New Cooper Power Systems Smart VFI Switchgear Reduces Downtime and Provides Efficient Integrated Solution

Easy-to-use, fully-integrated intelligent switchgear reduces downtime, provides cost savings when incorporated into a SCADA system, and quickly adapts to evolving distribution automation technology.

WAUKESHA, WI, April 2, 2013 – Cooper Power Systems recently announced the new Smart VFI underground distribution switchgear, providing an efficient, robust integrated solution for the Smarter Grid and critical power requirements. Smart VFI switchgear combines advanced tap-and-loop protection with metering, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) functionality and highly flexible and powerful automation capabilities in a single integrated package.

The Cooper Power Systems Smart VFI switchgear helps users reduce downtime and boost overall reliability when integrated into existing distribution automation systems or customized to fit the needs of many applications. Those applications may include feeder reconfiguration for the self-healing grid, solar and distributed generation grid-ties, data centers and critical power requirements.

“All Smart VFI switchgear products have been designed with electric utilities and large power users in mind as a way for them to meet the challenges of an ever-increasing need for reliable power and greater operating efficiencies,” said Rob Hardin, global product manager – underground distribution switchgear, Cooper Power Systems. “These fully integrated switchgear packages are designed, tested and supported from a single source with unmatched expertise in underground distribution products and reliability solutions.”

Smart VFI switchgear uses proven, reliable resettable vacuum interrupters for immediate service restoration, eliminating the added expense and downtime associated with stocking and replacing fuses. In addition, the switchgear is filled with biodegradable E200™ dielectric fluid
that eliminates the need for Sulfur Hexafluoride gas, identified as one of the most potent greenhouse gases by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Additional safety features include vacuum switching that never contaminates the insulating medium; 100 percent dead-front construction; visible break option for internal isolation and grounding of cables; and the ability to operate switches and interrupters with hotsticks, side operated handles, or motor operators for maximum flexibility in addressing arc flash concerns.

All Smart VFI controls use ProView™ application software, the same powerful, easy-to-use platform designed by Cooper Power Systems and used by the company’s Form 6 recloser control. The program’s IDEA Workbench™, a revolutionary graphical software programming environment, permits the user to add additional protection and control functionality to any Smart VFI control by means of downloadable custom software modules. This ability provides a continuous upgrade path that not only protects the initial investment in Smart VFI, but also provides a means to increase functionality in response to changing regulatory, power quality and reliability concerns.

For more information on new Smart VFI Underground Switchgear solutions from Cooper Power Systems, please visit www.cooperpower.com.

Editor's Note: For additional information, contact Mike Petrasek of Burson-Marsteller at (412) 394-6611 or michael.petrasek@bm.com.

Cooper Power Systems is part of the electrical business of Eaton. Eaton acquired Cooper Industries plc in late 2012. Cooper Power Systems provides world-class power delivery apparatus and solutions for the utility, commercial, and industrial markets. Cooper Power Systems maintains a complete portfolio of products and services required to transform, protect, connect, and build out an electric power system backbone. Smart apparatus – voltage regulators, capacitors, reclosers, switchgear, smart sensors, and controls – integrated with enterprise level software and secure communications enable customers to increase productivity, optimize asset efficiency, improve system reliability, and reduce costs. Reliability and grid-point solutions include: Integrated Volt/VAR Control (IVVC), feeder, and substation automation systems. End-point solutions include: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and Demand Response (DR). Cooper Power Systems is a leading provider of engineering optimization and modeling tools. For more information, please visit www.cooperpower.com. For information about Eaton, visit www.eaton.com.

###