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SP AusNet 'self-healing' fault technology

More than 90 per cent of SP AusNet's 652,000 electricity distribution customers now have 'self-healing' technology on their powerlines designed to automatically restore power supply within 60 seconds of a nearby fault.

SP AusNet developed the Distribution Feeder Automation (DFA) technology as part of its commitment to provide customers with a safe and reliable supply of electricity.

SP AusNet's General Manager Asset Management, Mr Alistair Parker, said the breakthrough technology has significantly improved reliability for customers since introduced in 2008.

"Previously, when a fault occurred, such as a tree falling over a powerline, the electricity supply would be disrupted along a large part of the powerline, affecting many customers," Mr Parker said.

"Now, the DFA technology instantly pinpoints the faulty section of the powerline and automatically restores power to the majority of impacted customers by operating remote-controlled switches to safely re-route the electricity supply around the fault.

"The process is completed usually under a minute, radically reducing the unnecessary time customers were without power while crews physically patrolled the powerline to find and fix the fault," he said

The DFA's ability to automatically switch the network has significantly reduced the company's overall average unplanned minutes off supply per customer.

During a recent storm event in August, the DFA technology automatically restored electricity supply to 11,542 customers in less than a minute, effectively halving the number of customers that were without power until powerline damage from fallen trees was repaired.

Mr Parker said in addition to detecting faults and redirecting power supply via the DFA, the company's intelligent devices installed throughout the poles and wires network are capable of transmitting key operational data and being remotely managed.

"SP AusNet's electricity network now has leading edge capabilities for remote communication, monitoring and network analysis," Mr Parker said.

"As such, our network is in effect talking to us, proving operation data from our terminal stations right through to our powerlines in regional areas and connections to suburban customers' homes.

"Sourcing this information, now made even more robust with the installation of smart meters, allows us to make more accurate and timely decisions on maintenance programs and identify safety issues.

"This modernisation is making significant advances to provide our customers with superior network and energy solutions," he said.

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Media Release



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About SP AusNet

SP AusNet is the largest diversified energy network business in Victoria, owning and operating more than \$10 billion of electricity and gas distribution assets, including the state-wide electricity transmission network. The company also has a non-regulated division, Select Solutions, providing utility services.

Headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, SP AusNet employs more than 1800 people to service 1.3 million consumers and is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: SPN) and the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX-ST: X04).