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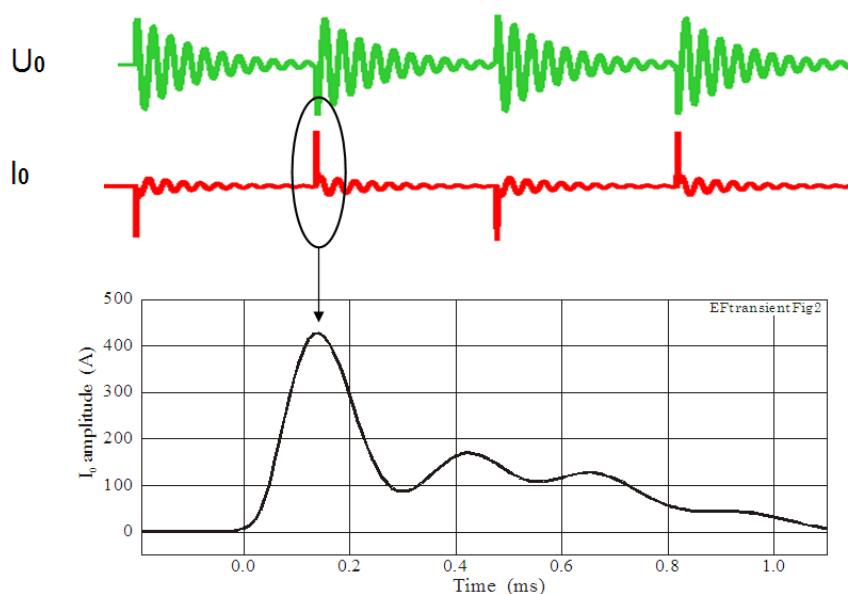
Vamp patents a method for detecting intermittent earth faults

Vamp Oy has obtained a patent for a new, cost-effective method for detecting earth faults in medium-voltage networks. The method enables the selective identification of intermittent transient earth faults as part of the normal process of network protection and control. Simplicity and cost-effectiveness are the advantage; apart from normal protection relays, neither a high sampling frequency nor special identification equipment is required.

The new identification method is the result of many years of development and is now standard in nearly all Vamp protection relays. Its reliability has been demonstrated in simulations and field tests.

Intermittent earth faults have become more common as network companies have converted to cabling and compensated networks. The phenomenon was first observed in the Nordic countries and Central Europe. Until now, however, the complexity and high costs of the solutions have been an obstacle. With Vamp's method these problems can be avoided by simply making use of the protection relay's integrated identification functionality.

For more information contact Product Manager Jani Vainionpää, tel: +358 20 753 3223, email: jani.vainionpaa@vamp.fi.



A typical example of the behaviour of residual current in an intermittent earth fault.