



PGE Dystrybucja: **With well calculated energy.**

Client.

PGE Dystrybucja is a company which is one of the largest electricity distributors in Poland and employs about 10,000 people. With its network infrastructure, it ensures stable electricity supplies to over 5.4 million customers, living in a total area of about 122,000 km², which accounts for about 38% of the country's territory. It has 7 field branches, including those in Zamość and Rzeszów.

The Zamość Branch operates a power grid and provides services to customers in south-eastern Poland, in two voivodeships: Lubelskie and Podkarpackie. It operates on an area of over 15,200 km², serving about 434,000 customers from 27 cities and 141 communes. Electricity is transmitted by overhead and cable lines with a total length of 36,100 km.

The Rzeszów Branch operates in four voivodeships: Podkarpackie, Świętokrzyskie, Lubelskie and Małopolskie with a total area of over 16,300 km². Its range covers 147 communes. It serves almost 700,000 customers to whom it transmits electricity via overhead and cable lines with a total length of 39,300 km.

One of the priorities of PGE Dystrybucja's operations is to continuously improve the quality of services provided. The company pursues this goal through the consistent development and modernization of its power infrastructure and the introduction of modern technological solutions to networks, power equipment as well as IT and telecommunications. The company's two branches in Rzeszów and Zamość use Asseco's proprietary system - AUMS Reading Data Acquisition (AUMS ADO), whose role is to handle all the processes involved in the acquisition of data from electricity meters. The solution consists of a central and mobile application installed on the PSION mobile devices based on the Windows CE operating system. However, over time, these devices used by controllers have faced major limitations, mainly due to their availability, price and technological barriers. Therefore, in 2019 PGE Dystrybucja decided to purchase new devices. Their operation required a modern mobile application. Asseco Poland was chosen to execute the project and the Company's task was to build and implement the solution in the Rzeszów and Zamość branches.

Implementation.

The project began in October 2018 and lasted a year. The goal was to build and implement an application for electricity meters reading based on Google Android. The new solution was to enable the work on a number of devices using the Google Android operating system, as well as the application's future development. An additional requirement was to maintain compatibility with AUMS ADO, so that the replacement of several hundred mobile devices could be carried out gradually.

In the first stage of the project, Asseco developed a prototype application that had to be compatible with the previous solution running on Windows CE. This was nec-

essary for verifying the correct operation of the application on an ongoing basis. Full testing by the Asseco team was not possible without the support of the employees of PGE Dystrybucja, who, for a certain period of time, worked in parallel on two devices - the old, PSION type and the new one, with Android. It also allowed for testing various devices and verifying how they operated in the field, which made it easier to choose the best one.

The application's improvements and adaptation concerned in particular the areas cooperating with various electricity meters read by an optical probe connected to a mobile device. In addition, controllers' field work

was optimized. The application itself, although adapted to a specific device model selected by PGE Dystrybucja, may run even on an Android smartphone.

The project, which ended in October 2019, was carried out by 6 Asseco specialists, who reacted to the client's suggestions and needs on an ongoing basis. By the end of 2020, PGE Dystrybucja is planning to replace the remaining devices so that all its employees will use Asseco's modern solution. The company also assumes further development of the new application in order to take full advantage of its capabilities, e.g. in the area of camera operation and GPS navigation.

Key benefits.

At present, PGE Dystrybucja has a modern solution which offers great configuration capabilities not only when it comes to the devices used by the controllers, but also the application itself. It provides greater convenience of program use and increases the security level of sensitive data.

The launch of the new application based on the Android operating system has provided PGE Dystrybucja's branches with access to a wide range of modern mobile devices - from smartphones to complex industrial devices. Owing to this, currently the branches do not face any limitations related to the choice of a supplier and equipment.

The solution's implementation has brought new functions, thanks to which, e.g. in case of an anomaly during

Project milestones.

October 2018 - launch of the project and adaptation of the application's prototype version to work in the production environment

May 2019 - handing over the first version of the mobile application to PGE, commencing tests

September 2019 - production launch in the Zamość Branch

October 2019 - production launch in the Rzeszów Branch

October 2019 - acceptance of works and completion of the project

meter reading, the controller can take a photograph of the measuring system and link it to a specific business process.

The implementation of the project has increased the comfort and efficiency of the controllers' field work. It has significantly improved the operation speed of the device and the installed application, and thus shortened the time needed to prepare an order to read the electricity meter, which currently takes about 10 seconds.

"The project was aimed at streamlining the work of people who obtain readings from electricity meters in the field. The new software on the new devices works much faster than the old solution, it also offers great development opportunities. Additionally, the security level of sensitive data stored on the devices has been increased through the integration with the MDM class software. We have been gradually preparing devices with AUMS ADO installed and handing them over to further controllers. We have been also collecting comments and observations from the users and passing them on to the contractor on an ongoing basis. We are committed to further development of the application, using the new capabilities of the devices" — said Marek Osiński, acting Head of the IT Department, PGE Dystrybucja's Rzeszów Branch.

Project in numbers:



1

**year was the duration
of the project**



~ 6

**experts from Asseco
participated in the project**



< 10

**seconds is the reading
order preparation time**



~ 200

**devices that will ultimately
use the application**



~ 200

**employees who will ultimately
benefit from the solution**

“We have been cooperating with the PGE Group for years, implementing projects of varying degrees of complexity, providing maintenance, implementation and development services. A significant strengthening of this cooperation was the choice of Asseco as a partner for further development of systems and applications for the PGE Group’s company. I am glad that we have been trusted once again” — said Magdalena Kaczmarek, Sales Director, Asseco Poland.

“From the beginning, the implementation of the project was a big challenge. When working in the field, while obtaining readings from electricity meters, any problem with the application is a very big nuisance for the user. In practice, each type of a meter has a different driver, communication with it is also different, so we wanted our application to increase the comfort of controllers’ daily work. It is a big step in the development of one of our flagship systems - AUMS ADO” — said Dawid Materna, Project Manager, Asseco Poland.