



Parmatrada acquires Thermal Imaging Equipment

Parmatrada has recently expanded its battery testing ability by the purchase of a thermal imaging camera and recording equipment.

“With the use of thermal imaging during discharge at high currents of large batteries we are now able to locate hot spots in the battery and associated busbars quickly and accurately”, said Mr. Geoff Scott of Parmatrada.

Stationary batteries, which are used for emergency standby operations, may not be required to deliver power for an emergency operation for many months. When the battery is called upon to supply emergency power the busbar and cables and all joints associated with the system must be of high integrity to provide minimal resistance during the emergency.

Unfortunately during the long standby periods cable and link joints may deteriorate. No indication of this deterioration is apparent until the battery is required for an emergency or the battery is subject to a discharge (full load) test. The higher resistance exhibited by the joints prevents the battery delivering full capacity and can result in rapid heating of the joint. Sufficient heat can be produced to start a fire in insulation or ignite any vestiges of hydrogen that may be present in the cell containers. It is possible that a catastrophic fire could result in the destruction of the cables and battery at the critical time when the battery is expected to work in an emergency.

The thermal imaging camera can quickly locate this potential problem during the first few seconds of testing and alert the operator to the potential problem.

This equipment has recently been used at Bayswater and Eraring Power Stations during load testing of the Power Station Emergency standby batteries.

If you have any enquiries regarding this news item please contact Mr Geoffrey Scott, via email gscott@parmatrada.com.au