction industries, enabling independent contractors and in-house rope access technical teams to maximize performance in limited operational windows. It also will provide a number of potentially life-saving options for fire departments and emergency rescue services.

REDUCING COSTS

Repair and inspection on operational infrastructure is invariably a time-sensitive process. In the energy and construction sectors, operators and asset owners are under increasing pressure to reduce costs by increasing the performance and profitability of their assets; while in the telecoms space, planned outages and service interruption must be kept to a minimum.

Moreover, conducting scheduled and unscheduled maintenance at heights creates additional time pressure for technical teams, since work must be carried out in favorable weather conditions, further narrowing the window of opportunity.

On average, technicians using an ActSafe Ascender system can achieve 35 percent more work in one day. (Courtesy: Altitec)

When it comes to complex on-site inspection and maintenance on tall assets — from wind turbines to telecoms masts and offshore infrastructure — rope access technicians continue to offer the most comprehensive and effective solution. Yet there are still clear gains to be made when it comes to efficiency and speed of access.

Powered rope ascender systems such as the ActSafe Ascender are able to considerably reduce climbing times for rope access technicians, boosting access efficiency, combating fatigue, and allowing a greater focus on conducting essential repairs. On average, technicians equipped with an ActSafe Ascender system can achieve 35 percent more work in one day, contributing to substantial long-term time and cost savings for asset owners.

INCLUDES TRAINING

Altitec has already confirmed a number of early rental agreements with leading rope access and inspection firms operating in the onshore and offshore sectors, all of whom will benefit from a full maintenance and service offering. This includes one full day of hands-on training to ensure the safe and practical operation of the equipment, regular equipment assessment and service intervals every six months, and an exclusive up-time guarantee, ensuring that technicians and inspection teams are fully equipped at all times with ready-to-use cutting edge rope access equipment.

"No matter how sophisticated remote inspection systems become, there's ultimately no substitute for a team of highly trained rope access technicians when it comes to conducting inspection and repairs at height," said Tom Dyffort, managing director of Altitec. "While some might view rope access as a more 'traditional' option, the fact is that the discipline is becoming increasingly advanced — due, in part, to specialist training, and in part to time-saving technological innovations like the ActSafe Ascender."

"As a provider of blade repair and inspection services to the global wind energy industry, we're acutely aware of the cumulative performance impact of incremental efficiency gains and have experienced first-hand the advantages of ActSafe, which we deploy as standard in our day-to-day operations," Dyffort said.

ActSafe Power Ascenders are available in four different models, including battery, remote controlled, mobile power supply, and gas-powered units, with a range of applications for the energy, telecoms, and search-and-rescue industries.

Source: Altitec

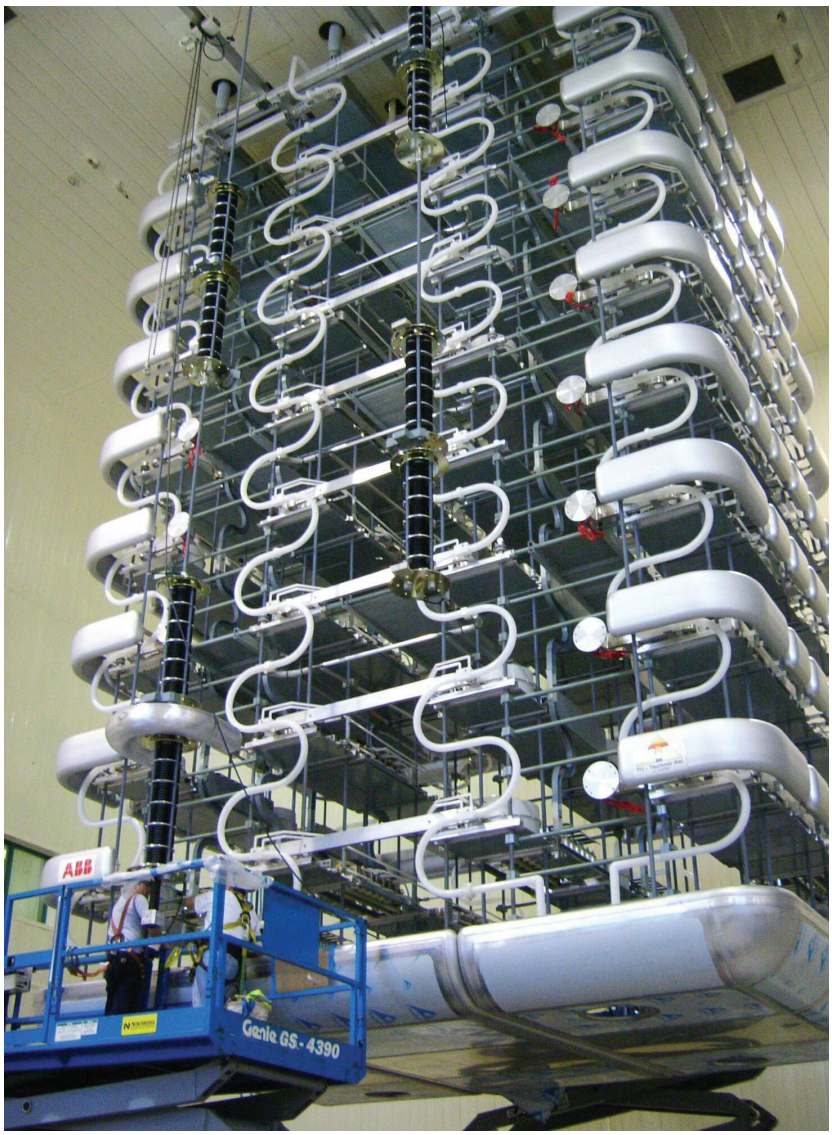
For more information, go to www.altitec.co.uk/actsafe/

ABB Wins $100 Million Order to Upgrade California HVDC Link

ABB has won an order worth more than $100 million from the U.S. utility Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), to modernize the existing Sylmar HVDC (high-voltage direct current) converter station in California. This station is an important part of the electricity link between the Pacific Northwest and southern California commissioned in 1970.

The Sylmar converter station, north of Los Angeles, is the southern station of the Pacific Intertie, a 1,360-kilometer HVDC link that connects to the Celilo converter station near the Columbia River, Oregon. The Pacific Intertie transmits electricity from the Pacific Northwest to as many as 3 million households in the greater Los Angeles area. Normally, the power flow is from north to south, but during the winter, the north consumes significant quantities of power for heating while the south requires less, and the power flow is reversed. The Pacific Intertie allows power to flow between the Northwest and Southern California, helping to balance supply with demand.

"The Pacific Intertie was the first major HVDC link to be installed in the U.S. and has been providing power to millions in the U.S. for nearly five decades," said Claudio Facchin, president of ABB's Power



An HVDC converter station. (Courtesy: ABB)

Grids division. "We are delighted to return to this pioneering project. After the success of Celilo, the Sylmar upgrade will help to secure power supplies while providing greater efficiency and reliability with an exceptional level of control. ABB is a global leader in HVDC, and this project reiterates our commitment to service and lifetime support, a key element of our Next Level Strategy."

KEY FEATURES

Digitalization will be a key feature in the upgrade, as the latest version of ABB's most advanced digital MACH control and protection system will be installed. As announced previously, Celilo, the northern converter station of the link, was the first installation in the world to benefit from an upgrade to this latest control system. Other key components of the Sylmar station upgrade are AC and DC filters, shunt reactors, as well as measurement and auxiliary equipment.

The digital MACH system monitors, controls, and protects the sophisticated hardware in the station, managing thousands of operations to ensure the highest possible reliability. It also helps to protect the transmission link from unexpected disruptions, such as lightning strikes.

MACH acts like the brain of the HVDC link, designed to run around the clock for decades. Incorporating advanced fault registration and remote-control functions, ABB's MACH system is the world's most extensively deployed control solution for HVDC and FACTS (Flexible Alternating Current Transmission Systems) installations, with more than 1,100 such systems in operation throughout the world.

ABB is upgrading the Sylmar HVDC converter station — an important part of the electricity link between the Pacific Northwest and southern California. (Courtesy: ABB)

Since being awarded the contract to help build the

Pacific Intertie in 1965, ABB has had a long lasting relationship with the link, delivering multiple performance and life extending upgrades over the 46 years the link has been in operation. This is ABB's sixth order to work on the Pacific Intertie.

ABB pioneered HVDC technology more than 60 years ago and has been awarded more than 110 HVDC projects, representing a total installed capacity of more than 120,000 MW, accounting for around half the global installed base.

Source: ABB Group

For more information, go to www.abb.com

Cyberhawk Is a Finalist at Offshore Achievement Awards

Cyberhawk team operates a drone offshore. (Courtesy: Cyberhawk Innovations)

Cyberhawk Innovations has been recognized as a finalist at the 2017 Offshore Achievement Awards in the Safety Innovation and Export Achievement categories.

The world leader in aerial inspection and survey using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), or drones, continues to pioneer the use of this technology to conduct close up inspections of live and difficult-to-reach structures.

The company has been named as a finalist for the Safety Innovation award as a result of its UAV inspection solution for the internal inspection of tanks and confined spaces in the offshore oil and gas industry.

NEW SERVICE LAUNCHED

In 2015, Cyberhawk carried out the world's first inspection of an internal storage tank on board a Maersk FPSO in the UKCS, successfully launching a new service to the global oil and gas and shipping industry.

The company's track record proves that this technique dramatically reduces safety risks, can incur savings into seven figures and is at least two- to four-times faster than traditional inspection methods.

Similarly, the shortlisting for the Export Achievement award draws upon Cyberhawk's original approach to successfully deliver its inspection solution to international markets, proving that UAV technology is a viable option for inspection in the oil and gas and renewables sector. These markets include mainland Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and North America.

GLOBAL POTENTIAL

"The whole team is honored to have been shortlisted for both prestigious industry awards, which is testament to our engineering pedigree and determination to take an idea and develop an entirely new market," said Chris Fleming, CEO at Cyberhawk. "We created this industry almost 10 years ago and since undertaking the world's first inspections of assets such as flares and wind turbines, we realized that this untapped market had huge global potential."

"Since then we have worked in more than 25 countries, the majority of which have been the country's very first UAV oil and gas inspection," he said. "We are proud to have our technology recognized by the industry on a global scale and look forward to the ceremony in March."

Hosted by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Aberdeen Section, the annual awards celebrate pioneering technology and safety innovation, and exceptional individual and company performance in the oil and gas and renewables sector. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony March 23 in Aberdeen.

Source: Cyberhawk Innovations

For more information,
go to www.thecyberhawk.com

Klüber Offers Ultra-Fine Filtered Synthetic Spindle and Hydraulic Oil

Klüber Lubrication, a worldwide manufacturer of specialty lubricants, offers Klübersynth FB 4 Series, an ultra-fine filtered synthetic spindle and hydraulic oil that extends component life and reduces operating costs.

Oils in the Klübersynth FB 4 Series are designed to lubricate rolling bearings of highspeed machine tool spindles. They can also be used in hydraulic systems and components, including dirt-sensitive servo valves where cleanliness standards and/or classes are predetermined by the manufacturer.

"The three oils in the Klübersynth FB 4 Series, ISO VG grades 32, 46, and 68, help reduce wear caused by fine dirt particles in the lubricant, and can lengthen component life due to a higher purity of the oil," said Bill Watson, regional director of marketing and engineering for Klüber Lubrication NA LP. "A fully synthetic base oil also helps extend oil change intervals and improve total cost of ownership in a hydraulic system."

Klübersynth FB 4 Series are PAO oils of purity class 15/13/10 in accordance with ISO 4406.

Klüber Lubrication is one of the world's leading manufacturers of specialty lubricants, offering high-end tribological solutions to virtually all industries and markets worldwide.

Source: Klüber Lubrication

For more information,
go to www.klubersolutions.com