

Drives for HVAC from ABB exhibited to industry leaders at EGB/LEED Program Conference

(A “systemic way of engaging construction,” note managers. Opportunities abound)

NEW BERLIN, WI, September 2, 2004 – As the ante for energy-efficient building design and certification continues to rise, ABB motor drives for HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) are integral to helping designers and builders meet the standards.

Based on participation in the recent, first annual Engineering Green Buildings (EGB) Seminar and Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, “we know that ‘green’ has become systemic,” notes Jeff Miller, HVAC sales manager for ABB Inc., Low-Voltage Drives. “It is *the* way, not *a* way, to engage new and retrofit, construction.” More than 300 industry leaders attended the three-day seminar, hosted by *HPAC Engineering Magazine*, and the EGB Conference was linked closely to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program.

Rating System Rewards Smart Energy-use Equipment Installation

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program is a rating system that allows building owners to apply for and earn LEED certified, Silver-, Gold- or Platinum-rated building(s). “Owners receive points for energy efficient-designs that can include use of motor drives on their fans and pumps, as well as environmentally friendly designs, such as using recycled grey water from sinks to water a building’s surrounding lawns,” said Mike Olson, manager – HVAC applications, for ABB Inc. The more points received, the higher the LEED rating. Many local governments and municipalities are adopting LEED-design principals into their building codes.

Energy Equipment Choices Impact Construction at Federal, State and Local Levels

Organizations requiring LEED Certification or LEED design include: Federal (GSA, DOD & DOE); State (Maryland, New York and Oregon give tax credits based upon LEED ratings; and, additionally, Maryland requires all State buildings to meet LEED standards); and Local.

At local levels, for example, Chicago (Cook County) requires all new county facilities to meet LEED standards. Portland created a tailored version of LEED for city-funded buildings, and Seattle requires a LEED Silver level for city-funded projects. San Mateo and Los Angeles, California both require new public buildings to be built to LEED standards. And Arlington, Massachusetts requires LEED Silver certification on town-owned buildings. “As the list grows, our channel partners in the specification and sale of drives will identify more and more opportunities locally on a daily basis,” said Olson. “It’s here and present – not futuristic; and it’s an opportunity to continue to support optimal demand-side management of energy usage.”

At least 3% of U.S. new construction work now is undergoing LEED certification, or requires LEED design. “We concluded from the EGB Conference presentations that LEED is in its infancy, but not for long; and the upside potential for everyone – vendors, designers, owners, and building users – is tremendous,” said Olson.

Retrofit, Too

LEED - NC (New Construction) has been released for several years, and a new standard, LEED - EB (Existing



Buildings), is about to be released. The potential for new-drives retrofit and replacement into existing buildings is significant, “tremendous,” according to the ABB experts. A 1999 survey found that there are over 4.6 million commercial buildings in the U.S. and over 67 billion square feet of conditioned floor area.

“We consider this very good news for ABB drives, as these drives can play a pivotal role in ensuring every kilowatt of energy is used wisely throughout the HVAC systems,” Olson said. He noted that it is not uncommon for HVAC systems to utilize up to 50 percent of the total energy used in a typical commercial building facility. LEED is becoming a market transformation tool and ABB is in on the ground floor, he said.

ABB, a leading drives supplier to the HVAC industry, was the only drives manufacturer invited to attend the EGB conference and exhibit their products.

ABB Inc., Low-Voltage Drives, is a leading drives supplier to the U.S. HVAC market, and has connected tens of thousands of drives to building automation systems. In the USA, ABB, New Berlin, Wisconsin, supplies a complete line of energy-efficient electric drives and motors to HVAC and commercial customers through an integrated channel of sales representatives. Products manufactured include AC and DC variable speed drives from fractional to 500 horsepower. HVAC single-motor drive applications include exhaust fans, fume hoods, re-circulation pumps, condenser fans; multiple-motor applications include multi-cell cooling towers, paralleled chilled water, and booster pump systems (<http://www.abb-drives.com>). For information on the new ACH550 drives, see <http://abb-drives.info/ach550/>.

ABB (www.abb.us) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 115,000 people. The company's U.S. operations employ about 9,000 in manufacturing and other facilities in 40 states.

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