

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Westcode completes particle accelerator project



Westcode Semiconductors Limited (An IXYS company) announces the successful delivery of key parts for the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) facility at CERN, the European organisation for nuclear research. The pulsed power switches, which are used control the path of high-energy particle beams, were successfully built, tested and delivered on budget and ahead of schedule.

This contract was for the manufacture and test of 32 pulsed power switches based on the new Y8002VC450 pulse thyristor. These switches incorporate 10 thyristors connected in series in a low inductance co-axial assembly and represents the culmination of over 10 years of pioneering collaborative research into solid state pulsed power systems. Each switch is rated for a working voltage of 30kV DC and peak current of 20kA at a di/dt of 15kA/ $\mu$ s. The switches are used to drive the fast pulsed magnet systems used to guide particle beams in the LHC machine.



CERN is the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, the world's largest particle physics centre. Here physicists come to explore what matter is made of and what forces hold it together.

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is a particle accelerator, which will probe deeper into matter than ever before. Due to switch on in 2007, it will ultimately collide beams of protons at an energy of 14 TeV. Beams of lead nuclei will be also accelerated, smashing together with a collision energy of 1150 TeV.

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For further information about CERN visit their web site at [www.cern.ch](http://www.cern.ch)

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