

ELECTRIFICATION SERVICE

ABB Advisory Services help secure better reliability across 1,200 plants

Standardizing of power system analysis processes allows food company to benchmark and drive improvement globally



For larger companies with vast installed bases of electrical equipment, it can be difficult to keep on top of the maintenance needs of every device and component. One global food supply chain operator found that ABB could provide an affordable and effective solution that also scaled globally.

The challenge

Manufacturing and moving essential goods within the global food supply chain requires a huge network of plants and facilities. The industry cannot afford unplanned interruptions of production, and also needs to manage an ongoing transition to more digitizing manufacturing.

For larger companies, this represents a major challenge. Upgrade projects can potentially span thousands of devices across hundreds of plants in various locations across a region, or even across the globe. One of the world's largest food supply companies encountered precisely this issue when embarking on a project to better understand the true condition of its 1,200 plants. While many of them reported no major issues, the internal team discovered that some plants had never carried out a power system study, or that the study had expired.

Performing and analyzing the required electrical studies for all of the plants, which each had a different schedule for their 5-year study renewal, was a major undertaking. With five different studies required per plant, 6,000 were needed in

total. This would be too time-intensive for the company to undertake internally, while using different suppliers from region to region would mean the quality, cost and consistency of reports would differ. The company needed a simpler, independent way to benchmark its facilities, on a global scale.

How ABB Advisory Services helped

ABB was chosen primarily due to its global footprint and certified quality according to global and local standards. The dedicated ABB service team collaborated with the company to produce a standardized report using ETAP, a software platform for electrical power system modelling and simulation. The studies were then defined (Load Flow, Short Circuit, Protection Coordination, Arc Flash, and Stability and Dynamic Study), with an additional Site Assessment Study in certain countries.

A pricing tool was created by ABB so that costs to the customer could be estimated based on the country, equipment types, resource required and other factors – making it easier to budget for the project.

Outcome

The customer now has complete control over power system studies and a globally recognized report. ABB's power systems studies will now help to maintain and improve system reliability, and ensure production and deliveries to customers across the globe are running efficiently. The studies are currently being conducted, after which the service team will offer recommendations based on the results, that will help to reduce the customer's energy costs and increase safety, availability and sustainability.

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