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SAVE TO SAVE – SAAB GRINTEK TECHNOLOGIES LEADS THE WAY TO “GREEN” TECHNOLOGY

South Africa as a signatory to the United Nations framework convention on climate change and the Kyoto protocol also has an obligation to reduce greenhouse gases.

Part of Eskom’s 6-point climate change plan is to promote energy efficiency measures that would translate into measurable reductions. Aiming to save 3000 megawatt over the next six years, Eskom wants to save 8000 MW by 2025.

Each industry sector has a role to play to meet these energy-reducing targets.

Saab Grintek Technologies makes a *powerful* case for a “green” power solution that affords significant savings to the telecommunications sector in South Africa – and in its African market.

Telecommunications use significant amounts of energy to power its network systems. Most of the energy is in the form of DC power to run its infrastructure. As networks expand and broadband grows, the energy consumption by the telecoms industry is likely to continue increasing.

With its preference for DC power, telecom uses rectifiers to convert the AC supply provided by utilities like Eskom. The rectifiers take the AC input from 220V to direct current (DC), usually 48V. Although switch mode technology has improved since the 1970s, rectifier efficiency remains in the low 90%.

One of *the* leading suppliers of power solutions to this sector in Africa for more than 15 years, Saab Grintek Technologies now offers high efficiency (HE) rectifier modules with an unsurpassed 96% efficiency. Whereas the industry standard at present is 92%, the 4% efficiency improvement of the recently released FP2-HE module translates into a massive 50% reduction of conversion losses.

How does this concretely help the telecoms industry?



“A hypothetical example would show significant savings on operating expenditure on the slightly higher capital investment in the HE modules,” explains Martin Siepker, Saab Grintek Technologies general manager who is responsible for Power Technologies and Wireline division. “Let’s calculate an average load of 6000 watt output per telecom site: input power on an industry standard rectifier (92% efficiency) requires 6522 watt. With our 96% efficiency HE rectifier the input power reduces to 6250 watts.” This translates into an energy saving of more than 2380 kilowatt-hours per year for each sample site. The use of less air conditioning cooling within containers using HE rectifier modules equates to a further 10% energy saving, to around 2620 kWh annually.

“At the current price of 55 cents per kWh in South Africa our clients would save more than R1.4 million every year on energy costs if these modules are deployed over 1000 sites,” Martin Siepker explains. “Over the lifecycle of the HE rectifier modules the saving accumulates quite significantly – not to mention the substantial credits for a lower CO₂- footprint.”

Saab Grintek Technologies has a longstanding relationship with international firm Eltek Valere, leader in HE rectifier modules.

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Saab Grintek Technologies, part of the Saab Group, is a leading technology company based in South Africa recognised globally for its innovative high tech electronics, with focus on ICT, energy management and global connectivity services.





PRODUCT NEWS

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