



Powered by Software

On 100 workstations softelec supports a smooth power current for Europe's largest energy supplier

„E.ON Netz GmbH is one of Europe's largest privately-owned electric transmission network operators. The company's high-performance, high-voltage network has a system length of some 32,600 kilometers and supplies electricity throughout Germany, from the North Sea to the Alps in the south.

E.ON Netz plans, designs, builds, operates, and maintains transmission networks in the 380, 220, and 110 kV range.“



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For the 1,800 employees of E.ON Netz, delivering electricity on a power network from the North Sea to the Alps is a daily routine. E.ON Netz copes with this challenge by foresighted strategies, a highly qualified staff, and by employing first-class technical equipment. After all, more than 20 million people, including a vast number of industrial companies and countless other commercial clients rely on the E.ON Netz service for a 24-hour uninterrupted delivery of electricity.

Designing Power Supplies on Pixels and Vectors

E.ON Netz operates a high-voltage network with 33,500 km of cable lines. In the case of a technical failure occurrence in the vast network, the damage location needs to be identified quickly for an expedient and effective repair. Therefore detailed and updated plan documentation of all facilities and cable lines is essential to guarantee a frictionless supply of power from the multitude of power stations to the end customers. To accomplish this, the plans need to be readily available within very short time. After needed repairs are complete, and as part of normal maintenance construction, E.ON Netz has been recording the information in the formerly digitized site plans.

In the past this was done by using a number of different software tools at 100 different workstations throughout the organization. This solution was risky since editing and joining the documents can lead to information losses due to inconsistencies between the various applied software tools. Eventually, the decision was taken to substitute the variety of tools by a single enterprise solution for raster and hybrid plan editing. The intention was to substantially facilitate fast and highly accurate editing of the scanned documents for every one of the staff members involved. The editing focus was set to single text and text areas, as well as to various elements of graphic informa-

tion for updates and corrections which were to be applied directly in the scanned plans.



To Search and Find an Appropriate Product

Cost reductions, optimizing workflow, and increased efficiencies were the expected results coming from the replacement of the existing and cumbersome methods. As part of the initial consideration, in fall 2003, the E.ON Netz IT management team prepared their detailed specifications. Primarily, the product solution required had to be fully compatible with AutoCAD and needed to comply with the latest technical and commercial requirements. In addition, integration with a newly deployed document management system became another important objective. After all of the application details were specified, a project team could then set out to identify a matching supplier.

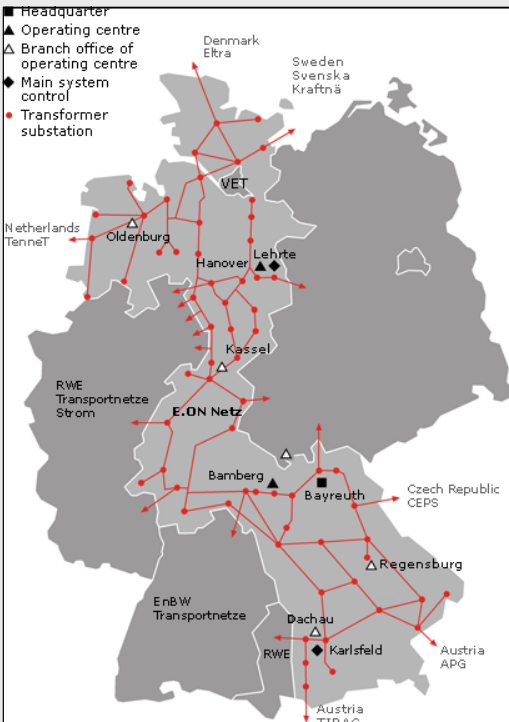
E.ON Netz found softelec, a specialty global supplier of raster editing and vector conversion software products based in Munich, Germany. A scan service provider working for E.ON Netz had already employed a softelec solution and recommended it to the E.ON Netz project team. Quickly it became clear that the softelec product would meet the specification requirements.

Implementation without Problems

After a year of intensive testing and coordination the IT management at E.ON Netz yielded the purchase in the spring of 2005. Several reasons guided the decision. One major aspect concerned the price/

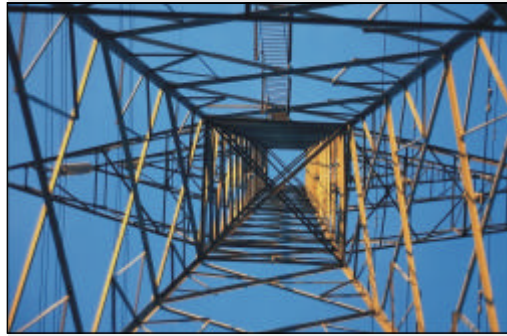
performance ratio which was rated as high above average based on the E.ON Netz evaluation criteria. The softelec solution VPraster was chosen and introduced as the new tool for editing all scanned drawings and plans. Even more emphasis was laid on VPraster's compatibility with all available AutoCAD platforms. E.ON Netz personal were also pleased that the softelec software offered numerous additional useful options, such as direct raster editing technology, high-accuracy rubber sheeting, and intuitive color reduction and color separation functions.

A successful test launch of the product on the E.ON Netz network preceded the actual implementation. In May 2005 the process was completed after more than 100 users participated in several training sessions at various E.ON Netz facilities.



As part of the total solution package, softelec added a number of customised function and feature enhancements to their VPraster product. For example, features related to the handling and editing of Multipage-TIF documents were needed to simplify the work with text and/or text tables. "We were pleased that the VPraster implementation went along with no problems. Primarily, this was due to the fact that softelec was very responsive. They agreed

to implement new functions which were very important for us on short terms", E.ON's IT Manager Wolfgang Hentschel explains. Still, the success of a new software implementation highly depends on the user's acceptance and comfort levels. For this reason the IT management had appointed a small group



of experienced "key users" from the various technical departments who actively contributed to the decision process with their expertise. It guaranteed that the new VPraster software would meet all major requirements for handling and efficiency. Technical user training followed after an earlier product introduction to the key user group. This also helped to ensure firm product acceptance on all working levels.

Mission Accomplished

After VPraster had been used for one year at E.ON Netz, Wolfgang Hentschel can still agree that by harmonizing the IT infrastructure, an increase on efficiency was gained quickly within the new user's departments and thus cut costs significantly. Also, the technical users responded positively. Since softelec had integrated a number of custom functions all users could profit from a customized application which standardizes and simplifies their daily work substantially. "The support from softelec was very helpful. Their people showed a lot of understanding for the specific structures of a large company like ours", Hentschel stated on his positive view of the co-operation with the softelec staff.

The main goals – to edit documents efficiently and to keep them updated reliably – have been fulfilled. The new software now plays a big role in guaranteeing a seamless power supply for all of the E.ON Netz customers.

Customer:

E.ON Netz GmbH,
Germany

Business:

Energy Supplies,
Electric Network
Operation

Employees:

2.000 (last updated: 2005)

softelec Software:

VPraster

(VPHybridCAD Series for:
Windows, AutoCAD)

Hybrid Excellence



VP HybridCAD
RASTER AND VECTOR UNITED



VP map Series
THE PERFECT BRIDGE FROM SCAN-TO-GIS



VP index
PROFESSIONAL SOFTWARE



VP view
HYBRID VIEWING TECHNOLOGY

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