

Thermal Power Plants that Best Match Today's Power Market Needs



Haruo Urushidani

Managing Officer

General Manager

Thermal & Hydroelectric Systems Division

Power & Industrial Systems

THE global power industry today is facing enormous changes of a fundamental nature. Certainly one of the key factors driving these changes is the deregulation and privatization of the industry. Independent Power Producers and a host of other new players have brought increasing competition to the marketplace and have accelerated the development of new sources of power. The majority of new projects are being funded by private investment, and while reliability and safety of power systems are always important, we are seeing a new emphasis on rapid deployment and economic viability. The on-going economic crisis in Asia and recent uproar over a major developer in the US market are causing contraction of the power market and other adverse effects, yet the current market demands reduced capital costs and shorter project schedules.

Another key factor is the environment. Safeguarding the environment is a worldwide concern, and for the power industry this means reducing CO₂ emissions and constantly seeking the best mix of energy sources. This involves the most efficient use of the various sources of energy

that are available.

In addressing these market needs, Hitachi has extensive research and development experience that is apparent in all our products and services. Beginning with its first steam turbine that went on line in 1933, Hitachi has given the world more than 1,500 steam and gas turbine units of 100-GW capacity, or greater. Continuing this trend, Hitachi is directly involved in every aspect of the power business—from physical plant facilities such as supercritical pressure coal-fired plants and high-efficiency gas turbines to EPC (Engineering Procurement Construction), O&M (Operation and Maintenance) and other services that take full advantage of the latest information technologies—and is expanding its business markets on a global scale.

This issue of the Hitachi Review will highlight some of the latest technologies and developments in the areas of electric power and energy. As your Best Solutions Partner, Hitachi remains committed to provide the most innovative products and services meeting the challenges and the demands of today's marketplace.