ABB electric “superhighway” to send clean energy for 90 million across India

ABB VOICED REPORT

Zurich, Switzerland, November 2, 2015 – ABB has switched on the first phase of a major new electric link that will send clean energy from northeast India all the way to a substation in Agra, more than 1700 km away, supplying power for 90 million Indian citizens throughout northern India, based on average per capita household electricity consumption. It’s the world’s first multi-terminal “UHVDC” (ultra-high voltage direct current) link, allowing power to be sent across vast distances to where it’s needed most, with minimal losses and reduced need for pylons and right-of-way. There is also a provision for reversal of power flow from Agra to North-East. The link runs 6,000 MW at 800 kilovolts and will be fully commissioned in 2016.

The project is being executed by ABB together with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), a leading government-owned power company, on a turnkey basis, including design, system engineering, supply, installation and commissioning for Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID), India’s central transmission utility.

For more information see our press release at http://www.abb.com/cawp/seitp202/5667ca332bf139a7c1257ece002b121b.aspx

**Dateline: Biswanath Chariali/Agra, India, October 2015**

**Source: ABB**

Script

Agra – the home of the Taj Mahal.

It’s also a flourishing city of some 1.7 million people.

India’s need for reliable power – here and in the country as a whole – has never been higher.

At this converter station just outside town, engineers are feeding fresh power straight into the national grid.

To make sure the country has a stable supply of electricity, it’s essential to harness power generated all across India.

And that’s exactly what ABB’s new high-power cross-country link does – by bringing in a huge amount of clean hydroelectricity all the way from the other end of the country.

SOUNDBITE, Abhay Kumar, Site Manager Agra, ABB (English, 28 sec):

“India is a vast country – a developing one. It’s the second-most populous country in the world. And energy demand is increasing. And on top of that, the electric energy is going even further up. So we need to do everything so that we are able to meet the demand of the growing population. And such a project which is bringing a large amount of power in a more efficient way is really helpful for the economy of the country and the people of the country."

Agra lies at one end of a new electricity superhighway – an HVDC link that reaches 1700 kilometres to the state of Assam in India’s far northeast.

Here, on the edge of the jungle, ABB is turning locally-generated AC power into direct current, and doubling the voltage.

It’s this high-voltage, direct current technology, pioneered by ABB some 50 years ago, that makes it possible to send the power across such vast distances with minimal losses and a reduced need for pylons and other infrastructure.

That means India can send local power – enough to serve 90 million Indian homes – to where it’s needed most.

SOUNDBITE, Lars Kilström, Site Manager Biswanath Chariali, ABB (English, 25 sec):

“There’s a lot of resources in the rivers that connect to Brahmaputra River, which is close to this site, and they are planning to construct a lot of hydropower plants in the future. And this project is then to take that power and supply it where it’s needed. And right now the need is not much up here, the need is great in the central part of India."

This isn’t the first HVDC link ABB has built in India – there’s now five projects across the country strengthening the national grid.

## With India set to overtake China by 2030 as the most populous nation on earth, these superhighways mean it’s ready to supply its booming population with stable and reliable power…from one end of the country to the other.

Shotlist

-WIDE of Taj Mahal

-GVs street scenes Agra

-WIDE TILT DOWN of control room at Agra substation

-GVs ABB staff in control room

-WIDE CRANE UP of Agra substation site exterior

-WIDE ABB staff inside DC hall

-SOUNDBITE Abhay Kumar, Site Manager Agra, ABB

-WIDES of HVDC pylons at and near Agra site

-WIDE electricity pylons (not HVDC) in field in Assam, northeast India

-WIDE farmer in field with pylons in background

-WIDE TILT DOWN of Biswanath Chariali HVDC site

-GVs inside valve hall

-MID site manager on roof looking at pylons

-GVs details of technology

-SOUNDBITE Lars Kilström, Site Manager Biswanath Chariali, ABB

-GFX animation of ABB HVDC projects in India

-GVs pylons in Assam landscape

-GVs pylons at Biswanath Chariali site, sunset

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