

Hitachi-ABB striving hard for renewable energy in Pakistan - Najeeb Ahmad

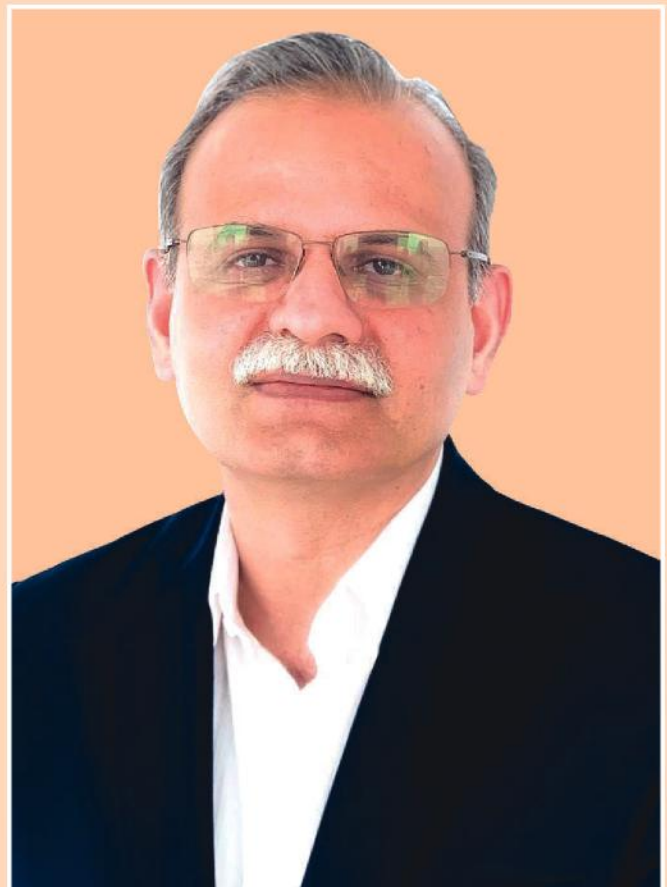
Exclusive interview of Managing Director, Hitachi ABB Power Grids Pakistan

Najeeb Ahmad was appointed as Country Managing Director (CMD) of Hitachi ABB Power Grids Pakistan in December 2019 following creation of Hitachi-ABB Power Grids joint venture globally. Previously Najeeb was responsible for ABB operations all over Pakistan as Country Managing Director of ABB for 06 years from 2014 to 2019. He joined ABB as a service engineer in ABB Saudi Arabia Service organization in 1998 and was responsible as lead commissioning engineer before moving to UAE in 2004. In UAE, Najeeb served for almost 10 years in various management positions in project management, operations management, contracts management and OPEX management for power system division in Southern Gulf & Pakistan. Before joining ABB, Najeeb also served in leading consultant organization NESPAK for more than 04 years and was responsible as senior engineer substation in power and mechanical division. Najeeb has over 27 years of proven management and leadership experience which he gained while working in Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia and UAE before and Pakistan including 22 years with ABB. Najeeb has a bachelor degree in Engineering from University of Engineering & Technology Lahore, Pakistan, Executive MBA degree from SZABIST Dubai, Master's certificate in Project Management from George Washington University School of business and PMP certified from PMI USA.

EU: What are the engagements and projects being undertaken by your company in the energy sector of Pakistan?

Najeeb Ahmad: Hitachi ABB Power Grids is a global technology leader that serves utility, industry and infrastructure customers across the value chain, and emerging areas like sustainable mobility, smart cities, energy storage and data centers. Hitachi ABB Power Grids has a proven track record, global footprint and unparalleled installed base. With almost

■ By Mustafa Tahir



250 years of combined experience, a comprehensive portfolio and global reach, it's well positioned to create new opportunities for customers, employees and all other stakeholders. In Pakistan, we have been serving our customers in all verticals for more than 28 years including key customers like NTDC, K-Electric, WAPDA, IPPs, etc. One of our recent success stories and ongoing projects include CASA 1000 HVDC link (from Tajikistan to Pakistan).

EU: How do you rate the nationwide electricity transmission system of Pakistan in comparison with the national grids of the developed and regional countries?

NA: Transmission system of Pakistan is one of the most

complex and dynamic systems currently being operated by any Transmission company across the globe. From the development and upgradation standpoint in NTDC, KE and DISCOs comparing other similar utilities, there is still a lot to do when it comes to Operational Technology (OT) and Information Technology (IT) as well as investment in knowledge base of the operators who play a key role to operate and maintain the system. In view of recent developments in NTDC such as deployment of Flexible AC Transmission System (FACTS) including Static Var compensation (SVC) as well as ongoing HVDC and 765kV projects, it's even more crucial to adopt the latest / state of the art technologies such as modern SCADA system, Substation Automation Systems and even digital sub stations which are already opted by other T&D utilities for stronger, smarter and greener grids.

EU: To what extent could your company be helpful in overcoming constraints and defects of the national grid of Pakistan?

NA: Hitachi ABB Power Grids is founded by two iconic companies with a combined pioneering technology heritage of almost 250 years. Hitachi ABB Power Grids is one of the leading fore-runners involved in the end to end value chain of the Transmission & Distribution system with a prime focus on digitaliza-

tion. During these challenging times, we have been able to implement the system which is involved in the deployment of HVDC, FACTS, BESS, Substation Automation Systems, SCADA and IEC 61850-9-2 driven digital substations for all of our valued customers by virtue. These solutions can overcome problems of evacuation congestion, higher stability and real time monitoring of their assets and to implement the concept of asset performance management under digitalization, on-line remote condition monitoring of power and distribution transformers using our state of art digital CoreTec™ and CoreSense™ technologies, etc.

EU: What is your viewpoint about the issues related to evacuation of electricity from renewable energy projects in Pakistan at its Gharo-Jhimpir wind corridor?

NA: Renewable energy mix is one of the key priorities in Pakistan where they plan to have a minimum 30% energy mix by 2030. Jhampir and Gharo are two major clusters to collect and evacuate both wind and solar power from remote areas and deliver it to the load center via NTDC network. Keeping in view the dynamic and intermittent nature of renewable energy Hitachi-ABBenergy, its pertinent to strengthen the ability of these networks both in terms of its capacity, controllability and resilience. We can


offer latest technologies such as deployment of digital substation including IEC 61850 SAS, BESS (Battery Energy Storage System), Containerized GIS Substations, FACTS (both Static Var and Series Compensation to increase the evacuation and stability of existing transmission system. We're excited to be at the forefront of sustainable energy innovation. We believe that enabling a stronger, smarter and greener power grid can drive progress for a sustainable energy future.

EU: Do tell our readers about the future plans of your company in Pakistan?

NA: Pakistan is the land of opportunity especially when it comes to the energy and transmission sector. The recent Joint Venture between Hitachi & ABB Power Grids is ideally positioned in terms of their rich experience, portfolio diversification and digitalization initiatives to serve its customers not only enabling them to exploit existing infrastructure for deployment of SMART systems (using digitally enabled products and solutions.) however also to upgrade their assets to cater for the future demands which will evolve in power systems such EV Charging, energy mix shift to renewable energy, digitalization and distributed generation, etc. Powering good for a sustainable energy future-creating value by harmonizing social, environmental and economic values. ■

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