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## DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF A 200kA, 10/350 $\mu$ s LIGHTNING IMPULSE CURRENT GENERATOR SWITCH MODULE

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A switch module assembly utilizing a power crowbar circuit and high-pressure plasma closing switch technology has been designed, constructed and tested. The switch module is the central block of a lightning impulse current generator under development, capable of producing a 10/350 $\mu$ s waveform at a peak magnitude in excess of 200kA (W/R = 10MJ/ $\Omega$ ). The circuit consists of two separately charged capacitor banks, a fast start bank and a slow sustain bank responsible for the generation of the pulse wave-front and wave-tail respectively. These are switched in sequence to the load by means of two electrically triggered, graphite electrode high-action integral spark gap switches. The switch module assembly was tested for a number of different switch parameters and circuit operation modes. The produced output current pulse had a magnitude of 30kA for a start and sustain capacitor bank charging voltages of -40kV and +3.5kV respectively. In addition, the operational performance and trigger range characteristics of the two switches were investigated.

**Author:** Dr KOUTSOUBIS, John (Technological Education Institute (TEI) of Sterea Ellada)

**Co-authors:** Mr GRAY, Jim (High-Voltage and High-Current Testing Laboratory, ELEMKO SA); Mr KOKKINOS, Dimitrios (High-Voltage and High-Current Testing Laboratory, ELEMKO SA); Dr KOKKINOS, Nikos (High-Voltage and High-Current Testing Laboratory, ELEMKO SA)

**Presenter:** Dr KOUTSOUBIS, John (Technological Education Institute (TEI) of Sterea Ellada)

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