Substation automation includes intelligent electronic devices (IEDs), control commands from remote users, and automation and control capabilities within the substation fence to provide intelligent information to properly control the power system devices to ensure that end users receive uninterrupted power service from their electric utilities.

17 percent (1.2 billion people) of the global population lack access to electricity, and the other 83 percent want more reliable and efficient electricity. Developing countries need to double their electrical power output to meet rising demand, and by 2035, they will represent 80 percent of the total growth in both energy production and consumption.

This pent-up demand will be satisfied by additional substations that will require substation automation. This will bring new concepts, if not necessarily new technologies, into play.

The future is digital substations, and these will come about as retrofits and new substations.

Microgrids are going to be a critical element in the developing markets and for geographically islanded customers. Microgrid growth will be driven by increased reliance on renewables in the energy mix and supported by new developments in battery storage.

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Owner-operators and governments tend not to be early adopters, but the demand (need) for reliable electricity in the developing markets will drive wholesale changes in the traditional grid infrastructure.

- Are different strategies required for new installations vs. retrofit? Developed vs. undeveloped markets?
- Will the developing markets create different opportunities?
- What ‘new’ substation technologies need to be considered?
- Is it possible to enter the single largest market?

RESEARCH FORMATS

This research is available as a Market Intelligence Workbook (Excel) and/or a concise, executive-level Market Analysis Report (PDF), with or without detailed charts.