

Industry Showcase: Utilities



<p>Project: Magic</p> <p>Technology: Oracle Database Oracle PL/SQL Microsoft VB6 Transco Network Code API</p> 	<p>Challenge: As one of the largest industrial gas shippers in the UK, with clients such as Ford, Land Rover and ICI, GdF had a significant requirement to comply with meter reading and reporting regulations introduced by British Gas Transco. Meter readings taken automatically from Transco's (and others) industrial meters are distributed to shippers by Transco's EDI Network Code. Every customer, site and meter data modification required a number of file transactions to be generated, acknowledged and responded to within SLA.</p> <p>Solution: We extended the meter reading and billing system that we had already written for GdF to include 100% compliance with the Network Code regulations. This required a very robust service application that could reliably process thousands of files per day, seamlessly automating the business processes which most shippers had to manually control.</p>
<p>Project: PGBT</p> <p>Technology: Oracle Database Oracle PL/SQL APX Exchange API</p> 	<p>Challenge: National Grid operated their Pre Gate BMU Transactions (PGBT) transactions over the phone, leading to delays and difficulty in managing high volumes. Participants also felt the process lacked transparency.</p> <p>Solution: We worked in partnership with APX who provided a dedicated exchange for these transactions. Our data feed software passes transactions in real-time into the National Grid SPICE system that runs inside the highly secure national control centre.</p>
<p>Project: MIDP</p> <p>Technology: Oracle Database Microsoft VB6 APX Exchange API</p> 	<p>Challenge: Elexon operates the wholesale electricity market in England and Wales. In order to provide market transparency and key statistics the operator required each trading exchange within the market to provide market price and volume information in a timely and audited way.</p> <p>Solution: As an existing technical partner to Amsterdam Power Exchange (one of the market makers) we were commissioned to fulfil this important data feed service to Elexon. Our five man team built the resulting application under very strict timescales and governance regulations, on budget and in advance of any other market data provider. Due to the high strategic value of this data and the market implications for erroneous data reporting, the project was audited not just by APX and Elexon but also by Ofgem.</p>
<p>Project: Esteem</p> <p>Technology: Microsoft SQL Server Microsoft VB6</p> 	<p>Challenge: This international energy giant had a dependence on huge spreadsheets that were used to evaluate the best electricity supplier for their clients. This included tariff analysis of half hourly meter profiles for up to 18 band tariffs, many of which had complex structures and required compliance with industry standard DUOS, TUOS and FFL charges.</p> <p>Solution: Our solution replaced these unwieldy spreadsheets with a calculation engine and data warehouse based on a Microsoft SQL Server database. An Excel style user interface was embedded into a rich client with heat maps and automatic ranking of the best quotations from suppliers.</p>
<p>Project: Sigma II</p> <p>Technology: C++ Sigma GGL</p> 	<p>Challenge: The Heysham 2 power station in Lancashire required a replacement for the failing Sigma Graphics Controllers and Barco monitors that were used in the master and simulator control rooms to monitor the alarms and sensors throughout the plant. With a worldwide lack of spares threatening to shutdown the station a creative technical solution was urgently needed.</p> <p>Solution: We worked in partnership with PSU Technology Group (existing BE maintenance partner) to provide a software emulator which interpreted the proprietary Sigma graphics generation language. The emulator receives the raw PCL data feeds from the Honeywell DPS mini computers and displays the complex screen formats on industrial strength LCD monitors in place of the Sigma Graphics controllers and Barco monitors.</p>
<p>Project: APX Router</p> <p>Technology: C++ TIBCO & CORBA APX Exchange API</p> 	<p>Challenge: BP were just one of a number of Amsterdam Power Exchange clients that needed to integrate their back office risk management platform with the APX live exchange in order to reconcile their live trading positions.</p> <p>Solution: Working in partnership with APX and Caminus we developed a trade feed service which collected trades from the APX exchange and entered them automatically into the Caminus RM system via a TIBCO and CORBA interface. Trades were reflected in the clients' back office within milliseconds of the trade taking place on the live exchange. This same trade router was implemented at a number of other APX clients.</p>