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For Immediate Release, Please

***Substation Related Automation and Integration Program
Spending Plans remain “Cautiously Optimistic” by
Major International Electric Power Utilities***

***On Par With Their North American Counterparts, More Than
80% of International Respondents Claim to Have Substation
Automation and Integration Programs Underway in Mid-2008.***

***Hiring and Training of Internal Staff, as Well as an Eventual
Economic Up-turn Seen as Key Drivers to Future Growth.***

December 8, 2008. . . . Ellicott City, Maryland. The Newton-Evans Research Company has released research findings from its third quarter 2008 study of international electric power utility substation officials. About 50 large and mid-size electric utility organizations from more than 30 countries participated in the 2008 study.

International utilities accounting for nearly one-third of all utility owned transmission and distribution substations indicated plans to spend about \$300-350 million this year on substation A&I program management activities, and more than one billion dollars for “smart” substation devices.

Many of the large International utilities participating in this year’s study continue to buy on a “turnkey” basis from a single supplier, which remains in stark contrast from findings reported in this year’s North American study. North American officials reported that they continue to purchase various substation products, equipment and systems from suppliers that they believe to be “best in class”, (whether these are global corporations, or smaller substation A&I market specialists).

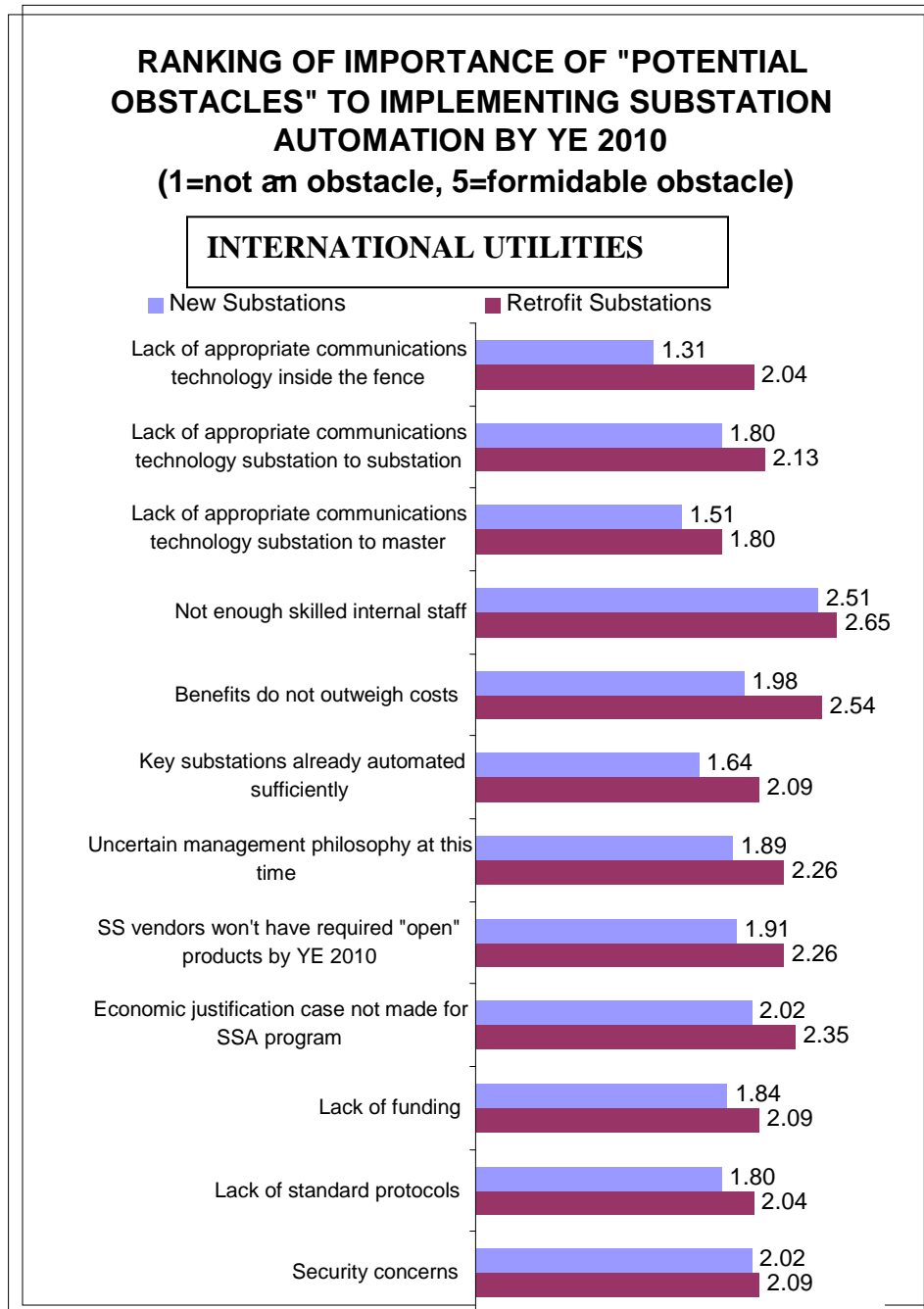
Among other highlights in the Volume Two International substation automation study are the following:

- The respondents to the international study with substation A&I programs underway ranged from a high of 95% in Europe to a low of 75% among respondents in South Asia, Middle East and Africa. Nonetheless, this is a substantially higher rate than had been reported in five earlier studies conducted since 1996.
- Potential obstacles (see attached figure) to substation automation and integration programs are ranked higher for retrofit programs than for new construction, but both retrofit and new construction obstacles have moderated over the past decade.
- Serial links remain the most important method for communicating between control centers and substations, and are relied upon rather extensively by just over one half of the survey respondents.
- While DNP remains as the most widely used protocol within North American substations, it is not widely used in Europe. DNP-3 was reported to be widely used by Asian respondents, and by half of the Latin American respondents.
- Plans among international electric utilities to adopt the IEC 61850 protocol (and architecture) stood at 40%, a significantly higher level than reported by their North American counterparts. Over one-half of European utility respondents indicated some level of deployment of this protocol
- Utilities are making use of outside service firms to provide training services (72%), distribution field device configuration support (52%), and engineering drawing support (46%).

A total of 20 topical question groups were included in the international survey instrument, accounting for more than 75 individual questions.

Additional topics being covered in Volume Two of the Newton-Evans' 2008 series of substation studies include overall substation communications architecture, voltage ranges used to power substation automation equipment, external systems linkages to and from the substation, listings of preferred equipment suppliers, and an assessment of where international substations are positioned along a five-phase path to complete automation.

A parallel study of North American electric utilities was published in September, 2008. The final two volumes in this series are scheduled for publication in December, 2008.



Additional information on the four volume study **“Worldwide Market for Substation Automation and Integration Programs in Electric Utilities: 2008-2010”** is available from Newton-Evans Research Company, 10176 Baltimore National Pike, Suite 204, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042. Phone 1-410-465-7316 or visit www.newton-evans.com. Liz Forrest can be reached at eforrest@newton-evans.com and Eric Leivo can be reached at eleivo@newton-evans.com.