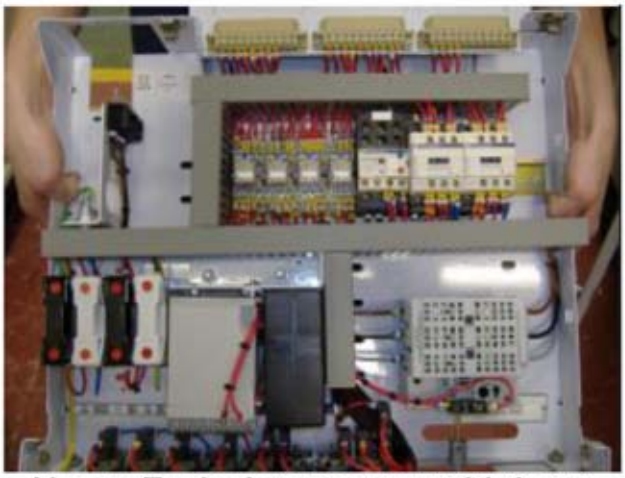
Withdrawable Motor Control Centres (MCC)

The vast majority of MCC's sold in the UK are of the fixed type i.e. components are directly fixed onto backplates and connections to the panel power distribution system (busbars) are permanent.

The alternative withdrawable MCC has starters mounted on trays that can be withdrawn from the MCC and disconnected from the busbars. The predominant use of the fixed type MCC is primarily due to initial cost but there are cases where the withdrawable MCC has distinct advantages.

The existing switchroom did not have the available space to accommodate a fixed type MCC but could accommodate a withdrawable type. The cost of an extension to the switchroom more than offset the increased cost of the withdrawable type MCC. Other benefits and possible disadvantages are set out below.



Above: Typical starter tray withdrawn showing plug connections at top

Left: Withdrawable MCC showing used and spare trays

Benefits of Withdrawable MCC's

- Less space (footprint) required due to higher density packing.
- Isolation process is much simpler. Can have added benefit of not requiring additional specialist isolation training for maintenance staff (which may be required with busbar system).
- Easier testing and modification on bench i.e. can re-wire a spare on the bench whilst the existing starter is still in use. Also less risk working near live electrical equipment.
- Use of spare trays for future additions may not require electrical isolation of MCC.

Disadvantages of Withdrawable MCC's

- Higher initial cost.
- Connection to busbar is via a 'stab' type arrangement, which can become worn with use. This can cause overheating or even the 'stab' connector working loose.

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