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New Arc-Flash Detection Relay From SEL Minimizes Dangerous Arc-Fault Energy

PULLMAN, WA — March 26, 2009 — Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) today announced the immediate availability of arc-flash detection (AFD) capability in the SEL-751A Feeder Protection Relay, providing fully automatic protection against dangerous arc-flash events. Without AFD, the arc flash can cause severe personal injury, extensive equipment damage, and lengthy system outages. In contrast, AFD interrupts power to the arc flash before it can cause significant damage. Anyone with metal-clad switchgear will benefit from using the SEL-751A with AFD.

The SEL-751A AFD solution uses fiber-optic, arc-flash light sensors to detect the light produced by an arc-flash event. To prevent false tripping, the SEL-751A looks for an overcurrent that coincides with the light flash. When both conditions are met, the SEL-751A sends a trip signal to the circuit breaker in as fast as 2 ms. This fast tripping significantly reduces the damage-causing energy released by the arc-flash event.

“As a result of new NESC and NFPA requirements, many utilities and industrial companies are looking for ways to mitigate arc-flash hazards. The SEL-751A can reduce these hazards by stopping an arc-flash event before it escalates into a catastrophic, high-energy event,” said SEL R&D Manager Angelo D’Aversa.

The SEL-751A Feeder Protection Relay with AFD is available now. For more information, visit <http://www.selinc.com/Arc-Flash/>.

SEL serves the electric power industry worldwide through the design, manufacture, supply, and support of products and services for power system protection, monitoring, control, automation, and metering. SEL offers unmatched local technical support, a worldwide, ten-year product warranty, and a commitment to making electric power safer, more reliable, and more economical.

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