

## **Picking a SCADA Software That Works for You**

With so many to choose from, how do you decide?

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### **SUBMISSION TYPE**

30 minute presentation

6-12 page paper plus 30-minute presentation

3 foot wide x 4 foot high large format poster

### **KEYWORDS**

Water, Wastewater, SCADA, Controls, HMI Software, Communications, HMI, VTScada

### **ABSTRACT**

The Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works made the decision to upgrade their 20+ year old aging SCADA system and had high expectations for their new system. The County selected Whitman, Requardt and Associates as the engineering firm for the project. The new system needed to maintain the distributed arrangement of the old system, allowing the County to operate any of their 8 water treatment plants from any other plant and provide real-time monitoring and alarm functions from 7 water reclamation facilities and over 200 pump stations. One of the key decisions during the design phase was to select SCADA software package that would best meet the needs for THIS system and design a system architecture around the selected software package.

Through a series of user workshops, the project team established goals and objectives that the selected software package. Some of the more specific goals were hardware independence, cross platform compatibility, built-in historian, easy maintenance, redundancy and backup features. Also, since the County's internal SCADA group would be self-performing the system integration and long term maintenance, the vendor needed to provide outstanding training and system support.

WRA evaluated commercially available SCADA HMI software packages to find a package that best met the functional and operational requirements for the County. The evaluation narrowed down the list to 10 offerings which are commonly used in water and wastewater applications. Vendors were contacted to provide detailed responses to questions on specific capabilities. These responses were rated using a weighted scale of importance to identify the top three packages. These vendors were then invited to

present their capabilities first-hand. The County performed site visits to utilities currently using these packages for a final real-world evaluation. After weighing all of their needs, the County made the decision to use VTScada for their system.

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## **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

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