FLIR INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENT

# Detecting Leaks from Electrical Circuit Breakers

**FLIR Systems** has published a **new application spotlight** that addresses the challenge that electrical power stations face in **detecting gas leaks** from their Sulfur hexafluoride (**$SF_6$**) **circuit breakers.**

Sulfur hexafluoride circuit breakers protect electrical power stations and distribution systems by interrupting electric currents, when tripped by a protective relay. Advantages of sulfur hexafluoride circuit breakers over other media include lower operating noise, no emission of hot gases, and relatively low maintenance.

The longer a leak from a $SF_6$ circuit breaker is left undetected and not repaired, the more revenue is lost, and the greater the carbon footprint on the environment from the electrical power station. Consequently, it is crucial to rapidly locate $SF_6$ circuit breaker leaks to minimize downtime and revenue loss. Using traditional leak detection methods such as gas sniffers or soap bubbles this is not always possible as they require close access to or even shutdown of the electrical power plant.

By using a portable, non-contact FLIR GF306 optical gas imaging camera you can visualize $SF_6$ and other gas emissions without the need to shut down operations. You can also quickly scan substations for leaks while maintaining a safe distance from high-voltage equipment. Using a FLIR GF306 you can catch leaks early, reducing revenue lost from breakdowns and repairs. Doing so will also

help reduce emissions so your company can meet environmental regulations and avoid potential fines.

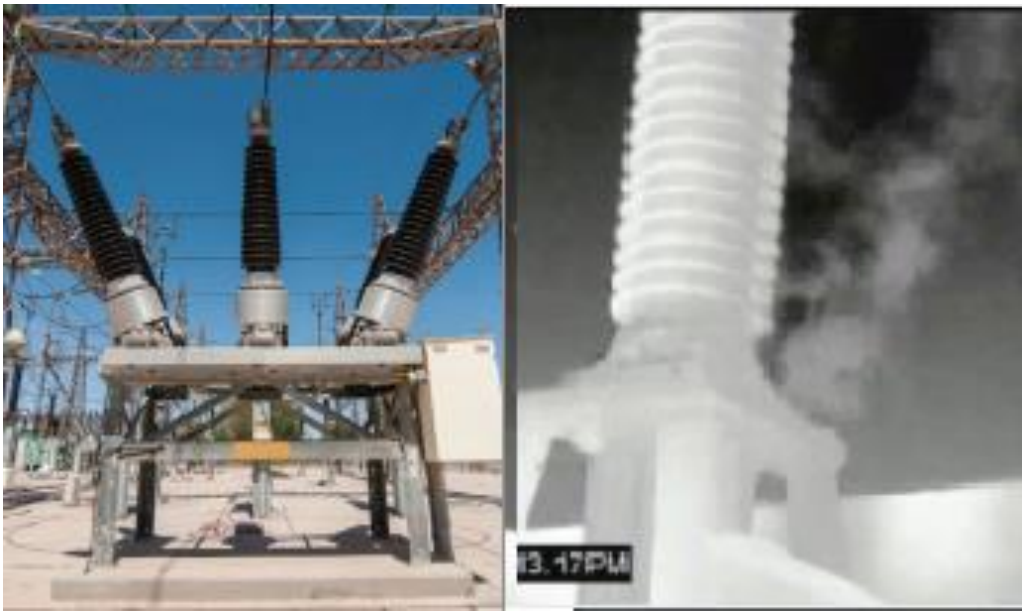
For a copy of this application spotlight please visit www.flir.eu/instruments/utilities/application-spotlight-inspect-sulfur-hexafluoride-sf6-circuit-breakers/. For more information about using optical gas imaging cameras for leak detection in electrical power substations / transmission please visit www.FLIR.com/substation-transmission or contact FLIR Systems on +32-3665-5100 / gasimaging@flir.com.

FLIR Systems, Inc. is a world leader in the design, manufacture, and marketing of sensor systems that enhance perception and awareness. FLIR's advanced thermal imaging and threat detection systems are used for a wide variety of imaging, thermography, and security applications, including airborne and ground-based surveillance, condition monitoring, research and development, manufacturing process control, search and rescue, drug interdiction, navigation, transportation safety, border and maritime patrol, environmental monitoring, and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) detection. For more information, go to FLIR's web site at www.FLIR.com.

**MARCH 2019** **Reference: PR208**

**Illustrative Images** (images available on request)


Caption: FLIR GF306 optical gas imaging camera




Caption: Detecting invisible $SF_6$ leaks from circuit breakers