Case Study

Cable Instruments

Electricity North West redirects savings of up to £900,000 to front-line projects

Client - Electricity North West

Electricity North West is a distribution network operator that owns, operates and maintains the North West's electricity network, connecting 2.4 million properties and more than 5 million people to the National Grid.

CableData Collector™

Challenge

- A 3km long cable with a poor fault history was being considered for overlay by Electricity North West at a cost of £300 per meter - £900,000 in total.
- A large section of the existing cable had already been overlaid due to on-going problems.
- Prior to budget setting there was a need to assess the condition of the cable circuit and to assess whether a complete overlay or sectional overlay was the most cost-effective option.

Solution

- EA Technology's CableData Collector™ identifies defects caused by partial discharge in live cables.
- The CableData Collector™ is non-intrusive and so there was no disruption to customers.
- Given the huge potential investment, the condition of the cable was double-checked using a Very Low Frequency test.
- Results from both tests directly correlated and showed that previous overlay work had been successful and no additional investment was required. Since this assessment, no faults have been reported on the 3km, 33V cable.

Benefits

- £900,000 investment saved and is being redirected to other front-line projects
- Security of supply was maintained and customers experienced no interruptions to service
- Peace of mind – tests show that the cable is highly unlikely to fail due to Partial Discharge and now the asset can be managed through normal annual cable testing.

"At Electricity North West, we wanted a more scientific method to prioritise cable replacements and improve the overall reliability of the underground network for our customers. We approached EA Technology and were very impressed by the field trials and made a purchase of some of the test equipment and services they demonstrated. The after-sales technical assistance was equally as good."

David Rothwell, Technical Support Unit & Protection Engineer at ENW

MKT0088/CS/160115/V2/bdb13086

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