

Lighting

Lowering the voltage

Maximum voltage, and hence energy, is required for the ignition of fluorescent lighting. Once ignited, there is no need to keep the voltage at such a high level yet existing lighting systems do just that. The Fluoresave unit reduces the voltage after ignition allowing power consumption savings of around 30% to be achieved. Tim McManan-Smith met up with Michael Dolphin of Fluoresave to discuss the product



"Fluoresave gives savings of around 30% without the need for modifications to the light fittings or any disruption to the working environment"

The Fluoresave micro-processor controlled energy saving unit was developed in Australia six years ago and is now extensively used in Australia, New Zealand, China, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa. Based upon both the success and reliability of Fluoresave around the world, Michael Dolphin, managing director of Fluoresave, is introducing the product to Europe and has recently brought the Fluoresave system to the UK where he has been experiencing the same enthusiasm from users here, keen to cut their costs and remain competitive by benefiting from energy savings of around 30%. This performance has been independently evaluated and proven by a number of organisations, for example Electrical Audit Australia say "This current reduction translates into a saving of over 35% in electricity consumption and, in our case, accorded with the manufacturers claims of 25-35%." The system complies with all the necessary standards, carries the CE mark and conforms to the relevant European Directives.

"You only need the full 230V to start up a fluorescent lighting system, after that keeping it at such a level is a waste of energy. There is no need to have 230V just to keep the lights on," says Michael. The important factor is that the Fluoresave unit supplies mains voltage to fluorescent lights for ignition, it then allows a short time delay period to ensure stable operation, before switching to a lower, and hence energy saving, voltage. Fluoresave continuously monitors the variation in the output of the current and mains voltage. When additional lights within the circuit are switched on, Fluoresave will revert

back to mains voltage for ignition before returning to the energy-saving mode, once the current has stabilised.

Although only recently introduced into the UK, Fluoresave is attracting considerable attention and intrigue from the energy consultancy organisations, power companies and lighting specialists alike. Fluoresave typically achieves a pay-back within two years depending upon the number of hours the lights are run and the price paid for power.

Fluoresave is available in 3 model sizes, a 12 Amp, 20 Amp and 32 Amp capacity, designed to offer the greatest flexibility and to simplify installation in various differing configurations found in the wiring of lighting systems within buildings. All these unit models can be used for the control of multiple lighting circuits.

Among the list of users here in UK who have already taken up Fluoresave are airlines, banks, car parks, factories, hospitals, insurance companies and offices. Retailers, showrooms, logistics warehousing & distribution companies enjoy particularly attractive pay-back times, as little as 8 months in some cases, as they tend to run their lighting for long periods of time.

From experience with Fluoresave in other parts of the world where either competition between electricity suppliers is fierce, or there isn't enough electricity to go around, these electricity companies rent Fluoresave to their customers under long term power supply contracts thus ensuring lasting customer loyalty. This formula enables the power companies to achieve a good return on their investment, and retain their customers by significantly reducing their power bills. Under such arrangements it also means that less power has to be supplied, which in turn reduces

the greenhouse gas emissions, and the carbon credits involved are a substantial bonus to the power companies or the end users. This concept means that everyone wins financially and most importantly the environment benefits.

As well as helping business and industry to conform to ISO 14001 and other environmental management and energy saving criteria, Fluoresave has been found to extend fluorescent tube life by up to 25% with the associated cost savings and additional environmental benefits.

Michael commented, "many lighting companies are encouraging the use of high frequency fluorescent lighting because it is able to achieve power savings of some 20%, but from what some major users of high frequency fluorescent lighting are telling us here, the costs of maintenance and reliability are a serious deterrent. Interestingly, for these reasons high frequency fluorescent lighting is now rarely used in Australia and South East Asia. However, with Fluoresave there is now an alternative to the significantly higher capital cost associated with installing and running high frequency fluorescent lighting and the disruption during its installation in the work place, for an improvement in efficiency. Fluoresave gives savings of around 30% without the need for modifications to the light fittings or any disruption to the working environment by merely wiring the Fluoresave unit into the lighting circuit."

Fluoresave units can be purchased, or may be leased with no capital outlay, from Fluoresave Limited, thus enabling the net cost saving to drop straight to the bottom line. If saving that much energy is possible, why not do it?

ENQUIRY NUMBER 302 or
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The Fluoresave unit will typically pay for itself within 2 years

