Press release

IWB analyse and control wind farms remotely

Digitization is also increasingly influencing the traditional business of energy suppliers. Industrielle Werke Basel (IWB) is thereby playing a leading role in the transformation into the digital energy suppliers of the future, in accordance with the ideas enshrined in "Utility 4.0". IWB have recently begun monitoring, analysing and controlling their wind farms with a software solution based on QlikView, developed by the BI specialist Informatec from Muttenz. The groundbreaking and technologically fascinating solution uses IoT logic and is operated from Informatec's own Swiss BI Cloud. It is economically highly beneficial for the user.

Muttenz, 14.03.2017 - IWB (Industrielle Werke Basel) supplies and networks over 250,000 customers with energy, water and telecommunications in the region of Basel and beyond. IWB is a leading company in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency. In addition, the company owns 22 wind farms, three extensive photovoltaic plants and several medium to small photovoltaic roof plants in France, in Germany and in Switzerland, or participates in them.

From the heterogeneous database to a consolidated BI solution

The data on wind turbines from different manufacturers that were already available in the SCADA systems first had to be consolidated on an Internet-of-things platform. In a second step, Informatec developed a business intelligence solution, based on the technical expertise of IWB. It took Informatec just three days from developing the complex QlikView data model to providing an initial productively usable application. "We soon came to appreciate Informatec's comprehensive BI knowledge and capacity to rapidly grasp our very specialised business field and the resulting requirements," continued Oehlmann, Asset Manager responsible for wind turbines at IWB. After six months, the pilot was implemented over three wind farms and went into operation in the Informatec Swiss BI Cloud.

High transparency, thereby reducing costs and downtime

The BI solution developed by Informatec analyses and visualises vast amounts of data in real time. It thus offers comprehensive production and component monitoring and optimises efficiency through "predictive maintenance", thus leading to a dramatic reduction in costs and non-productive service life for the power generation plants. "This is a real change within the electric power industry" Dirk Oehlmann remarks on the particular situation.

"With the use of QlikView, a whole new world has opened up for us. For the first time we are fully informed about what is happening or not happening with each of our wind farm's turbines. We can respond immediately and initiate countermeasures. This means higher efficiency and productivity, reduced downtime and lower costs! QlikView gives us the decision-making basis for trading electricity more efficiently, and with automated alerts and predictive analyses enables us to immediately intervene if problems arise in the wind turbines. This gives us the best conditions to maintain and expand our competitiveness in the long term," continues Dirk Oehlmann.

Further information

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About Informatec:

With a clear focus on business intelligence, Informatec has established itself as a specialist consultant for bespoke implementation of comprehensive BI solutions for analysis, reporting and planning. The company from the Basel area, founded in 1998, is considered a BI innovator for sophisticated SME and major clients and counts leading companies among a continuously growing client base. With its need-oriented services, Informatec helps provide limitless access to the numerous benefits of their proprietary BI platform iVIEW, based on Qlik and Jedox. Their service range includes consulting, design and custom development, as well as implementation and training, maintenance and support.