

# Orasi Helps Large Electric Supplier Automate Core Processes and Maintain Software Quality

CASE STUDY:  
SASKPOWER  
SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA



## CUSTOMER PROFILE

SaskPower – the principal supplier of electricity in



Saskatchewan – has been providing safe, reliable and sustainable electricity to the Canadian province since 1929. SaskPower serves more than 467,000 customers, managing \$4.9 billion (CAD) in generation, transmission and distribution assets, operating three coal-fired power stations, seven hydroelectric stations, five natural gas stations and two wind facilities generating 3,371 megawatts of electricity.

## THE SITUATION

SaskPower serves a vast network covering a large geographic area with a diverse and widely dispersed population. It's no surprise, then, that SaskPower relies on an intricate – and sometimes disparate – system of business functions to ensure that operations run smoothly on a daily basis.

Fortunately, SaskPower had the foresight to recognize its need for a Testing Center of Excellence (TCOE). This center would incorporate industry best practices, using state-of-the-art testing tools and automation.

To say that it was a daunting challenge might be a gross understatement. The goal was to align SaskPower's many projects – including SAP projects – into a single Micro Focus Quality Center software repository.

When a company refers to its "legacy," what often comes to mind is brand and reputation. At SaskPower, however, "legacy" had a somewhat negative connotation – at least in terms of its legacy system. That's because its legacy information technology was outdated and becoming obsolete. In the ever-changing energy industry, SaskPower knew it needed to make some sweeping changes. And fast.

## THE SOLUTION

SaskPower is no stranger to testing. The company regularly conducts air and water tests, equipment tests, and other tests to ensure that its power supply meets regulations and can flow without interruption even during peak demand times.

That's why, when SaskPower identified the need to centralize testing of its business systems, it turned to industry expert and Micro Focus specialist Orasi Software. SaskPower was migrating from a legacy billing system to an SAP billing system. Orasi's challenge: to create automation of SaskPower's core business processes, testing and retesting to maintain quality and reliability.

In order to accomplish this gargantuan task, Orasi implemented the Testing Acceleration and Automation (TAO) tool from SAP. In Chinese philosophy, Tao is the absolute principle underlying the universe, incorporating the opposing forces of yin and yang to work in harmony with the natural order. Similarly, TAO enabled Orasi – and, ultimately, SaskPower – to manage all the project's components simultaneously. TAO was used in conjunction with Micro Focus Business Process Testing software for SAP applications and Micro Focus Quality Center.



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*“Orasi has become a key partner in our growing Test Center of Excellence.”*

- Sheldon Smith, SaskPower, Application Development Supervisor

Orasi staff became part of the SaskPower project team. Nyla Scott and Cesar Rodriguez worked on-site in Canada as temporary, in-house consultants. They worked side-by-side with Sheldon Smith, Application Development Supervisor at SaskPower, as well as business analysts and subject matter experts (SMEs). Their role was to serve as trainers/mentors, overseeing and monitoring system testing to ensure that the SAP configurations unique to SaskPower’s business needs were not only in place but running optimally. Orasi set up an SAP/non-SAP testing platform, incorporating SaskPower’s existing Solution Manager tool with Micro Focus test tools such as Micro Focus LoadRunner software.

Test results were not the seemingly obvious last step. Orasi took it a step further, creating a testing library. Going forward, every time a business process/system is upgraded, SaskPower can refer back to its comprehensive test library for reference. This eliminates redundancy and increases productivity.

Orasi not only helped SaskPower to easily manage a wide array of projects in a timely fashion, it also saved the energy company money via better utilization of resources. SaskPower had purchased an Micro Focus Quality Center Suite but was not taking advantage of all its features. With Orasi’s guidance, the company was able to configure and enable functionality and best prices with Quality Center.

“Orasi has become a key partner in our growing Test Center of Excellence,” says Smith. “They’ve been very responsive by providing skilled staff when requested.”

## THE FUTURE

SaskPower has its work cut out for itself. By 2033, SaskPower will have to rebuild or replace its entire electricity generation system. As it continues to meet the immediate power needs of its large service area, SaskPower realizes it will need to increase the power supply to satisfy a projected increase in demand from 2016 to 2023.

All future supply options will have to meet stringent federal environmental regulations associated with air emissions, water and biodiversity that are historically unprecedented. Addressing these regulatory requirements will come at an unavoidable cost and will mean that SaskPower’s reliance on conventional coal-fired generation may no longer be an option.

As demand for SaskPower’s energy resources and services grows, the demands placed on its business systems will increase as well. Orasi is poised to be there as a fully supportive partner every step of the way.

## ABOUT ORASI

Founded in 2002, Orasi is an Atlanta-based software reseller and professional services company focused on enterprise software quality testing and management. Orasi offers end-to-end solutions that include software, project and consulting services, integration and implementation services, and mentoring. A Micro Focus Platinum Partner, Orasi offers certified consulting services for Micro Focus Business Technology Optimization (BTO) product lines and provides Micro Focus solution services at SAP client sites. In addition, Orasi is an authorized Micro Focus Support Partner, providing responsive, local software support.



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