# FAST Engineering

## COPA-DATA Partner Spotlight



FAST Engineering specializes in providing complete systems integration solutions and services for renewables and utility installations. Its experienced team comprises veterans of the Australian power industry. They rely on the zenon software platform from COPA-DATA to provide all aspects of control systems architecture design and implementation.
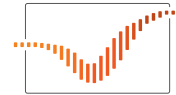
### THE CHALLENGE

FAST Engineering works in the utility and renewables sector in Australia. It designs control systems for transmission networks, wind farms, solar farms, BESS systems and other energy infrastructures.

The FAST Engineering team was looking for a new software solution that would enable it to reduce the cost and time of engineering. It sought a modern, integrated toolset that would facilitate the move away from a traditional, field-based RTU model.

FAST Engineering discovered the zenon software platform in 2019 after zenon was adopted by its customer

Powerlink, an electricity transmission system operator owned by the Government of Queensland. Powerlink operates the high-voltage electricity transmission infrastructure there, providing electricity to more than five million Queenslanders and 253,000 businesses. FAST Engineering is one of its SCADA solution suppliers.

The FAST Engineering team immediately recognized the potential of zenon to enable its transition to a new, modern engineering approach.

## THE SOLUTION

The FAST Engineering team was attracted to how zenon could support its engineering ambitions. Previously, much of the system functionality and logic was performed in the field-based RTUs and PLCs. Switching to zenon has given FAST Engineering the freedom to move most of the logic performed in these devices to zenon and remove the reliance on RTUs.

FAST Engineering also appreciates zenon's single engineering environment and the ability to generate a single project backup file which includes the engineering design.

Using the zenon Logic Engine, zenon Process Gateway and its MQTT interface, solutions are now faster and easier to configure. It is much simpler to test and commission new solutions, thanks to zenon's out-of-the-box functionalities. In particular, the zenon Application Sets of preconfigured, industry-specific project components have enhanced the speed and ease of engineering.

Wade Harris, Director and Principal Automation Engineer at FAST Engineering, adds, "The look and feel of the HMI graphical user interfaces has been much improved by the use of zenon and these improvements are much loved by customers and end users."

## THE PARTNERSHIP WITH COPA-DATA

The FAST Engineering team also values the clearly defined roadmap COPA-DATA provides for its zenon software platform. The platform is actively developed and maintained, providing all the upstream and downstream connectivity options required in a modern automation system.

zenon's redundancy, networking and integrated Historian have proved invaluable features. The FAST Engineering team also uses zenon Service Engine extensions to interface with a variety of higher-level systems.

Wade Harris concludes, "We value the access to local support and the expert industry knowledge provided by the COPA-DATA team. Their industry experts talk the same language. I'd definitely recommend the COPA-DATA Partner Community to other systems integrators."



FAST Engineering specializes in system design and integration for the energy and utilities sector, including IEC 61850, RTU, HMI and SCADA, complex control algorithms, network security, legacy systems upgrades and interfaces, maintenance and training.

▶ COPA-DATA Partner since: 2019
▶ Industries served: Energy & Utilities

**Partner Contact Details:**
PO Box 243, Wavell Heights
4012 Queensland, Australia
+61 407 382 210
www.fastengineering.com.au

*"COPA-DATA and zenon is a key business relationship, enabling us to produce visually appealing and technically proficient system designs. zenon empowers us to exceed industry expectations while lowering engineering costs."*

**WADE HARRIS, DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL AUTOMATION ENGINEER, FAST ENGINEERING.**

www.copadata.com/partner