UPA

> "I first met RGS 10 or more years ago when I was growing my business and I was no longer able to handle the data processing on spreadsheets. Due to the complex nature of the calculations involved, I had to spend a lot of time with the team at RGS defining the algorithms involved, which they quickly became familiar with and continue to provide advice and direction on their ongoing development."

Paul Faragher – CEO, UPA Energy Ltd

BACKGROUND

UPA Energy is a Utility Consultancy, mainly focussed on electricity in the large enterprise area, with users consuming very large amounts of energy, resulting in monthly bills often in excess of £1M.

Electricity Supply Contracts for users in the sector of the market are highly complex, and it is often very challenging to establish an accurate invoice for a given electricity usage.

Whilst this may seem counter intuitive, there may be many factors affecting the prevailing charge per KWH, ranging from the basic charged rate through to the distance the site is from the nearest power station.

As a result, clients need assistance with auditing invoices and establishing the cheapest quote for contract renewals. In turn, the consultancy providing the advice need to have systems in place to calculate the usage charges and tender projections, which involve a lot of complex calculations.

THE CHALLENGE(S)

Large consumers of energy have electricity meters that take a reading every 30 minutes.

These readings are collected electronically and are then used to produce invoices by the energy supplier.

Over prolonged periods of time, a lot of data is created so undertaking these calculations manually is very time consuming.
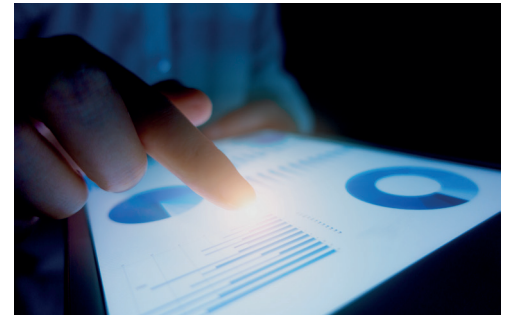
In addition, with complex supply contracts, the calculations can become very complex, and errors can easily creep in.

THE SOLUTION

In order to resolve the challenges outlined above, a server based calculations engine was developed that allows UPA Energy to model the supply contract for their clients and automatically ingest data supplied from the electricity meters.

The calculations engine can then analyse any period of usage data and accurately calculate the charges that apply for the usage measured. This is at the heart of one of the primary functions of the consultancy, which is auditing electricity invoices to ensure accuracy.

In addition, the same engine can be employed within the Tender analysis section of the web portal, in which contracts are tendered by suppliers and each tendered contact is applied to the previous 12 months of meter readings in order to establish the best value contract for the client's specific usage profile.

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