

INDUSTRY SPEAK



Sriram Ramakrishnan, MD and CEO, Consul Neowatt Power Solutions

In 2016 we saw a welcome revival, though small in the investment cycle after 3 years of stagnation and downturn in the Indian UPS industry. Our flagship Falcon range of three phase UPS (10 – 800 kVA) products has become well established over the last few years with more than 1500 installations across industries in India and also exported to countries in South Asia, South East Asia, Africa and Middle East.

The CEA guidelines on harmonic limits in accordance with IEEE 519 is still seeing slow adoption across India except in Tamil Nadu which has enforced penalties to HT consumers exceeding the harmonic limits. Here our state of the art IORA® Active Harmonic filters have helped hundreds of customers meet the harmonic limits.

This helped reduce their electricity bill and also free up capacity in the National grid which is increasingly getting polluted from harmonic generation due to increased usage of energy saving solutions like LED/CFL lamps and Variable Frequency Drives (VFD).



Gautam Seth, Joint Managing Director, HPL Electric & Power Ltd

The year 2016 has been an eventful year for the power sector with positive government initiatives such as the UDAY scheme, Deen Dayal Upadhaya Gram Jyoti Yojna (DDUGJY) and Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS). All these reforms announced are expected to have a long term positive impact on the sector, making it more efficient and profitable and also ensuring 24x7 power supply for all. Further, the mandatory use of smart metering solutions and emphasis on other energy efficient measures will help improve operational efficiencies in the sector.

The demonetisation reform by the government will hit the unorganised sector in the electrical equipment space, positively impacting business prospects for branded players. Apart from this, passing of the GST bill will improve business efficiencies of individual companies, while also creating an overall environment which promotes ease of doing business in the country.



Neelav Samrat De, Asst. General Manager (Marketing & BD), Andritz India Pvt Ltd

Hydro

The hydro sector continued to perform dismally in 2016. There was a capacity addition of only 320 MW from April to October 2016. Investors continued to stay away and there were no new projects. The 12th plan hydro addition target is 10,897 MW of which only 4140.4 MW has been realised.

The UDAY scheme was a good step to help and bail out ailing SEBs but only a handful of state governments aligned with the scheme. Further, the Viability Gap Funding initiative of the government was a good step to push projects towards completion, specifically for those where progress was mired by cost over runs. This step is expected to reduce selling tariffs. Going forward, we expect that the hydro policy in 2017 will include hydro projects under 100 MW size in the renewable category. Further, hydro purchase obligation (HPO) and renewable purchase obligation (RPO) could see a take-off in 2017. If the initiatives are not taken seriously, we could expect a totally dead hydro sector in India in 2017.