

Delivering Reduced VOC and Additional Value



Power and distribution transformers are extremely complex and technologically advanced pieces of electrical equipment, sometimes costing millions of dollars in capital expenditure per unit.



Like lots of the items we buy, however, valuable brands are made on the back of both how the product performs and of course, how it looks. So when a transformer is delivered for installation on site, whether it be a power plant or high voltage network, the first thing customers should see is the values of the company that stands behind the product – that includes the quality of the paint.

As a global leader in power and automation technologies, ABB designs transformers to last many years in different environments and has forged a reputation for high quality through countless decades of innovation and progression in its field. In 2010, to assure the quality of the corrosion protection systems and as part of their commitment to lowering their environmental impact, ABB decided to establish a worldwide agreement with AkzoNobel and two other companies for the global supply of coatings to their transformer operations.

There are a number of tangible benefits to partnering a large, globally recognised paint supplier like AkzoNobel:

Environmental flexibility: the ability for ABB to select from a range of lower volatile organic compounds (VOC) system options to achieve environmental goals at individual facilities and across their business.

Commercial transparency: the ability to establish greater transparency in a commercial contract which covers multiple countries and supply locations.

Globally consistent quality: ABB can tap into a consistent supply of high quality products from a global product range that is manufactured to the same quality, regardless of location.

Technical support coverage: An established technical support infrastructure which is available for each of ABBs facilities and subcontractors, regardless of location.

In 2012, ABB chose AkzoNobel as the coating supplier for their transformer facility in Spain. In line with the principles of the agreement, the following products were chosen from AkzoNobel's high solids, solvent-borne offer:

- Interzinc® 52
- Interseal® 1052
- Interthane® 990
- Interline® 399

This high solids range has been specifically brought together to help reduce VOCs emissions at ABB locations.

“The change to AkzoNobel’s system has resulted in a reduction in VOCs of over 50% at this facility, which is excellent. In addition, we have been able to make good progress towards achieving our environmental goals at other facilities in South East Asia and the USA.”

commented Frank Burke from ABB.

“Importantly, the worldwide agreement has made it easier to facilitate any future customer required repairs ensuring compatibility with the original finish as the standard products used are globally available” continued Burke.

“We have also been able to combine our knowledge and experience to improve understanding of the performance of coatings and their impact on performance and aesthetics of our equipment”.

This is a key point, as AkzoNobel manufacture their global core range in over 20 locations worldwide, backed up in the field by their highly experienced technical support network. This critical mass combined with global consistency makes them well-suited to support customers like ABB who not only operate multi-nationally across different industries and cultures but also prize supply chain quality and long term collaboration.

