



CASESTUDY:

**Energy Company Accesses Real-time Test
Data with Excel Reporter**

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"With Excel Reporter, we can set up field tests in Florida, and I can assess the data in real-time from my office in North Carolina. It's quick, it's easy and it's saving us a lot of time."

— Dick Fletcher, Senior Engineer, Progress Energy

Challenge

Progress Energy is a Fortune 500 energy company with more than 22,000 megawatts of generation capacity and approximately \$10 billion in annual revenue. The company, which prides itself on its award-winning operational excellence, needed a faster and easier way to collect, transmit and analyze data from the many field tests it conducts at its 30 power plants across the Southeast.

Solution

In minutes, Progress Energy was able to install MatrikonOPC Excel Reporter, an OPC Client for Microsoft® Excel. Excel Reporter enables the company to retrieve real-time process and equipment data from the field and monitor and analyze it on the corporate network. The out-of-the-box solution makes it easy for the company to create quality and performance reports in the user-friendly Excel environment.

Results

- Implemented and configured in minutes
- Standardized on architecture
- Improves field test efficiency and reduces travel time
- Easily scalable as more devices are added to the system

Energy leader seeks greater efficiency in field testing

Progress Energy (NYSE: PGN), which includes two utilities, is responsible for the electrical needs of about 3.1 million customers across the Carolinas and Florida. The company, which earned the Edison Award in recognition of its operational excellence, conducts ongoing equipment tests to maintain its high level of performance.

Senior Engineer Dick Fletcher and his team conduct many of the company's performance and acceptance tests at more than 30 power plants across the Southeast. For years, Fletcher had to be on-site to view the results of those tests, or he had to wait for the field test data to be collected and sent to him on USB drives or via e-mail.

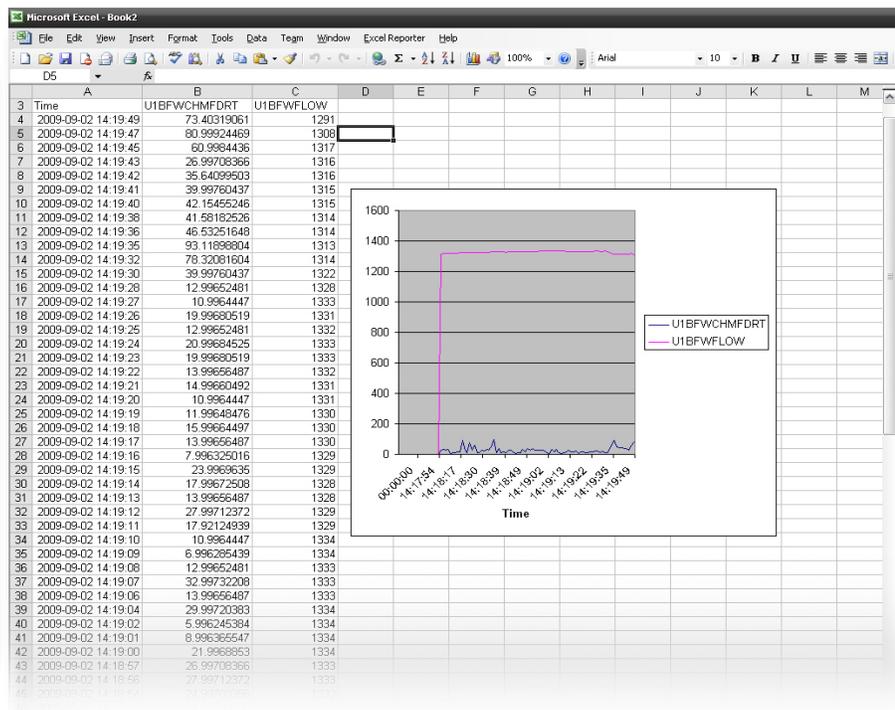
When Progress Energy updated its field acquisition system, the company also sought a more efficient way to transfer data from its field tests to the corporate network. Once the real-time data reached the network, the company wanted a simple way to view and manipulate the data into customized reports. And the entire solution needed to be cost-effective, easy to implement and easy to standardize on the company's existing architecture.

Features of MatrikonOPC Excel Reporter:

Real-time dashboard.
Turn Microsoft Excel into a simple dashboard to track your system.

Data access.
Connect to any real-time (OPC DA) or historical (OPC HDA) data source.

Report scheduler.
Schedule daily, weekly, monthly or other reports.



Excel Reporter delivers real-time data

With Excel Reporter, Fletcher can sit in his office in North Carolina and evaluate real-time test data from the company's power plants in Florida and South Carolina. Excel Reporter is standardized on the company's architecture, and it allows any qualified user on the network to access the data as it arrives.

Instead of flying to every test site, Fletcher now has local technicians install the testing equipment so he can monitor the tests from his office. "We've already had an instance where we found problems during testing that we were able to fix on the spot," said Fletcher. "In the past, that whole process could have taken days. Now, we take care of it in real-time."

Fletcher said he and his team had no trouble implementing Excel Reporter and figuring out how to manipulate the data within the solution. "It's plug and play. If you're familiar with Excel, it takes five or 10 minutes to get Excel Reporter up and working," he said. "It's heavily menu-driven and amazingly simple to use."

Based on the initial success of the solution, Progress Energy plans to expand use of Excel Reporter to additional business units. "Ultimately, we'll have more people in more units accessing and using the data because it's so much faster and easier to work with it now," Fletcher said.



Here is the solution discussed in
the case study:



[OPC Excel Reporter](#)

OPC Excel Reporter is an OPC Client for Excel that transforms Excel into a reporting tool for your process and equipment data. Connect to any real-time (OPC DA) or historical (OPC-HDA) data source. Sample reports make getting started a snap. Easily create production, quality and performance reports. OPC Excel Reporter is an out-of-the-box solution that is easy to set up, configure and manage - get up and running in less than 5 minutes.



[Download Excel Reporter](#)



About MatrikonOPC (a division of Matrikon Inc.)

MatrikonOPC provides software to access device data using the OPC standard. Our promise is to help clients unlock the potential of their data and provide them with vendor-neutral training and superior client care. MatrikonOPC builds close relationships with our customers to gain a true understanding of their business and then attain operational efficiency from both a technical and business perspective.

With offices in Canada, the United States, Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, MatrikonOPC provides local presence on a worldwide scale. For more information about MatrikonOPC Server for BACnet and other products and services, visit us online at www.MatrikonOPC.com.

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