

Lightning and Surge Protection for Wind Power Systems

Strikesorb[®] Provides Unparalleled Lightning and Surge Protection for Wind Turbine Systems

As more wind farms are built, turbine manufacturers and wind farm operators are becoming increasingly aware of the operational threat posed by lightning strikes.

Lightning: A real challenge for turbine electrical systems

In the landscape surrounding a wind farm, wind turbines are typically the tallest structures. Given their height and exposure to the elements it's expected that they will experience extremely harsh weather conditions, including direct lightning strikes, multiple times during their operating life. Lightning surges produce an intense electromagnetic field that creates transient overvoltages which are passed throughout the electrical system of the turbine. These powerful surges propagate through the wind turbine's sensitive electrical equipment, causing severe and latent damage. Power components such as generators, transformers, and power converters; as well as control electronics, communication

and SCADA systems are all at risk. These damages are not always immediately noticeable after a lightning event, they may occur at any time due to the cumulative effect of repetitive exposure to surges.

Replacement of the key power components in a wind turbine is expensive and in many cases lightning induced failures may not be covered by manufacturers' warranties. When a wind turbine is disabled, the costs of service teams, transportation and replacement components are all absorbed by the wind farm operator or the turbine manufacturer. Lead-time for replacement parts can be significant and access to wind farm sites offshore or in remote areas may be restricted for weeks due to weather conditions. All of this adds up to significant revenue losses caused by lightning. For many years the only surge protection technology available to wind turbine manufacturers were conventional Metal Oxide Varistors (MOVs) in a DIN rail housing. Originally developed for residential and light industrial use, the application of these conventional surge protective devices (SPD) was not sufficient to protect critical wind turbine systems against damage caused by direct or indirect lightning currents. Even routine power and control system failures, which in turn create critical alarms that stop the operation of the turbine, require service crew visits to the site to restore its operation.

Solution

Reinforcing the surge protection systems inside modern wind turbines has become an imperative. Raycap's state-of-the-art product, Strikesorb[®] is a superior industrial grade surge protection technology engineered to provide high reliability and safe maintenancefree operation.

> System wide In-line Lightning Protection Surge Protection for the Main

Control Panel, Generator and Inverter Systems

Communications and

Data Protection in the

Main Control Panel

Transformer Station and Power Supply

Protection

Raycap's Strikesorb modules are based on cutting-edge design parameters that eliminate common failures associated with conventional SPD technology. Strikesorb modules incorporate a more robust industrial grade MOV in a distinctive cylindrical aluminum housing. This design offers lifetime protection against surges as it resolves ageing issues that seriously impact the performance of traditional DIN rail mounted SPD technologies. Strikesorb SPDs can sustain multiple and successive lightning strikes and power surges without requiring maintenance. They are classified as Class I and Class II SPDs according to the international IEC 61643-11 standard for surge protection devices, and





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are fully compliant to the UL 1449 5th Edition Safety Standard. In addition to Strikesorb's ability to absorb and efficiently dissipate intense power surges, it has been tested for safe operation to high levels of short circuit currents. This, in combination with the fact that it does not rely on the use of internal fuses or thermal disconnects, provides great flexibility for installation.

Strikesorb modules can be combined in different configurations. They can be installed in front of sensitive electronic subsystems or power components (generator, transformer) to prevent damages that significantly impact the turbine operation. In space-limited applications where the use of an enclosure is not an option, Strikesorb modules can be integrated on the transformer LV taps, or inside the various electrical panels of the turbine.

Wind farm operators can also upgrade the lightning/surge protection levels of their turbines currently in operation. Upgrade kits can be custom designed to meet the specific requirements of a particular wind turbine and are easy to install during planned periods of maintenance.





Strikesorb[®]



Field Experience

Strikesorb is a mature and field proven technology with hundreds of thousands of installations worldwide. Many of the world's largest manufacturers of wind turbines already turn to Strikesorb to protect the critical electrical systems inside their equipment. Strikesorb technology is also widely used

in the protection of Remote Radio Heads and other electronics equipment at next generation wireless sites, inside of industrial plants, in the protection of defense systems such as radar, at airport facilities to protect air traffic control towers, on board ships, in oil and gas fields, and in many other applications worldwide.



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40-V1	40-A	40-B	40-C	40-D	40-E	40-F	40-G	80-A
Type 2 Component Assembly								
Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I
60 V	120V	240V	277V	480V**	480V	600V	1000V	120 V
75V	150V	300V	350V	550V***	600V	750V*	1200V	150 V
20kA								
140 kA								
12.5kA								
400 V	600 V	1200V	1200 V	1500 V	2000 V	2500V	4000V	600 V
300 V	600 V	1200V	1300 V	1800 V	2300 V	2800V	4400V	600 V
	Class I 60V 75V 400V	Class I Class I 60V 120V 75V 150V 400V 600V	Ty Class I Class I Class I 60V 120V 240V 75V 150V 300V 400V 600V 1200V	40-V1 40-A 40-B 40-C Type 2 Compo Type 2 Compo	40-V1 40-A 40-B 40-C 40-D Type 2 Compound Assent Type 2 Compound Assent Assent	40-V1 40-A 40-B 40-C 40-D 40-E Type 2 Component Assembly Class I Class I	40-V1 40-A 40-B 40-C 40-D 40-E 40-F Type 2 Compound Assembly Class I Class I	40-V1 40-A 40-B 40-C 40-D 40-E 40-F 40-G Type 2 Component Assembly Class I Cla

* 690 V per IEC 61643-11 ** 400 V per IEC 61643-11

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*** 480 V per IEC 61643-11

For additional information on Strikesorb protection technology visit us at: www.raycap.com

Strikesorb Benefits

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- Innovative SPD Design-Strikesorb features an innovative SPD design that ensures continuous protection and eliminates all the failure and safety risks related to conventional SPDs.
- Maintenance Free-Strikesorb's fuse-less operation, its unparalleled performance against power surges and its immunity to TOV conditions make it the most reliable SPD for protection of the entire installation, and eliminates the need for maintenance and replacement parts.
- High Surge Current Withstand Capability-Strikesorb incorporates a wide distribution grade MOV disk kept under pressure between large aluminum electrodes, enabling effective thermal dissipation and excellent management of the surge currents' negative effects. Strikesorb can actually withstand thousands of repetitive surge events without degradation.
- High Short-Circuit Current Rating—Strikesorb's inherent capacity to resist high short-circuit currents enables flexible integration into industrial systems and "in-line" installation in all common AC and DC applications without the need for a dedicated fuse.

- Best overall protection for the installation Strikesorb's capability to be installed "in-line" even in the case of very high short-circuit currents, eliminates the need for long cable lengths, results in the lowest possible let-through voltage and ensures optimum protection levels. The sensitive equipment remains continuously protected in the most efficient way possible.
- Safest SPD–Strikesorb's aluminum casing and internal components manage the heat generated within the device when multiple lightning surges or faulty operating conditions occur. Its design eliminates the use of any materials which could burn or smoke.
- International Standards Certified Compliance–Strikesorb modules have been tested and approved by internationally accredited independent laboratories to the latest IEC and UL safety and performance standards.
- Long Lifespan and Warranty–Strikesorb's expected lifetime is much more than 20 years; it is supplied with a 10 year limited lifetime warranty.

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80-B	80-C	80-D	80-E	80-F	30-V1	30-A	30-B	30-C	30-D	30-V1 DRM	30-A DRM	30-B DRM	30-C DRM	30-D DRM		
Type 2 Component Assembly						Type 2 Component Assembly					Type 2 Component Assembly					
Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class II	Class I+II	Class I+II	Class I+II	Class I+II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II		
240V	277 V	480V**	480V	600V	60 V	120V	240V	277 V	480V**	60 V	120V	240V	277 V	480V**		
300 V	350 V	550V***	600V	750V	75 V	150V	275V	350 V	550V***	75V	150V	275V	350V	550 V***		
	20	kA			20 kA					20kA						
	200)kA					60 kA					60 kA				
	25	kA				5kA	7.5kA	7.5 kA	7.5kA							
900 V	1200V	1200V	1800 V	2000 V	600V	700V	1200V	1500V	1800V	330 V	600V	1000 V	1500 V	1800V		
1000V	1200V	1600V	1900 V	2400 V	400 V	700V	1200V	1600V	2200V	500 V	750V	1300 V	1700 V	2300V		

Information in this chart is subject to change at any time without notice.

Raycap Worldwide Locations



Raycap Inc. 806 South Clearwater Loop Post Falls, ID 83854 United States of America

7555-A Palmetto Commerce Pkwy North Charleston, SC 29420 United States of America

46 Sellers Street Kearny, NJ 07032 United States of America

Raycap GmbH Parkring 11 85748 Garching Munich Germany

Raycap S.A. Telou & Petroutsou 14 15124 Maroussi Athens Greece

Raycap S.A. Manufacturing Industrial Area of Drama 66100 Drama Greece Raycap d.o.o.

Poslovna cona Žeje pri Komendi Pod hrasti 7 1218 Komenda Slovenia

Raycap Cyprus Ltd.

46 Lefkosias Street Industrial Area of Dali 2540 Nicosia Cyprus

Raycap SAS

84 rue Charles Michels Building B 93200 Saint-Denis France

Raycap Corporation SRL

102, Barbu Vacarescu, entrance D, 4th floor D22 020283 Bucharest Romania

Raycap (Suzhou) Co. Ltd.

Block B, Phase II of New Sea Union No. 58 Heshun Road SIP, Suzhou 215122 Jiangsu Province China

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