



POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

CUSTOMER

Powerlink Queensland operates, develops and maintains Queensland's high-voltage electricity transmission network. The transmission network extends along almost half of Australia's eastern seaboard and includes more than 15,000 high-voltage transmission circuits and 132 substations. In 2011, it was identified that, in addition to finding an HMI solution for Powerlink's new in-house IEC 61850 station bus system, Powerlink's existing HMI platform had become obsolete and needed replacing.

CHALLENGES

Powerlink began evaluating HMI software in 2011. The new system needed to meet the team's requirements in terms of performance, control features and functions, alarms, events, security, user administration, remote access, internal logic and graphical display functionality as well as being cost-effective. The solution would need to offer a fully-tested and automated way of converting from an existing, legacy and no-longer-supported HMI to a fully-functional, supported system as well as enabling Powerlink's GOOSE isolation implementation, its station bus network and the monitoring of the status of buffered reports on all server IEDs.

SOLUTION

Powerlink selected COPA-DATA's zenon software as its preferred HMI solution due to the ease of engineering, built-in IEC 61850 and DNP3 process drivers, XML import/export of all design objects, VSTA and VBA programming interfaces as well as zenon Logic's IEC 61131-3 capabilities. Powerlink also found COPA-DATA's close relationship with Microsoft an attractive reason to select zenon as its preferred HMI solution. Furthermore, zenon's design capabilities have enabled a similar look and feel to the existing HMI solutions. With over 100 installations of the previous generation HMI, this was vital for Powerlink Queensland to ensure consistency and ease of use.

TECHNOLOGY

- zenon's parameterization enabled the simple re-use of standard objects and functions with minimal engineering,
- the zenon Logic IEC 61131-3 interface to the zenon Runtime allowed for the simple emulation of functions that were specific to the legacy HMI, and the creation of new functions,
- VSTA allowed for the creation of simple import wizards that automated the import of files and project-specific settings using a proven, consistent process that required minimal user input,

- zenon's XML import/export for data points, screens, functions and alarm groups, facilitated simple process automation within rapid development timeframes and with high levels of consistency.

BENEFITS

zenon gave Powerlink a proven way to transition into a completely new HMI platform without the need for a time-consuming and expensive recommissioning effort. The software is very simple and quick to engineer, with many possibilities to automate design inputs. With basic automation, Powerlink Queensland has been able to reduce design time and the associated costs.

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