

Eskom says save 10%; Vintec promises customers 20%

Minimum

With Eskom urging its domestic and industrial customers to save a minimum of 10% on total electricity consumed, such technology is extremely necessary, especially given the ongoing electricity supply crisis, says Tarin. So how does Vintec achieve such a remarkable saving?

The company's technology simply reduces the consumption of electricity in discharge lighting, explains Tarin. This is done by incorporating a unique device known as an energy controller, which essentially recovers the difference between the voltage required to operate discharge bulbs and the higher amount of voltage delivered to the discharge lamps from the electricity utility.

Regulation

Tarin comments that Israel has embraced energy-efficiency for a long period, and it has now reached the point of government regulation and intervention. South Africa has just embarked on this path, with a general call to the private and public sector to cut energy costs and reduce carbon footprints.

"The prevailing economic and political conditions in South Africa are therefore favourable for a company devoted to promoting energy-saving. Moreover, throughout the world there is a greater awareness among consumers that energy-saving makes both financial and ecological sense. Following the lead taken in Europe, this sphere will soon become one of rapid growth and development throughout the world," argues Tarin.

Benefit

"Those who are already in the market stand the greatest chance to benefit as this market expands. This has already happened in Europe. Vintec possesses proven technology to achieve a 25% or more saving on electricity bills, and a 40% or more saving on maintenance costs, for major non-domestic customers. Although Vintec promotes cost-saving as its major selling point, we also want our customers to know that our equipment is superior to that of our competitors," comments Tarin.

The Vintec energy controller utilises proprietary magnetic technology to achieve these energy savings. The nominal voltage supplied by the electricity companies in Europe is 207V to 253V. Since lamps are produced to work optimally in 207V, supplying them with voltage above this provides no benefits, but rather creates higher maintenance costs and shorter lamp life.

Vintec focuses on discharge lights, which are used for public lighting and industrial and business facilities. "We are focusing on discharge lamps since they have the largest share in lighting energy consumption," explains Tarin. The controller operates on the principle of inducing the unnecessary voltage to produce transformed energy to control the output voltage. ■

Vintec Africa Limited is a new company under the leadership of CEO Daniel Steiner established to distribute an exclusive suite of six products based on exclusive light-energy saving technology from Israel. These technologies are:

- Magnetic: central light controller for hundreds of HID lamps;
- T5: saving up to 40% and providing up to 30% more lux;
- PIR: people presence detection for offices and hotels, offering a 50% saving;
- Electronic dimmable ballasts: a future development; Special reflectors for HID lamps that increase the lux level by up to 50%; and
- Solar technologies for streetlights.

"These products are ideal for the local market, as Israel and South Africa share a similar climate. Hence the products are robust and adaptable, and do not need to be retrofitted for local conditions," explains Pierre Tarin of Vintec Africa. Israel also has much more experience in the energy-efficiency arena, and is therefore able to provide South Africa with much-needed expertise and applications knowledge.

Tarin explains that Vintec Africa Limited is a subsidiary of Vintec Knowledge Limited, a private Israeli company specialising in energy-saving in the industrial and commercial lighting arena, particularly high-usage facilities. "Vintec is predicated on a market-oriented philosophy that seeks to assist customers in eliminating unnecessary and thereby saving significantly on total costs. No matter who the supplier or what the kilowatt-per-hour tariff, Vintec aims to save 20% on its customers' electricity bills. The final figure achieved is usually in the region of 25%," asserts Tarin.