

Powering Australia's Growth

A managed environment built on Bentley solutions gives an energy company fast, wide access to vital data

ENERGEX, a leading Australian energy company, has upgraded its existing drafting and document management system to an integrated engineering design and content management system. Since the mid-1980s, ENERGEX's Transmission Design Department had used a mainframe system for drawing design and document management. In 2001, following a review of its requirements, ENERGEX chose Bentley reseller and integrator CadStation Solutions to replace its existing system.

Now, ENERGEX's Transmission Design Department works in a managed environment built around the Bentley® ProjectWise® content management solution, the MicroStation® design platform, and discipline-specific applications. This environment has reduced the time and effort needed to share information among disciplines, suppliers, and clients.

According to Darren Wilson, ENERGEX substation design system administrator, ProjectWise is intended to serve as a central storage place for content once held in several locations, which improves access to information and ultimately response and repair times.

These types of benefits are critical to large companies such as ENERGEX, which has AUD \$3.7 billion in assets, employs nearly 3,000 people and serves more than 1.1 million customers throughout eastern Australia and in New Zealand.

Migrating legacy records, customizing the new system

Changing over to the new system necessitated a coordinated approach. CadStation Solutions translated 38,000 old drawing files into MicroStation's DGN format, and imported 240,000 drawing records into the ProjectWise database. ENERGEX also had the Bentley system extensively customized to mimic the work processes of the other system, so users would require less retraining. By June 2002, the Bentley solution was in production.



Organization

ENERGEX

Vertical market

Geospatial

Location

Queensland, Australia

Project objectives

Upgrade from a legacy drafting and document management system to a managed environment for engineering data.

Reduce the time and effort needed to share data among disciplines, suppliers, and clients.

Fast facts

- With ProjectWise as a central storage place for content once held in multiple locations, the managed environment improves ENERGEX's response and repair times. Some 240,000 drawing records were imported into the ProjectWise database.
- ENERGEX maintenance workers at distant sites will be able to find and plot drawings locally via ProjectWise.
- The Bentley SELECT technology and service subscription program streamline ongoing technical support and provides continuous product upgrades.

Bentley products used

- Bentley ProjectWise
- MicroStation
- Bentley PlantSpace Elementary Electrical Diagrams

The solution for the substation design department included ProjectWise, MicroStation, the MicroStation application Bentley® PlantSpace® Elementary Electrical Diagrams (EED), and others.

Sharing information across distances

According to Wilson, ProjectWise also had the potential to enable ENERGEX to share information across a number of locations.

“We intend to deploy ProjectWise to 40 ENERGEX staff in different locations, so they can also use the application to locate drawings.

“For instance, it would be possible for ENERGEX maintenance workers to locate the files themselves, via ProjectWise, without help from the plan library or the design department, which may be some distance away. Users are able to plot the drawing at their own local printers, if a digital version is stored in ProjectWise,” Wilson explains.

In addition, the user-friendly interface of the Windows-based file structure in ProjectWise is easier to navigate, which speeds up the time taken to locate files.

Boosting productivity

ENERGEX's Transmission Design Department can also gain productivity improvements as they can now share files in different formats, negating the need to reformat files. MicroStation allows viewing, referencing, editing, and saving files in AutoCAD's DWG format. They no longer need to translate AutoCAD documents from other ENERGEX departments, suppliers, or outside clients.



This is a significant benefit, as about 10 percent of the team's work is done for other Australian energy utilities, some of which use AutoCAD.

The circuitry design tool EED also saves time by producing control panel designs and then spinning off bills of materials required for the project. The materials with the designs go

to electrical workers, who fabricate the control panels.

Finally, ENERGEX's new managed environment for design and document management, built on Bentley solutions, has helped ENERGEX to streamline processes and, as a result, be more time-efficient.

“Dealing with a single provider also helps to streamline ongoing technical support and paves the way for future enhancements,” Wilson says. All the new software is covered by Bentley SELECT®, which among other features provides continuous product upgrades and comprehensive technical support.

For more information on Bentley, please visit www.bentley.com or call 1-800-BENTLEY.



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