

THE SCOTTISH CONDITION MONITORING ALLIANCE PRESS RELEASE (NOV 24)

SCOTTISH CONDITION MONITORING ALLIANCE SUPPORTS UK UTILITY SECTOR

Six innovative Scottish technology companies have established a new industry alliance focused on providing condition monitoring products and related services to the UK and international utilities sector.

The companies offer a range of specialist services – from hardware development to analytics and visualisation tools - that assist the UK's Transmission and Distribution Network Operators and international utilities to deliver on asset management strategies that minimise operations and maintenance (O&M) costs.

The Scottish Condition Monitoring Alliance (SCMA) has been formed by **Elimpus Ltd** (www.elimpus.com), an established provider of a range of radio frequency partial discharge monitoring products and services that allow utilities to better manage operational and safety risks associated with high-voltage plant and equipment. Elimpus clients include the National Grid, ScottishPower and SSE. George McBride, managing director at Elimpus, said that the new Alliance would highlight the strengths of a cluster of innovative condition monitoring suppliers based in Scotland and reflected the fact that several were already working in partnership to deliver a number of R&D and business as usual projects for clients. The other founding members of the Alliance, announced at the industry's Low Carbon Networks & Innovation Conference in Liverpool (Nov 24-26), include:

Bellrock Technology Ltd: A high-tech software company and University of Strathclyde spin-out whose Lumen® platform helps utilities employ cutting-edge tools to rapidly interpret operational data and take cost-saving decisions faster. www.bellrocktechnology.com

High Frequency Diagnostics and Engineering Ltd: Established by the internationally-recognised partial discharge expert and former University of Strathclyde academic, Professor Martin Judd, the company provides a range of technical services and training focused on high voltage condition monitoring technologies, partial discharge measurement and diagnostics, and electromagnetic phenomena. www.hfde.co.uk

Losstek Ltd: A data analytics company providing new insight to distribution networks for utility companies. Losstek helps operators improve efficiency and gain added value from the vast amounts of data in monitored network assets. www.losstek.com

Polaris Diagnostics and Engineering Ltd: A provider of transformer consultancy and technical support services which was recently awarded a three-year contract by Iberdrola (ScottishPower Energy Networks). www.polarisdiagnostics.com

Synaptec Ltd: A University of Strathclyde spin-out developing new technologies involving an innovative application of optical fibre sensors to allowing direct measurement of electrical current and voltage using existing fibre-optic infrastructure installed in the power networks. synapt.ec

The Alliance will focus on developing new partnering and business development opportunities among its members, enabling each company to offer a wider range of innovative products and services to utility and OEM clients. Collaboration efforts will also involve the continued cooperation on DNO-funded R&D projects delivering new condition monitoring technologies to UK utilities.

George McBride of Elimpus, said: “The Scottish Condition Monitoring Alliance will help build on the spirit of collaboration and cooperation already demonstrated by its founding members. While Elimpus has been providing innovative products and services to utilities for almost a decade, we are excited to work with the new players in the condition monitoring space.

“The opportunities to work with our utility customers to help them address challenging asset management and condition monitoring issues are significant and growing each year. Working with other dynamic SMEs in this space will help address these opportunities and enable us to offer customers access to the right expertise - from technical services to analytics - at the right time.”

Ian Hunter, Technical Director of Polaris Diagnostics and Engineering, said: “We are very excited to be part of SCMA which offers a great opportunity to form technical collaborations with other highly-motivated companies. My belief is that it will give us a new platform in which to explore new ideas and take these initiatives to our customers.”

Martin Judd, director of High Frequency Diagnostics and Engineering, added: “Scotland’s wealth of expertise on condition monitoring of transmission and distribution equipment has its roots in collaborative research programmes between Universities and industry stretching back over 25 years. The SCMA companies embody that drive for applied innovation in the range of unique diagnostic technologies they provide to electrical utility companies.”

Background Information for press release:

Condition monitoring and asset management in the utility sector has historically involved a time-based or reactive approach to maintaining and replacing electrical substation assets. With unplanned outages damaging equipment and having a wider impact on the distribution network, the move towards the embedding of intelligent sensors, real-time data networks and analytics to continuously monitor the condition of substation equipment can inform Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) as to when and how to intervene, thus preventing damage and outages, as well extending the life expensive network equipment. An unplanned outage in a utility’s network can have four key impacts:

- *Safety to personnel*
- *Cost of repair (unplanned maintenance)*
- *Interruption to client supply*
- *Environmental cost*

Each impact has its own each associated financial costs. For example, the average cost of replacing a High Voltage (primary) switchgear is approximately £120k, a figure that can rise to over £800k for 132KV circuit breakers.

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