

February 6, 2023

Meidensha Corporation

To members of the media

Meiden receives 19th LCA Japan Forum Incentive Award

Meidensha Corporation has received the 19th LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) Japan Forum Incentive Award, which is designed to support corporations, organizations and researchers working to reduce environmental impacts during the life cycle of products.

The award, which is given by the LCA Japan Forum, focuses on LCA, a method of quantitatively and objectively assessing environmental impacts in all stages of a product's life, including resource extraction, production, transportation, use and disposal.

Meiden was commended for its sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) gas-free Ecotank Type Vacuum Circuit Breaker (VCB), which was designed based on assessment and evaluation of life cycle CO₂ emissions with the aim of expanding sales due to its improved features.

The SF₆ gas-free Ecotank Type VCB can greatly contribute not only to meeting Meiden's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions targets, but also to reducing GHG emissions in an entire supply chain that is provided with the product. LCA Forum Japan gave a high mark to this technology, as a life cycle assessment shows that switching to a SF₆ gas-free product reduces environmental impact in terms of global warming.

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At an award ceremony held February 1

<At right> Chairman Atsushi Inaba of LCA Japan Forum

<At left> Meiden Senior Managing Executive Officer Nobuaki Tamaki

The Ecotank Type VCB that replaces SF₆—a GHG—with dry air for insulation is based on the concept involving “items for environmental consideration (3Rs/LS*¹)” and “life cycle cost (LCC) reduction,” thus making it optimal for green procurement. In 2020,

Meiden developed the world's first 145kV-class Ecotank Type VCB. In 2022, Meiden America Switchgear, Inc., a Meiden Group company, sold three units of the product to the Golden Valley Electric Association*² in the United States.

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Ecotank Type VCB

145kV-class Ecotank Type VCB

In its Medium-term Management Plan 2024, the Meiden Group spells out its ideal state of being in 2030: a company that “works to build a new society through integrity to the Earth, society, and the people and through the power of co-creation.” It is thus promoting management centering on sustainability. The Group will continue to provide products and services that take environmental factors into consideration by adopting LCA so that it can help attain carbon neutrality.

*1 3Rs: Acronym for “Reduce: resource/energy saving, reduction of abolition of toxic substances,” “Reuse: reusing materials and parts” and “Recycle: Using recyclable materials.

LS: Acronym for “Long use: adopting parts with long life cycles” and “Separable: easily disassembled and separately recoverable”

*2 Golden Valley Electric Association: An electric power cooperative in Fairbanks, Alaska. It provides electricity to an area covering 15,000 square kilometers.

Reference: Press release dated January 17, 2022

Meiden Group's North American production hub, Meiden America Switchgear, sells world's first SF₆ gas-free, 145kV Tank Type VCB