

State Gencos

Enhancing efficiencies in plant operations

Most gencos have been very agile at adopting IT initiatives. All aspects of plant management such as materials management, financial accounting, equipment control and maintenance can be done effectively through IT. Gencos can now also remote control multiple plants at one control centre. The following are some of the IT initiatives taken by the generating companies of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. IT usage and systems at all of them are more than satisfactory.

AP Genco

AP Genco is the third largest utility in India with an installed capacity of 6,550.9 MW. It also has the highest installed hydro capacity in the country.

AP Genco started making serious efforts in IT implementation only in the past three years. Its aim has been to utilise IT at all possible levels. Key activities of the generating stations have already been automated and IT is being used extensively in financial, operational and maintenance work.

Computerisation of administrative activities is nearing completion. Use of these systems has risen steeply and computer awareness has reached almost 100 per cent with widespread, decentralised and part-time training programmes conducted across all stations.

AP Genco is effectively using IT to support its business processes. Some important initiatives undertaken by it include building of infrastructure such as a campus-wide area network connecting all generating stations to the headquarters.

It has implemented ERP, covering operations, maintenance, material management, finance and fuel management in all the generating stations. It uses video conferencing between generating stations and the corporate office to enable quick decision-making; intranet is also functioning. IT plays a key role in facilitating financial transactions with the fuel suppliers and transmission corporation.

The corporation's website – www.apgenco.com - gives details of daily generation particulars, tenders and complete information on it.

As AP Genco has little public interface in tenders, due importance is being given to environmental aspects, development activities in nearby villages and career opportunities. It has no call centres.

AP Genco has a separate IT budget. It spent approximately Rs 35 million in 2005-06 and is planning to spend about Rs 50 million in 2006-07.

The IT wing is headed by the executive director. It is a 50-strong group spread across all stations. The department has various cadres of engineering and accounts professionals as staff. Each generating station has a separate IT division.

Indraprastha Power Generation Corporation Limited

Indraprastha Power Generation Corporation Limited (IPGCL) formed after the unbundling of the Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) in 2002, was one of the two generation companies.

The level of IT use at IPGCL is low but there is a gradual increase in the IT activity and staff, with over 150 desktop computers currently being used by the management, executives and senior officers.

In order to integrate its business processes, the corporation is using FoxPro-based integrated Financial Application system on one server with 15 lines in the finance department. As regards material management, a client server Oracle-based application on LAN is also running in the store department. In the near future, web-enabled salary system will be enforced, which is under implementation, with the help of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing. An employee database is also being created.

Its website, hosted by a private vendor, is not interactive and shows only public notices and tendering information.

IPGCL is planning to network with the Pragati Power Corporation's project areas and to computerise all its departments. It is also installing software related to generation plants, closed circuit TVs and security systems in plants.

Bulk payment of gas purchased from GAIL is being done through internet banking. An electronic clearing service system is also under development.

There is no specific budget for IT and no separate IT department. But IPGCL claims that the current staff of one will soon be boosted.

Maharashtra State Electricity Generation Company

Maharashtra State Electricity Generation Company (Maha Genco) is the state generation utility formed after the unbundling of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board in 2005

Maha Genco is gradually increasing its efforts in IT intervention. It is using a customised application like the power plant monitoring system to meet the requirements of the power plants for day-to-day activities.

Having connected all its nine power plants at remote locations with the help of software systems and networks, it is also setting up a "generation control room" at the head office to monitor plant performance on a real-time basis.

To integrate its business processes, Maha Genco has computerised payroll and financial accounting. A system of e-tendering for its central purchases has been established, which will be extended to the power plant. A corporate MIS is also under development.

At present, an organisational set-up for IT is being formulated. Till such time as it is ready, the IT functions are being looked after by the chief general manager of the corporate planning section. Its website – www.mahagenco.in - provides useful information.

Though there was no significant expenditure on IT in 2005-06, for the current fiscal year, a separate budget provision has been proposed for it.

Madhya Pradesh Power Generation Company Limited

Madhya Pradesh Power Generation Company Limited (MPPGCL), incorporated in 2001 as a part of power sector reforms, took over generation activities of the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (MPSEB).

The use IT in MPPGCL is restricted to the basic minimum at present. Internet and MS Office are being used for office automation. However, it has started initiatives for implementing a comprehensive computerised MIS for integration of all power plants with the head office and also for integrating various functional departments.

The utility plans to use the technology in most of the critical areas, such as fuel and inventory management, financial accounting, plant operation and maintenance, HR, project management, etc.

MPPGCL does not have a separate IT budget but spends about Rs 1-2 million on it. An IT task force has been set up for driving IT initiatives, headed by an executive director. It also has a website – www.mppgenco.nic.in.

Reference Book

Power Line
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