

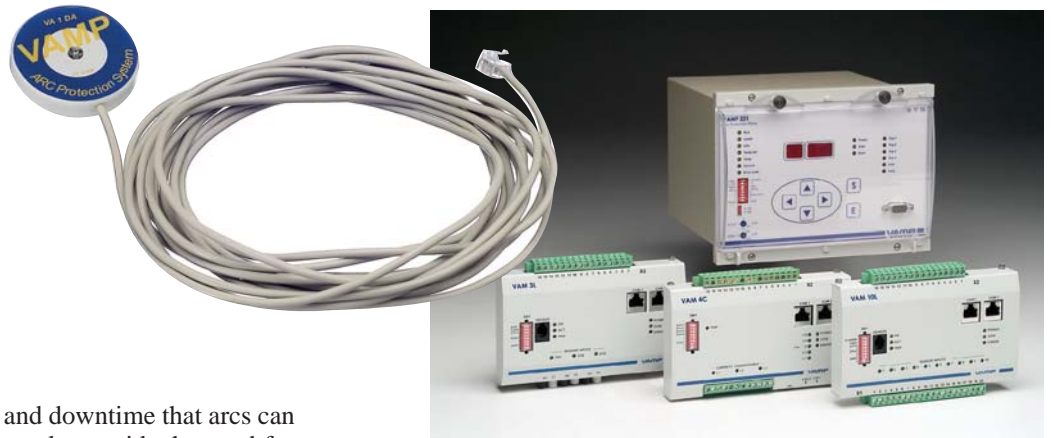
DUAL-SENSING ARC PROTECTION SYSTEM SETS HIGH SAFETY STANDARDS

By John Hodson, Magna IV

The protection relay manufacturer Vamp is launching a flexible multi-zone arcprotection system onto the Canadian market for low- and medium-voltage electrical power safety applications.

The system's ability to trip in just 7 milliseconds means that electrical arcs are stopped well before their full explosive potential can be reached. This not only minimizes the damage and downtime that arcs can cause to electrical switchgear, but also avoids the need for much of the expensive and time consuming safety clothing and procedures that are currently used by many workers in these plant areas.

Designated 221, the new multi-zone system uses light and current sensing information to provide faster and more efficient protection than standalone over-current relays or busbar differential schemes. Combined with modular design, which allows the base unit to be expanded, the new system serves an extremely broad range of electrical switchgear pro-



With four light sensing zones available, the Vamp 221 unit offers a highly flexible arc protection solution that can accommodate a wide variety of equipment configurations.

tection requirements.

The master 221 module comes with 3-phase current measurement (and 2-phase and earth-fault current measurement), 50BF breaker failure protection stages, four normally open trip contacts, and two alarm contacts. It can be programmed to

sense electric arc conditions using either simultaneous light and current data, or light sensor information only, and operates in just 7 milliseconds - less than a quarter of the time of traditional alternative technologies.

With four light zones available, the 221 unit offers a highly flexible arc protection solution that can accommodate a wide variety of equipment configurations, ranging from simple single-cabinet applications, to complex configurations with selective tripping of busbar, breaker and cable compartments.

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