



Schneider Electric skids into action to polish up a portable power panel

When one of the country's largest energy companies identified a need to investigate maintenance for a 10 year old switchboard, it turned to Schneider Electric for evaluation and ultimately a major refurbishment.

Background:

Scottish and Southern Energy is involved in the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity; energy trading; the storage, distribution and supply of gas; electrical and utility contracting; and telecoms.

The seven panel portable skid mounted switchboard consists of six of Schneider Electric's Ringmaster distribution panels and a metering unit. Investigation revealed that one breaker, together with the Voltage Instability Predictor (VIP300) relay, was faulty and needed repair. For long term reliability and to add significantly to the life expectancy of the equipment, Scottish and Southern Energy elected to have the entire switchboard refurbished. The problem was that because the skid mounted board was deployed at various sites, the need to have it back in service quickly was an imperative.

Solution:

The complete panel was taken to Schneider Electric's Leeds factory, where the original panels were made. A complete refurbishment was undertaken to return the six Ringmaster units and the meter to as new condition. Moreover, before releasing the completed unit, it underwent a thorough functionality test, gas check and trip testing. Finally, the panel was cleaned and repainted. In short, it was returned to Scottish and Southern Energy looking like a brand new switchboard.

Benefits:

Costing significantly less than a new equivalent switchboard, Scottish and Southern Energy saved money; lost no resource because the refurbishment was completed in a tight timeframe and to deadline; and has a unit that is assured of being reliable for years to come.



Roger Wright, Scottish and Southern Energy said, "The equipment was returned tested and shining like a new pin. These skid mounted units, because they are moved, must be rugged and reliable. We can now depend on the panel without concerns about its age or condition".