

'SOFT STARTERS WITH A TWIST!' NEW, LOW COST FAIRFORD SOFT STARTER REPLACES STAR/DELTA ARRANGEMENTS, OVERCOMING PROBLEM OF DAMAGING CURRENT SURGES.



Fairford is making it quick, easy and cost effective for companies to overcome the problem of transients associated with Star/Delta starting. The company has developed the low cost DFE Soft Starter; a unit with simplified wiring that fits in the same space as a conventional Star/Delta Starter, and provides motor protection by offering the key benefits of both Soft Starting and Soft Stopping.

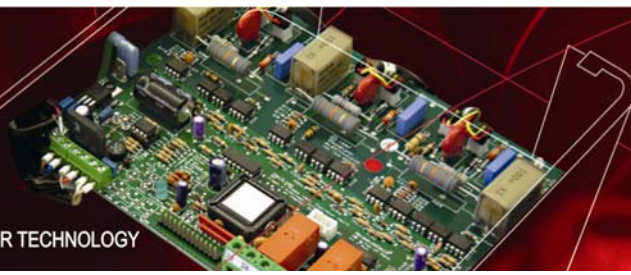
The DFE offers a new form of soft starting which overcomes the problems of Star Delta current surges by ramping up to an initial voltage, holding the voltage, and then ramping up to full volts without disconnecting the motor from the mains supply. This eliminates the high current that can occur at the transition from Star to Delta

The introduction of the DFE unit is important because Star/Delta starter arrangements for AC induction motors are still used widely across all UK industry. The traditional advantage they provide is that 58% of the line voltage is applied to the motor at start-up. However, the system has several drawbacks. First, the arrangement is complicated and costly, using three contactors and a timing mechanism to switch between them. Second, installation costs are high because of the need for 6 connections between the motor and starter. Third, if the transfer from Star to Delta occurs at less than 80% of normal speed, large current and torque surges can arise. Fourth and final, Star/Delta arrangements cannot provide soft stopping.



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INNOVATION IN SOFT STARTER TECHNOLOGY



In the past the arguments against replacing Star Delta arrangements with soft starters have centered on the costs and lost production time involved. Today these costs can be avoided by employing Fairford's DFE soft starter.

Designed with the same footprint as that for Star/Delta starters, the DFE unit offers the convenience of fitting in the same installation space. Furthermore, the DFE does not require all 6 wires to be brought back to the starter. As a retrofit unit, the Delta connection can be made at the Soft Starter using the existing 6 wires from the motor; while in new installations, the Delta can be configured at the motor with only 3 wires being brought back to the starter.

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