

2010: a green future, starting today

In declaring ourselves a green company at the start of the new millennium, we were not simply making a public commitment to respect and value the environment.

For manufacturing companies that have chosen to adapt their business strategies in accordance with a sustainable development model, going green is a clear acceptance of responsibility towards customers and partners.

This responsibility is categorical for SOCOMEC UPS, and is one that the company aims to fulfil with each and every one of its operational aspects, plants and activities.

Environmental awareness

Being aware of environmental problems is not something new for Socomec. The company has been a member of Global Compact since 2003, a UN initiative that involves companies working together on strategies designed to reduce the environmental impact of manufacturing, by taking a comprehensive look at the problem.

The ISO 14001 certification obtained by the company has allowed it to create its own environmental management system and ensure that none of its activities pose a threat to the environment. For example, production sites aim to reduce the leakage of liquids and fumes, and keep noise to a minimum, if these things can't actually be completely eliminated. Waste is avoided by turning off unused lights and PCs, limiting packaging materials and disposing of and recycling paper and wood. Paper which is no longer used is shredded so that fewer motor vehicles are required to remove it from company premises. Out of use pallets are destroyed and sold to a furniture manufacturer. On some production sites, vehicle parking bays have ground-installed liquid recovery systems. These liquids (oil, diesel) are then filtered and disposed of without damaging the environment.

Even the energy necessary for production processes will gradually be generated autonomously by photovoltaic systems.

Thanks to lean management practices, components and materials for UPS production are also obtained in accordance with new procedures, the 'milk run' delivery system. Partially full lorries are no longer used to transport raw materials or semi-finished products destined to fill warehouses, instead just one vehicle collects what is necessary from suppliers for a well-defined production period. Consequently, with a reduction in warehouses and space optimisation, there are fewer motor vehicles running (and hence less CO2 emissions) within a radius of no more than 150 km from the company.

Environmentally friendly document management

SOCOMECS UPS is gradually transferring its technical and product documentation (installation manuals and product guides) from hard copy to multimedia CD and DVD formats.

The target for 2010 is to save 6 million pages from being printed (equivalent to the weight of 10 large people carriers or 4x4 vehicles, twice the height of the Eiffel Tower, and the area of 25 football pitches).

With regard to hard copy documentation still in use, it is produced using material from reforested areas, thus preventing the destruction of precious hectares of vegetation.

A code of conduct for efficiency

It is also important to stress that SOCOMEC UPS adheres to the European Code of Conduct, which unites manufacturers that commit to producing highly efficient and high quality UPS installations. SOCOMEC UPS products are extremely efficient, consuming less energy while maintaining performance levels, leading to less direct energy consumption (the UPS consumes less energy) and less indirect energy consumption (the UPS requires less cooling, therefore additional energy for air conditioning is not required).

A green network for the Data Centre

SOCOMECS UPS is also a member of Green Grid, an international association of Information Technology companies and professionals that sets out to create and promote standards and protocols, to achieve greater energy efficiency in the field of data centres and IT services.

By increasing the efficiency of their data processing centres, IT organisations can deal with and manage increasing requirements better, in terms of processing capacity, network services and storage systems, while at the same time successfully reducing energy costs and cutting the total cost of ownership (TCO).

Absolute Green, availability and savings without compromise

Manufacturers often declare high returns for their products in terms of energy savings, however by adopting an off-line operation mode, i.e. with the UPS intervening only when there is a poor energy quality. Recent technologies have also introduced hybrid operation modes thanks to smart systems that automatically switch the UPS from off-line to on-line mode. In any event energy savings certainly increase, but compromises are made regarding protection reliability.

According to SOCOMEC UPS, attention must not only be focused on energy savings. It should not be forgotten that the main objective of the UPS is to ensure maximum availability of reliable energy, something that only on-line technology can guarantee.

Therefore it is necessary to extend the concept of energy savings even further, whereby maximum savings depend on maximum energy availability. UPS output is endorsed (up to 96%, one of the highest on the market) and the UPS always operates in on-line mode, ensuring maximum load protection. This is what constitutes the Absolute Green concept for SOCOMEC UPS: maximum savings without compromising on energy availability.

The SOCOMEC Group - an overview

SOCOMEC is an independent industrial group, specialising in the availability, control and safety of low voltage electrical energy for industry and the service sector.

Founded in 1922, the company bases its development on two complementary industrial activities:

- Electrical Switching and Protection Systems (*switches, fuse switches, changeover switches, cutout switches, electronic monitoring and protection, enclosures, cabinets, etc.*);
- Uninterruptible Power Supply Systems (*inverters, load transfer modules, rectifier/chargers, harmonic compensators, 400 Hz converters, etc.*).

SOCOMEC is a leader and specialist in its markets.

With 2500 personnel in 21 subsidiaries worldwide, SOCOMEC has complete control over the design, production and marketing of its products.

Nine industrial sites (4 in France, 1 in Italy, 1 in Tunisia, 1 in India, 2 in China) operate using the Group's primary areas of technological expertise, guaranteeing consistent quality of production and adherence to deadlines.

In 2009, the SOCOMEC Group achieved a turnover of 310 million euros;

Read more at www.socomec.com