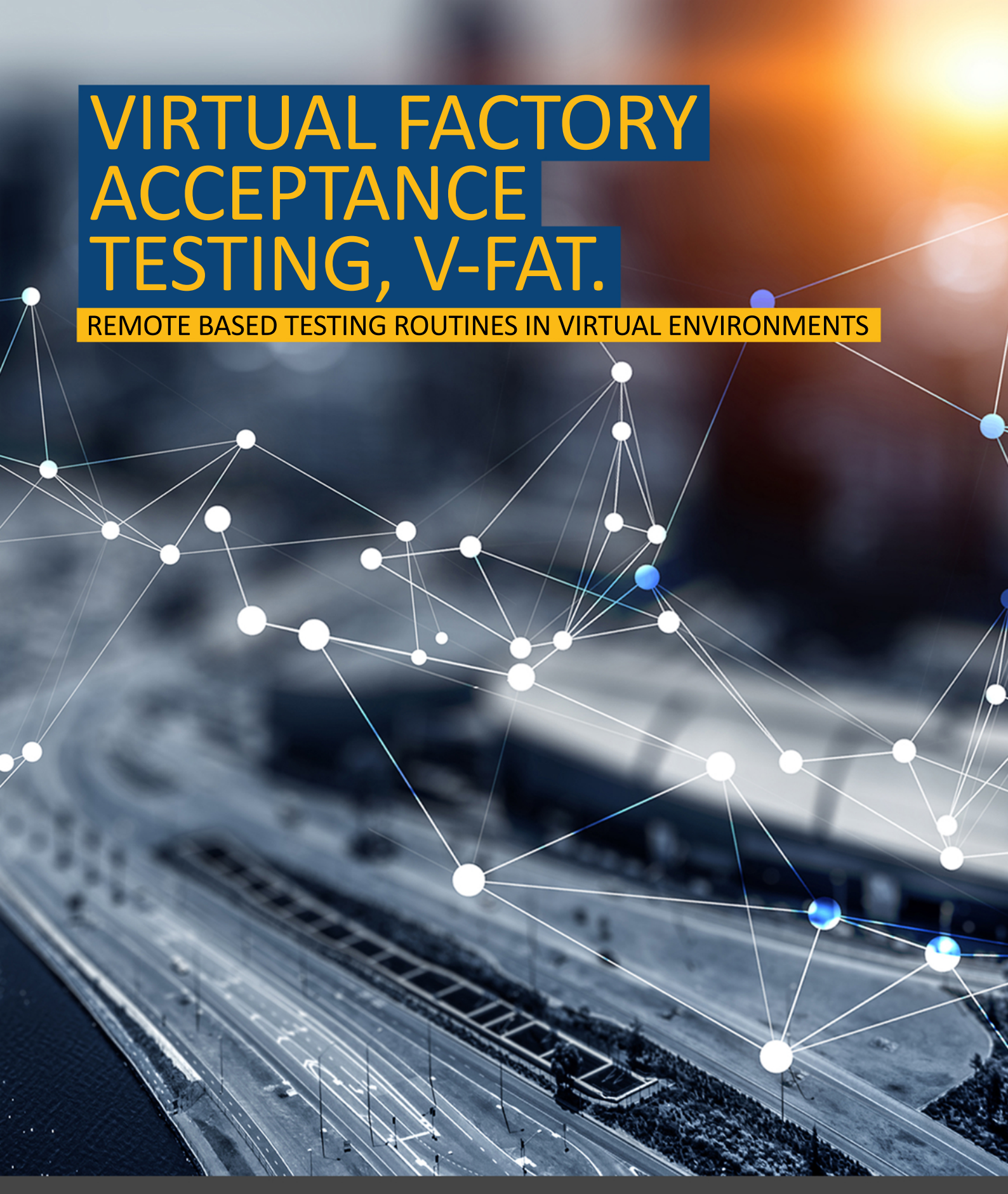
VIRTUAL FACTORY ACCEPTANCE TESTING, V-FAT.

REMOTE BASED TESTING ROUTINES IN VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS



The new Virtual Factory Acceptance Testing (V-FAT) process saves time and transport costs for overseas travel and reduces the need for face to face meetings, benefits that are likely to drive a permanent shift to this new way of witnessing the testing.

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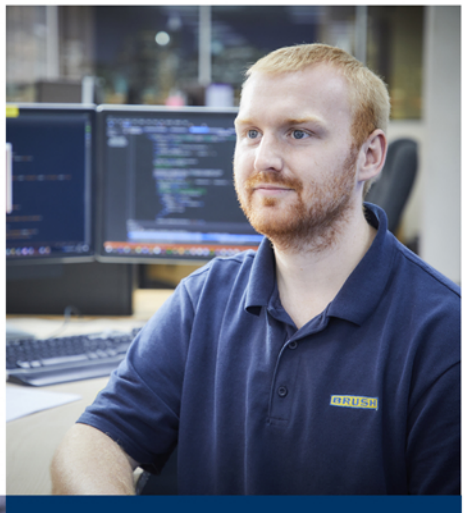

The project

Supporting critical electrical energy management solutions worldwide, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting lockdowns in many countries posed a significant challenge for BRUSH Group's global customers.

To help maintain critical delivery schedules, we worked alongside our customers to develop and deploy a new, remote witness testing routine, using video conferencing and live camera streams instead of on-site attendance.

> ***"Remote witness testing programs are now being offered to customers worldwide."***

> ***"As part of the operational efficiency improvements and streamlining process, we have leveraged a more disruptive thought process to embed mechanisms which address the challenges around social distancing and other processes which would traditionally require a face to face engagement, sign-off or acceptance. One particular area is the aspect of being able to offer remote based factory acceptance testing in a virtual environment."***

Generators are critical components for our customers projects. Without the generator no electricity can be produced and no revenue generated.

Ensuring that generators could undergo witnessed tests to maintain delivery schedules despite factory visits being impossible the teams in our Czech generator manufacturing plant designed and implemented tailor made remote test witnessing programs.

Using pre-test discussions with customers to accommodate the best test sequence for different time-zones and data requirements, complex test programs can be agreed upfront.

By live streaming of the main generator parameters and responding to customer requests via live chat all parties are kept informed at all times.

Customer feedback regarding the virtual testing routine has been very positive and based on associated customer benefits in saved time and travel expenses, BRUSH is now offering customers remote witness testing programs as an alternative to the traditional on-site process.

BRUSH has successfully remotely tested generators for a number of customers including Baker Hughes and Mercury using the enhanced V-FAT model.

Close up

Guernsey Electricity selected BRUSH Switchgear to supply 11kV indoor switchgear under a recently awarded Long-Term Framework Agreement.

As this was the first switchboard to have been manufactured under the agreement, it was imperative that the customer had the opportunity to inspect the switchboards and carry out comprehensive testing prior to the equipment leaving the factory.

> *"We are really pleased that the virtual testing went so well. Whilst Covid-19 has presented a challenge for all of us in different ways and prevented us from visiting the factory, this remote working has saved costs, lowered our carbon footprint and importantly not delayed an important project."*

Mike Lloyd
Head of Distribution
Guernsey Electricity

Guernsey Electricity

When Guernsey Electricity turned to BRUSH Switchgear for a solution to their need to test recently manufactured switchgear whilst being locked down due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the adoption of Virtual Factory Acceptance Testing enabled a new Eclipse Switchboard to be comprehensively witness tested without the need for our customers to visit to the factory.

Using Microsoft Teams, multiple cameras and a "can do" attitude from both the customer and our Test Department, the switchboard underwent a comprehensive testing process and the first Eclipse units are now being delivered for installation, helping to secure reliable power supply for Guernsey in years to come.