

East African Power Industry Convention announces platinum sponsorship by Lucy Electric

"Increasing appetite amongst investors"

"This is a very exciting time for the electricity sector across East Africa and at Lucy Electric we hope to play a key part in helping to make this a reality" says Phil Dingle, Marketing Director, Lucy Electric, a global secondary distribution leader in the electricity sector and a platinum sponsor at the upcoming **East African Power Industry Convention (EAPIC)** in Nairobi in September.

Phil Dingle continues: "across the East Africa region there is great potential for high volumes of photovoltaic, wind or geothermal energy generation, depending upon the location. Amongst investors there is an increasing appetite for such projects, which present a smaller risk, with a much quicker and quantifiable payback. As a result we are seeing increasing investment in renewable energy sources".

He adds: "Lucy Electric's switchgear range comes into effect when low carbon technologies head towards 1MW and upwards or where there is a need for local micro grid interconnections or connections to the main grid – and we expect to see rising demand for these products in the future".

Projects in the region Lucy Electric is already very active in the East African region with network automation projects the key focus for utilities in East Africa, according to Phil Dingle. He explains: "we are currently working with Kenya Power on an on-going project to automate the network in the Mombasa region. To date, an end to end distribution automation system (DAS), covering the medium voltage network across 1,661 square kilometres, has been installed. KPLC are already seeing significant benefits with average fault response time reduced from 1 -2 hours to just 30 seconds and customer minutes offline reduced from between 1 – 2 hours to less than 20 seconds. Phase two of the project is on-going, extending the automation of the network to the remaining areas of the coast region and is expected to be finished before the end of the year".

Lucy Electric is also working with the Ugandan distribution company, UMEME, on a project to automate the overhead network in Kampala

and the surrounding area. Says Phil: "The project will focus on optimisation of the network to improve quality of supply and will enable UMEME to better manage generation shortfalls, improve fault resolution and allow reconfiguration of the network to ensure essential services are maintained during any power outages. The project is currently in its final stages with the potential to be extended on both the overhead and to the underground network".

The Lucy Electric Marketing Director adds: "we have also recently completed a similar project for ECG in Ghana, automating almost 50,000km of distribution lines, increasing network resilience, improving supply quality and delivering almost instant fault identification."

Great opportunities for utilities Lucy Electric sees great potential in the East African region as "it presents a stable political and economic environment which is very attractive to investors" says Phil Dingle, "and forward-looking governments in the region are proactively developing infrastructure for the future and we anticipate continued investment in the short and medium term".

He continues: "this presents great opportunities for utilities to future-proof networks, moving away from traditional design models towards more active network management to take into account the challenges presented by the growth of distributed energy resources."

Lucy Electric at EAPIC

Lucy Electric has been a long-standing partner of the **East African Power Industry Convention (EAPIC)** which takes place for the 18th time this year, and is expected to gather more than 2000 visitors from more than 30 countries, including from the region's leading power utilities, large industries and investors as well as dozens of technology and service providers who will showcase their products at the KICC in Nairobi from 21-22 September. "**EAPIC** presents the perfect opportunity to showcase our products, services and leading expertise to one of our key growth markets", Phil Dingle explains, "last year we had great engagement with new and existing customers and identified more opportunities where we can truly add value across distribution networks in Africa. We are looking forward to demonstrating our expertise in secondary distribution networks with a particular focus on our automation product range." For more industry insights from Lucy Electric's Phil Dingle, go to the full interview here: <http://www.eapicforum.com/lucyelectric>