



TRANSFORMER SUPPLY TO KIRIBATI

In early 2016, ETEL's long-standing customer, Northpower, secured a contract to supply 40 distribution transformers to Tarawa, Kiribati. In June 2017 the contract was extended to supply a further 26 transformers to allow Kiribati PUB (Public Utilities Board) to replace all of their distribution transformers.

The atoll of Tarawa is approximately three metres above sea level, 30km long and 100m wide in most places, making it very exposed to the elements.

Kiribati PUB needed to replace its transformers and adjacent RMU's due to severe corrosion and safety issues. ETEL offered the Total Pad solution with Schneider RMU. This was the best possible option as it reduced the total footprint for the installation and kept all equipment within one cabinet, reducing maintenance time and cost.

A high level of corrosion protection was another key element for the project. ETEL developed a specific paint system to meet this requirement including an underseal on the base and 300mm up the sides. Each transformer was fitted with an LV frame with MDI's.

In addition to the corrosion protection, Northpower designed and had built, raised transformer pads to keep the transformers 500mm above ground level.

Logistics was another major factor with this project with all goods having to be trans-shipped via Suva. ETEL modified the transformer and pallet to allow for four units to be shipped per 20' container which had a significant saving on freight costs.

The second order of transformers is currently in production at ETEL and it is expected all 26 units will be dispatched early in the New Year.

"I wish to thank ETEL for their assistance and pro-active approach to this project which has enabled Northpower to deliver a quality product within tight timelines".

**- MIKE PEACE,
SENIOR
PROJECT
ENGINEER,
NORTHPOWER**

ETEL DELIVERS AS PROMISED

When Western Australia's Primero Group was appointed to complete the detailed design and procurement of items for Tawana resources and Alliance Mineral Assets Limited's Bald Hill Lithium Plant, they turned to ETEL Transformers to help.

Primero's challenge to ETEL was to design, build and deliver two transformers in under 17 weeks. Facing penalties for late delivery on their project, Primero needed to depend on ETEL to deliver the two units; one a 2.5MVA 11kV/415V distribution transformer with a detailed specification and suitable for the West Australian desert conditions, and the other, an 11kV earthing transformer to be installed in the same conditions.

ETEL's Engineering and Production teams proved themselves more than capable with the units arriving ahead of schedule by two weeks.



The 2.5MVA Distribution Transformer in Perth prior to being loaded for its 650km journey east into the West Australian Desert

"I have been impressed by ETEL's responsiveness, quality and delivery time and look forward to the next project when I can order another transformer from them"

TOM WALKER, PROJECT LEAD ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, PRIMERO GROUP

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TRANSFORMERS A FIRST FOR SOUTH CANTERBURY

In late March, ETEL were approached by Alpine Energy and Aurecon to supply ten 1500kVA distribution transformers, which were to be designed, built and delivered in full by the end of September.

The transformers, which are being trialled by Alpine Energy at Fonterra's Clondeboyne plant, near Temuka, use vegetable oil as an insulating medium rather than traditional mineral oil and are the first of their kind to be used in the South Canterbury district.

"The opportunity to use a product which uses biodegradable oil was appealing to Alpine as they are continually looking at more environmentally sustainable options", says Network Delivery Manager John Dillon.

"One of the advantages of using a vegetable oil transformer is the higher ignition point making it a very hard product to burn. Another advantage is reduced environmental impact in the rare event of a leak to soil or water."

At Alpine's request, the transformers were painted a bright green colour, which, along with signage, will help ensure the correct fluid is used for top-ups.

John adds, "in delivering this recent order, ETEL maintained their record of good customer service to us. They are easy to deal with, do what they say they will do, provide sound technical answers and are accommodating in meeting specific customer requirements".



Alpine Energy CEO Andrew Tombs with the new environmentally friendly transformers