

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hitachi Energy signs EconiQ frame agreement with BKK Nett to contribute to Norway's carbon-neutrality

BKK Nett will install eco-efficient EconiQ™ Live Tank Breaker (LTA) to adopt eco-efficient alternatives to the Norwegian grids

Zurich, Switzerland, October 19, 2021 – Hitachi Energy has signed a frame agreement with Norway's major distribution grid company, BKK Nett to install EconiQ™ Live Tank Breakers (LTA) 145 kV in more than 10 substations in the western region. For Hitachi Energy, this is the very first frame agreement globally for its EconiQ eco-efficient breaker technology.

Norway plans to cut at least 50 percent of its greenhouse gases by 2030 with the target to achieve carbon-neutrality by 2050. To achieve this goal, the country is taking action to adopt eco-efficient technologies and accelerate the path towards carbon-neutrality.

The first project in the frame agreement is the Askøy substation, located on an island west of the city of Bergen, Norway. BKK Nett will rebuild the substation to meet the growing electricity demand from businesses and households.

“This frame agreement with BKK Nett marks an important milestone as the very first for the new EconiQ breaker technology. We are committed to work with our customers to reduce carbon footprint and accelerate the energy transition”, said Markus Heimbach, Managing Director of the High Voltage Products business at Hitachi Energy. “We are pleased to be partnering with BKK Nett in the quest towards achieving carbon neutrality.”

“We are excited to join forces with Hitachi Energy to bring new and innovative EconiQ technology that reinforces our strategy for sustainable operations.” says Atle Isaksen, Head of Grid Development at BKK Nett. “With such an eco-efficient technology, we are able to build future-proof substations with lower environmental impact.”

The new EconiQ LTA 145 kV breaker uses carbon dioxide (CO₂) and oxygen (O₂) as insulation gas mixture instead of the conventional sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), a greenhouse gas which has been the norm for decades due to its superior insulation and switching properties. The EconiQ high-voltage portfolio essentially eliminates the CO₂ equivalent emissions related to the insulation gas and has been proven to significantly reduce the carbon footprint throughout the total lifecycle.

Recently, Hitachi Energy announced the acceleration of its development of eco-efficient solutions, outlining its extensive EconiQ roadmap of switchgear and breakers in various voltage levels. This enables customers and the industry as a whole to reduce carbon footprint and rapidly transition to eco-efficient solutions.

EconiQ is Hitachi Energy's eco-efficient portfolio for sustainability, where products, services and solutions are proven to deliver exceptional environmental performance. At the forefront of sustainable innovation, Hitachi Energy is powering good for a sustainable energy future.

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Hitachi Energy website:

- (1) [Live Tank Breaker – LTA, EconiQ™](#)
- (2) [EconiQ – Eco-efficient high-voltage portfolio for the environment](#)

About Hitachi Energy

Hitachi Energy is a global technology leader that is advancing a sustainable energy future for all. We serve customers in the utility, industry and infrastructure sectors with innovative solutions and services across the value chain. Together with customers and partners, we pioneer technologies and enable the digital transformation required to accelerate the energy transition towards a carbon-neutral future. We are advancing the world's energy system to become more sustainable, flexible and secure whilst balancing social, environmental and economic value. Hitachi Energy has a proven track record and unparalleled installed base in more than 140 countries. Headquartered in Switzerland, we employ around 38,000 people in 90 countries and generate business volumes of approximately \$10 billion USD.

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About Hitachi, Ltd.

Hitachi, Ltd. (TSE: 6501), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is contributing to a sustainable society with a higher quality of life by driving innovation through data and technology as the Social Innovation Business. Hitachi is focused on strengthening its contribution to the Environment, the Resilience of business and social infrastructure as well as comprehensive programs to enhance Security & Safety. Hitachi resolves the issues faced by customers and society across six domains: IT, Energy, Mobility, Industry, Smart Life and Automotive Systems through its proprietary Lumada solutions. The company's consolidated revenues for fiscal year 2020 (ended March 31, 2021) totaled 8,729.1 billion yen (\$78.6 billion), with 871 consolidated subsidiaries and approximately 350,000 employees worldwide. For more information on Hitachi, please visit the company's website at <https://www.hitachi.com>.

Information contained in this news release is current as of the date of the press announcement, but may be subject to change without prior notice.
