Construction News - Engineering

Ring Main Units Supplied in Tyree Padmount Substations

- Essential Energy's supplier of padmount substations, Tyree, are currently experiencing critical supply issues with EFACEC Fluofix GC Ring Main Units (RMUs) which is creating supply issues for padmount substations
- Essential Energy are working with Tyree on an agreement for padmount substations to be supplied with ABB Safelink2 or Schneider RM6 RMUs until the supply situation is resolved
- Both RMU alternatives have been used previously on the network and have well established operational procedures.

Background – what happened?

Essential Energy's current approved, standard padmount substation arrangements utilise EFACEC Fluofix GC RMUs for both 11 and 22kV configurations.

EFACEC's main production plant in Portugal produces the Fluofix GC RMUs used on the Essential Energy network. This facility has been subjected to extended Government Public Health Orders related to COVID 19. Health Orders coupled with ongoing component and raw material delays from sub suppliers, have seriously impacted production. This has resulted in EFACEC's inability to maintain supply of the Fluofix GC RMU in line with demand.

Essential Energy are currently working with Tyree on an agreement which will see padmount substations supplied with ABB Safelink2 or Schneider RM6 RMUs subject to availability. Agreement to accept both RMU types will help expedite the manufacture process and improve lead times currently associated with padmount substations.

What happens now?

Padmount substations already on order will continue to be supplied with the standard EFACEC Fluofix RMU where the correct RMU configuration is available in current stock. Essential Energy is currently working with Tyree to determine which projects will be affected and arrange for alternative RMUs to be supplied where these orders cannot be fulfilled. Tyree will contact any customers who have current orders which will be affected.

Essential Energy is committed to working with Accredited Service Providers (ASPs) to ensure any previously certified designs are not adversely affected or unduly delayed.

Tyree and Essential Energy are working through the Technical Specifications and data on the alternative RMU arrangements as swiftly as possible to ensure integration in the padmount substations and mitigate any further impacts or supply delays. The Tyree padmount has been designed for these alternative RMU arrangement and will be supplied to the performance and reliability requirements of the network.

Essential Energy's Engineering team will produce suitable termination and connection detail for the alternative RMUs being supplied. With both RMUs already in use on the network the correct connection types are known, readily available and will be provided in further detailed communications as the alternate RMU arrangement padmounts are received and evaluated. This information will also be supplied to those whose current orders will be affected with alternate RMUs supplied.

What do you need to do?

Be aware some current orders for Padmount substations will be supplied with alternate RMUs that differ from Essential Energy's current standard. If this change affects projects with current orders in place Tyree and Essential Energy will be in contact to make alternate arrangements and provide technical detail for connection arrangements.

Designers and ASPs planning work from the date of publication of this Construction News will need to verify the type of RMU with Tyree during the ordering process and create drawing details and material lists for the correct RMU accordingly.

Be aware ABB Safelink2 RMUs have an alternate bushing configuration to EFACEC Fluofix GC which requires alternate termination types. The appropriate terminations for RMU and Cable type will be specified in further communication as soon as those details are confirmed.

More information is available on Standards Online. If you have any questions, please contact: David Shephard, on 0407 139 698 or Peter Couch on 0439 829 449.