MSCDN
Reactive power compensation equipment for extra high voltage
Reactive power compensation equipment for extra high voltage networks

Modified conditions at generation feeding points, the unbundling of energy generation and transmission, as well as a growing energy trading activity are creating new fields of application. The installation of reactive power compensation systems can improve long alternating current transmission line capacity in widespread high voltage networks. The installation of reactive power compensation systems - such as Mechanically Switched Damped Capacitor Networks (MSCDN) and other FACTS solutions - can improve long AC transmission line capacity in widespread high voltage networks.

Until recently, energy generation and consumption have resided relatively closely to each other. With the construction of larger generation plants or offshore windfarms, energy has to be transported longer distances to consumption load-centres. This requires the application of shunt capacitors along transmission lines to secure voltage stability in peak-load periods and for reactive power compensation. These capacitors generate controllable reactive power at the point where it is needed.

Our scope of reactive power compensation equipment

- Network analysis: measuring and evaluation of harmonic components in an HV network
- Installation design
- Design of the protection and monitoring equipment
- Supply for switchgear and reactive power compensation equipment
- Integration of the compensation equipment into existing substations
- Construction, reconstruction and assembly
- Commissioning

Benefits of reactive power compensation

- Lower reactive power demand of the transmission line during strong load condition
- Less emission of CO2 because of reduced power losses
- Optimal workload on overhead lines
- New construction of overhead lines can be postponed
- Return-on-investment of approximately two years
- Easy supply of reactive power wherever needed

A higher transmission capacity also facilitates more energy trading – without the construction of new transmission lines.

An additional benefit for transmission system operators is that their network’s become more independent from the power plants in terms of reactive power compensation. The losses associated with generation and transmission of reactive power are reduced in comparison with a situation where only power plants provide reactive power.

Reactive power compensation equipment offers a very quick return-on-investment.

Field-strength distribution at a height of two metres
Further possibilities to increase the transmission capacity

Besides the already mentioned fixed compensation, Alstom Grid offers dynamic reactive power compensation installations with thyristors (SVC), as well as STATCOMs in VSC technology.

These systems allow the reactive power to be continuously adapted to the particular situation. Furthermore, the excellent dynamic performance permits the transmission of more power while ensuring transient stability in the case of system disturbances.

Alstom Grid’s High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission systems are another possibility to increase the transmission capacity and to avoid network bottlenecks.

Our experts support you in the optimal planning of technological and economical steps to increase the transmission capacity of your networks.