Newport, July 27, 2017

Capula and COPA-DATA lead successful collaboration:

Meeting energy’s evolving needs

For the British energy industry, the cost of ensuring the nation could switch its lights back on following a failure grew to £12 million in 2016. Like most developed economies, the United Kingdom is not at high risk of power blackouts, except in the most extreme or out-of-control circumstances. However, as with most developed nations, the UK’s ageing infrastructure should be reviewed to ensure it can manage the vast amounts of energy being generated, transmitted and used.

As a leading, independent systems integrator for UK energy suppliers, Capula collaborates with technology providers that offer the best products for the industry. Working only with businesses that produce transformative and reliable systems, software and service solutions. To meet the evolving needs of its clients in the Energy market – particularly those expressing preference for commercial off-the-shelf products – Capula sought to upgrade its existing substation control system.

Capula needed a highly flexible HMI solution to replace its internally developed Commander software. Designed in the early 2000s, the software could complete the tasks for which it was designed, but updates were required. Capula’s alternative solution, GE Powerlink, was also in need of an update so the company chose to explore the HMI/SCADA market.

Specifications for the new system included requests for inbuilt DNP and IEC 61850 drivers. Other software options didn’t include these features and relied on third party drivers, causing concern about future support issues.

As zenon incorporates inbuilt drivers, such as the IEC 61850 driver that has the certification for use in a number of areas, preconfigured by COPA-DATA’s team of software engineers, Capula’s decision was simple. The software also supports automated configuration, which was key for Capula’s delivery methods.

Introducing zenon Energy Edition

The team of SCADA experts at Capula’s Transmission and Distribution business unit undertook two training courses covering the intricacies of zenon and zenon Energy Edition. This enabled Capula to roll out the same software solution over 65 sites with ease, as well as confidently provide customers with single-day familiarity training that received positive feedback.

zenon's flexibility allows Capula to implement it widely across the Energy sector, as part of its Imperium substation control system, zenon is used in and at power station and wind farm applications and also for electrical distribution. For the National Grid type-registered solution, the Capula team utilised zenon’s powerful web client functionality alongside zenon’s interface to remotely complete a range of complex tasks, without unnecessary and laborious programming.

Equipped with progressive technical features like Historian, Extended Trend, web client and IEC 61850 client and master, zenon has enabled Capula to support its existing customers better, win new tenders, and expand its product and solution portfolio.

Forming a partnership in automation

zenon is now an integral asset in Capula’s offering to the transmission industry. Capula and COPA-DATA UK aim to capitalise on this success and deliver strong solutions to various niches of the Energy market. Being a COPA-DATA Partner validates Capula’s track record of providing quality solutions and demonstrates its ability to collaboratively adapt to future requirements and employ new technical breakthroughs.

“Working with COPA-DATA has been a positive experience,” explained Mark Hardy, Managing Director of Capula Ltd. “There is an excellent flow of information and we know we can rely on the team at COPA-DATA UK to fully support Capula.

“COPA-DATA support us well by swiftly resolving any matters that arise. Along with the merits of zenon, this ensures a positive experience for our clients and allows us to meet, and sometimes exceed, their exacting requirements.”

The energy industry in highly developed nations is in a unique situation, where the technology available to it is much more advanced than the infrastructure the industry is based on. However, to ensure maximum efficiency from this ageing infrastructure, investing in software is essential.

On COPA-DATA

COPA-DATA is the technological leader for ergonomic and highly dynamic process solutions. The company, founded in 1987, develops the software zenon for HMI/SCADA, Dynamic Production Reporting and integrated PLC systems at its headquarters in Austria. zenon is sold through its own offices in Europe, North America and Asia, as well as partners and distributors throughout the world. Customers benefit from local contact persons and local support thanks to a decentralised corporate structure. As an independent company, COPA-DATA can act quickly and flexibly, continues to set new standards in functionality and ease of use and leads the market trends. Over 100,000 installed systems in more than 90 countries provide companies in the Food & Beverage, Energy & Infrastructure, Automotive and Pharmaceutical sectors with new scope for efficient automation.

On zenon

zenon is a software system from COPA-DATA for industrial automation and the energy industry. Machines and equipment are controlled, monitored and optimized. zenon’s particular strength is open and reliable communication in heterogeneous production facilities. Open interfaces and over 300 native drivers and communication protocols support the horizontal and vertical integration. This allows for continuous implementation of the Industrial IoT and the Smart Factory. Projects with zenon are highly scalable.  
zenon is ergonomic, both for the engineer and for the end user. The engineering environment is flexible and can be used for a wide range of applications. The principle of “setting parameters instead of programming” helps engineers to configure projects quickly and without errors. Complex functions for comprehensive projects are supplied out-of-the-box to create intuitive and robust applications. Users can thereby contribute to increased flexibility and efficiency with zenon.

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