

China Yangtze New Energies Sees Ambitious Growth with IFS



Since implementing IFS to help China Yangtze New Energies achieve its ambitious growth plans, they are now reaping the benefits of streamlined business processes that has greatly reduced the risk of error, increased visibility and utilisation of assets, fewer human resources and a centralised data centre with more accurate and available data. Furthermore, they went live as scheduled, on time and on budget.

Scattered

The difference in dealing with a wind farm to a hydro power plant or a coal power plant is that all the assets are scattered. But not only are the assets scattered, the legacy system was scattered, not integrated and required extra human resources to be able to locate information, manage it and try to make something meaningful out of data that rapidly became outdated. “Its fair to say work efficiencies across the company was very low,” says Mr. Wu Guangjun, Vice General Manager of China Yangtze New Energies Development Company.

The legacy enterprise systems consisted of many disparate systems – one to manage contracts and negotiating with customer China State Grid, one for managing engineering and project management and another for office automation including financials. There was no system for document management, it was a case of faxing a document to the intended recipients for their attention and approval to be then yet again, faxed onto the next recipient. “Very quickly, data was out of date, documents lost and we had no idea which version was the most accurate,” says Wu. Management had no single view of business intelligence, there were no conformed processes between departments and there was no central repository for information about operations. “If someone left the company, we were in trouble because all the company knowledge went with them. There was no process for where the information was stored and very embarrassing, sometimes original contracts were misfiled or lost, so we didn’t always know what we were working on and agreed to,” says Wu. Furthermore, “our finance department experienced frequent difficulties because we didn’t know when or what we were invoicing. During our annual audit, we had to invest in more human resources to find the supporting documents.”

About China Yangtze New Energies

Yangtze New Energies Development Co., Ltd, mainly specializes in development of wind power on the eastern coast of China. It originated as a wholly owned subsidiary of China Three Gorges Corporation and has been merged into a wholly-owned subsidiary of China Three Gorges New Energy Corp since March 2011. Currently the total assets reached about 3.5 billion RMB with wind power generating approximately 257MW in the eastern coastal beaches and offshore.

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China Yangtze Power Co., Ltd.

Managing a wind farm is technologically very complex, requiring many components for each turbine which all need regular maintenance and visibility. “We were struggling to monitor all our operations and forecasting accurately. We had limited insight into our stock inventory and if a turbine needed maintenance or repair, we had to either set a meeting or phone field engineers. It was a lengthy delay in getting operations back online by the time we understood the issue and whether stock was available in our warehouse, or if we needed to place an order,” says Wu.

China Yangtze New Energies realised to achieve operational efficiency, they needed an agile solution that had industry functionality specific to their business.

A complete enterprise management solution to support ambitious growth

China Yangtze New Energies went through formal procedures and identified eight possible vendors. They knew their parent company Three Gorges was achieving great efficiencies through the use of IFS, so it only made sense to replicate similar practices to their operation. “We decided that IFS was the right technology partner to deliver an integrated Electrical Production Management System (EPMS), and their exemplary knowledge in the utilities market globally was a real advantage to us locally,” says Wu. China Three Gorges New Energy Corp., parent company of Yangtze New Energies Development Co.,Ltd, plan to develop the installed capacity of wind farms to 20,000MW till Year 2020.“The best part about IFS was we could select the components we needed at the time, and add more functionality as we required when we grow,” says Wu.

China Yangtze New Energies now have a technological superior central data centre where they can remotely manage each wind farm and the utilisation of all assets. “We can remotely monitor each turbine to achieve maximum efficiency, the quality has improved and if a malfunction occurs,

“The project has been very successful. The team at China Yangtze New Energies are now equipped with all the information they need to make timely decisions that support the maximum utilisation of our assets and output. Furthermore, IFS is the right solution to support our ambitious growth. Later, we will add more functionality from IFS to support our business as we continue to grow.”

Wu Guangjun, Vice General Manager,
China Yangtze New Energies
Development Co., Ltd.



we can electronically send a work order request in real time to the field engineer to rectify immediately,” says Wu. “We can now accurately manage our inventory and forecast the budget required for new equipment in advance. We have complete visibility into current stock levels in our warehouse which enables us to have a much higher utilisation of our assets all year round.”

Business processes and flow of information across departments has become streamlined and visible to all employees. With the use of IFS Document Management, all the team now have insight into business operations. “IFS allows document management to be managed in a very clear structure, where documents are allocated to projects and work tasks that can be accessed by everyone which is easy to use,” says Wu. “Furthermore, it has allowed us to reduce our waste internally and be a green company all round by being electronic.” Other departments such as Finance and HR are seeing the benefits of IFS, where contracts are centrally located and managed, invoicing is accurate and invoiced on time, managing human resources such as billable hours and sub-contractors is streamlined and more effective and a reduced need to add human resources when auditing occurs each year.

Management also enjoy the benefits of IFS. “Accurately managing forecasts, risk management and business operations provides intelligence to make informed decisions that was much more difficult to do prior to IFS,” says Wu. “Furthermore, our parent company wanted to be publicly listed and in order to do that, we required a system to manage our operations more effectively. IFS allowed us to go public which helped us attract investment by using a system that was proven, smart, digital and designed for companies like ours.”

An additional benefit of having information in a central repository is that the wealth of knowledge has increased across the business and employees. “This year we are about to embark on building a new wind farm that will add an additional one hundred turbines to our existing portfolio and due to the accumulated experience and knowledge IFS has helped us to develop, the build cycle will be very quick and efficient,” says Wu. “Furthermore, management and maintenance of all the new assets will be far easier and give us greater visibility.”

IFS acts as the central repository to China Yangtze New Energies’ other best of breed systems. All best of breed subsidiary systems including SCADA, market forecasting, monitoring and communication systems are integrated to IFS. “This allows our staff to work with one central repository of information that gives us information in real time across all of our business from engineering to finance. Furthermore, we can now accurately provide our customer China State Grid with a better service,” says Wu.

The rollout was very timely and efficient. IFS trained a set of super users who then in turn trained everyone else. “At first we had some initial inertia about the uptake of new processes, but once we educated our users on the benefits of IFS, our staff were only too positive. They realised the value of having information all electronic and in a central location which made their jobs easier,” says Wu.

Benefits:

- Increased Utilisation of Assets
- Information in one Central Repository Available in Real Time
- Quicker and more Informed Decision Making
- Comprehensive Document Management
- Increased Visibility into Stock Inventory Management

Find out more

Further information, e-mail info@ifs.com, contact your local IFS office or visit our web site, ifs.com

