GDF SUEZ Energy

Trading solutions support fast, reliable information

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Type
Trading solutions for the energy market

Location
Houston, Texas

Applications
DTN ProphetX® *Energy Edition*

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- Ease of use
- Faster, smarter trading decisions
- Always-current calculations
- Increased efficiencies

GDF SUEZ Energy Resources NA (GSERNA) is a business unit of GDF SUEZ Energy North America and a licensed provider of retail electricity and related services to industrial and commercial customers in the United States. GSERNA is the second largest non-residential retail energy supplier in the U.S. according to KEMA's Retailer Landscape (March 2010) and currently serves commercial and industrial customers in 11 markets: Delaware, Texas, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C. The company serves over 60,000 meters for customers having a peak demand ranging from 50 KW to more than 200 MW, with an estimated peak load totaling over 8,000 MW.t

GDF SUEZ Energy Marketing NA, Inc. (GSEMNA) is the business unit of GDF SUEZ Energy North America responsible for managing wholesale commodity price risks across GDF SUEZ Energy North America's portfolio of merchant generation, LNG, and retail power contact assets.

GDF SUEZ Gas NA (GSGNA) is the business unit of GDF SUEZ Energy North America responsible for managing the company's natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) activities in North America.

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Schneider Electric™

"Hurricane Ike hit in the midst of our testing phase of DTN ProphetX and really drove home the value of mobility as our supply desks were moved inland to safe locales. Our prior vendor solution's use was limited to in-house servers. Because DTN ProphetX is web-based, it allowed us to go mobile so that we could continue to access market information and much more, such as Schneider Electric tropical weather. We were able to respond to our customers' needs with minimal disruptions. DTN ProphetX has been able to provide for the individual and unique needs of each of our business units, making it an integral part of our day-to-day business."

Toni Williams, Marketing Manager, GDF SUEZ Energy Resources NA

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Challenges

GDF SUEZ Energy needed a cost-effective way for several of its business units to access real-time market information, industry shaping news and tropical weather. It was looking for a web-based application, so their team could stay up to date outside the corporate campus.

Solution

DTN ProphetX *Energy Edition* brings together a balance of powerful technical analytic tools with broad fundamental content and unmatched data quality, performance and reliability, to allow faster, smarter trades.

After making the switch to DTN ProphetX, GDF Suez Energy has doubled its user base due to the flexibility of the system. Traders, schedulers, and portfolio managers are able to receive a plethora of information from DTN ProphetX, including information pertaining to wind generation, tropical weather forecasting, real-time and historical pricing, pipeline and power plant service outages, as well as supply-impacting news.

"Natural disasters will have a major effect on the market," said Toni Williams, Marketing Manager, GDF SUEZ Energy Resources NA. "Our team uses DTN ProphetX with its ability to connect from even remote locations to ensure that we respond to pertinent issues in a timely fashion."

The Bottom Line

GDF SUEZ Energy uses real-time market information in electric trading wholesale and retail electric products as well as natural gas. "One of the reasons that we decided to go with DTN ProphetX was because the ease of use format allowed us to expand our user base to encompass representatives from all departments," said Williams. "Other benefits that drew us to DTN ProphetX were the ability to consolidate multiple data sources, flexible charting, and formula functionality," says Jennifer Hodgins, Regional Vice President of Local Portfolio Management, GDF SUEZ Gas NA.

Users can leverage pre-defined workbooks for a variety of trading industries, or build their own and organize market data the way they want to view it. Simply by dragging and dropping it into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet or within the DTN ProphetX *Energy Edition* client itself, users can link together a wealth of information, for up-close monitoring, charting history, and full details. Even with the Excel Add-In, pricing information updates in real-time.

"Schneider Electric got us set up with sample workbooks and provided on-site training to teach us how to customize the data for each our groups. If anyone has a question, everyone knows that they can call into Schneider Electric and get knowledgeable, friendly service and assistance. The training and individual service support is phenomenal," said Brian Tamplen, Vice President of Trading, GDF SUEZ Energy Marketing NA, Inc.

One-click access to charts of Greeks, Implied Volatility, Volume and Open Interest for options help users analyze positions and strategies, and determine fair value pricing. Forward Curves and

seasonal charting provides an over-the-horizon look at where prices are trending and seasonal impacts on prices for long term pricing decisions.

"There are a multitude of chart types available, and with the ability to customize your workbooks, each user can personalize or create new graphs depending on individual needs. It's easy to set up a graph and tie it to a table, then adjust it for longer or shorter terms."

As mentioned, one of the benefits of DTN ProphetX is the ability to create Excel spreadsheets with live market data directly from tool bars and widgets within Excel. The easy to use add-in features link data directly into the cells as needed — including column headings and descriptions if desired to improve analysis and reporting.

"The Excel add-in is wonderful for historical analysis, and it's very user-friendly. It gives you the ability to select different options to include, such as on-peak, off-peak, or weekends so that you can easily get the data you need. It's a great additional tool," said Williams.

Schneider Electric continues to invest in data quality and server performance. DTN ProphetX *Energy Edition* accesses market data through our own state-of-the-art, multi-redundant ticker plants and quote servers. Specific new enhancements found in DTN ProphetX *Energy Edition* include improved redundancy and failover capabilities, a proprietary tick-scrubbing process, faster quote data, and news processing systems.

"We've been impressed with Schneider Electric because they engage us to help enhance the solution. They use real customer feedback to make the next step – not assumptions. They continue to be progressive," said Williams.