

Press release - 10 February 2011

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Investments in smart grids

Arnhem, Thursday, 10 February – This month, the Dutch grid manager, Liander, will begin installing innovative operating systems at significant junctions in the electricity grid. These new systems will ensure that power outages are shorter and will allow the energy supply to become more sustainable. Liander engaged Locamation and Liandon to develop this technology. This technology puts Liander at the forefront of international developments. Implementation will take seven years at an approximate annual cost of € 15 million. It is the first significant investment in smart medium-voltage grids in the Netherlands.

Duration of power outages reduced

The junctions in the electricity grid – the distribution substations – will be fully digitalised, which means that significant power outages can be solved more quickly. Where the system – the SASensor - is installed, power outages last 30% less on average. This is because it now takes less than a minute to identify the precise location of a power outage. Consequently, engineers can start restoring the electricity supply virtually immediately. As a result, a significant power outage lasts around an hour instead of one and a half hours. It will take seven years to digitalise the distribution substations throughout the grid. This is the first step on the way to the further digitalisation of the grid, gradually leading to greater reductions in the length of power outages in the future.

Sustainable energy supply a step closer

The digitalisation of the distribution substations – a first step in making the grids smart - plays an important role in the sustainable energy supply of the future. The voltage quality in the grid will be measured continuously. This is important for the reliability of the grid if more and more customers start generating and delivering back electricity using wind turbines or solar panels.

Trials successful

Over the past few years, Liander has digitalised several distribution substations and conducted extensive tests. The technology has been developed further into a robust system. The first distribution substations will be fully digitalised this year. All other junctions will follow. Currently there are no comparable systems available on the market. Globally, Liander is taking the lead with this innovation.

Notes to Editors:

About Alliander

Energy network company Alliander, which employs approximately 6,000 staff, comprises the Liander, Endinet and Liandon companies. Grid managers Liander and Endinet transport electricity to 3.0 million customers and gas to 2.6 million customers in an area extending to over a third of the Netherlands. Liander and Endinet are responsible for grid maintenance, expansion and enhancement in the provinces of Gelderland, Friesland, North Holland, parts of South Holland, Flevoland and North Brabant. Liandon provides services relating to the construction and maintenance of complex energy infrastructures.

About Locamation BV

Locamation is based in Hengelo, the Netherlands, and develops and supplies independent smart grid automation and smart grid automation-related products and services to Grid operating companies. The company has around 40 employees dedicated to service the Dutch and international market. It aims to become the leading provider of smart grid automation products and services and is committed to delivering cost-efficient and sustainable technologies.

For further information:

<http://www.alliander.com>
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