



FAIRFORD DELIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTION TO POWER SUPPLY PROBLEMS AT 25% OF THE COST OF UP RATING THE SUB-STATION



Fairford soft starters are overcoming the problems of limited supply capacity and high peak demand charges experienced by Evergreen Security Shredding, at a cost less than 25% of the £30,000 required to implement an alternative solution: up rating of the local sub station.

Evergreen Security Shredding was set up in July 2000 with the objective of providing an environmentally better solution to the problems of shredding and recycling confidential paper-based media, and data stored on disks, tapes and film. The company's business has grown rapidly, resulting in heavy investment in new equipment; however, this has not been without its problems.

The electrical supply to Evergreen's premises is provided from a local substation with limited capacity. The ramifications of this became evident during start-up of the company's two state-of-the-art shredders: high current surges were dimming the lights, not only of Evergreen's own premises, but also of neighbouring units. As a result, Evergreen was incurring high peak demand charges.

The scale of the charges prompted Evergreen's management to look into the cost of up rating the sub station; however, this was in the region of £30,000, which was prohibitive in cost terms, and not really in keeping with the company's stance on environmental matters. These reservations impelled Evergreen to seek an alternative solution; a number of companies were contacted but, unfortunately, these failed to assist. Subsequent searching revealed Fairford's name: contact was established and the outcome was a visit by Fairford engineers to carry out tests on a range of electric motors at Evergreen's Avonmouth site.

The two-part tests involved fitting Fairford MFE soft starters to a number of auxiliary motors, and a QFE soft starter to the large shredder motor. The tests were positive, revealing that the StartMaster units reduced current surges at start up. Similarly, the QFE soft starter resolved the problem of high inrush current on the large shredder motor; it also provided a solution in situations where the shredder jammed and had to be reversed. As an added bonus, the QFE unit realised energy savings, typically 1kW, due to its ability to optimise when running lightly loaded.

The total cost of providing the soft starter systems to Evergreen was less than 25% of the £30,000 required for up rating of the sub station. "We are delighted with the solution provided by Fairford, not only on the grounds of cost, but also because it is environmentally sound," said Jeff Rendall Business Advisor to Evergreen. "Our business is heavily environmentally- related, so a solution which means that we can use the existing power supply provision is very much in keeping with the spirit and the ethos of our operations."