



THÜGA ENERGIENETZE GMBH

THE CUSTOMER

Thüga Energienetze GmbH, headquartered in Schifferstadt, operates electricity, water, heat and natural gas grids in southern Germany as a partner to municipalities, municipal utilities, private households and industry and trade. The company supplies more than 120 municipalities in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and Rhineland-Palatinate with natural gas and electricity in a reliable and environmentally friendly manner. In addition, Thüga Energienetze offers complete services from a single source for municipalities, commerce, the energy industry and private customers – including certified fault management across the 24-hour distribution management system; network monitoring; network and operational management; the hosting of control system platforms; and installation, commissioning and maintenance of communications and distribution management technology.

THE CHALLENGE

Current moves toward digitalization, renewables and electromobility, as well as the large-scale expansion of infrastructure, represent major challenges for Thüga Energienetze. Requirements are constantly changing – so software must be adaptable. With the SICAM®* 230 process control system Thüga Energienetze used formerly, the company could no longer provide its customers with the future-proof

solution they needed. No energy industry-specific enhancements had been developed for the product in recent years.

THE SOLUTION

Thüga Energienetze decided to switch to zenon Energy Edition from COPA-DATA, the core system on which SICAM® 230 was based. Since both systems are based on the same technology, the transition went smoothly and quickly. After the first stage of the migration, one workstation was equipped with zenon, while the other continued to run the old system. Before long, Thüga Energienetze switched entirely to zenon. In total, the migration took just five months.

THE TECHNOLOGY

The integrated zenon software platform from COPA-DATA is characterized by its high flexibility. Thanks to its multi-hierarchical project structure, modular design and numerous interfaces to various products, zenon can be expanded quickly, and functions can easily be removed or added as required. This is an essential requirement, since Thüga Energienetze not only uses the distribution management system for its own operations, but it also offers it as a solution to customers – for example, in the form of network monitoring services.

THE BENEFITS

Thüga Energienetze GmbH virtualized its entire server landscape several years ago in order to simplify the backup and recovery processes for individual process control servers. As a result, version updates from zenon can be performed easily and without risk. The control system servers are located at Thüga Energienetze customer sites, while Thüga Energienetze maps redundancies. This means that if the connection to the distribution management system fails, the customer can continue to manage everything related to the grid. zenon is not only innovative but also sustainable and future-proof. Thüga Energienetze no longer needs to worry that the product will be unsupported or discontinued at some point.

*SICAM® is a registered trademark of Siemens AG and its affiliated companies.

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