Automation Workshops help PSS®SINCAL Users Increase Functionality

Sven Hendrik Koch
sven.h.koch@siemens.com

PSS®SINCAL (Siemens Network Calculation) is a high-performance planning tool for the simulation, evaluation and optimization of supply systems. It is successfully applied by more than 400 municipal utilities, regional and national power supply companies, industrial plants and consultants worldwide.

One of the most important characteristics of PSS®SINCAL is the complete transparency of data and its comprehensive set of automation functionalities. In their day-to-day business, the Siemens PTI software team in Erlangen, Germany has identified that this is of increasing importance. Many customers need solutions in which software is integrated with their systems, thus allowing for data exchange and functionality with third-party software or homegrown applications. Open data structures and well-documented automation functionality are of high value for all customers that need more than the stand-alone network analysis functionality.

Because of its unique array of features and functions, PSS®SINCAL users communicated interest in extended support for the PSS®SINCAL automation possibilities. Therefore, the Siemens PTI software team organized a one-day automation workshop at their software management center in Erlangen. During the workshop the following topics were discussed:

- PSS®SINCAL data model
- PSS®SINCAL data exchange possibilities
- Integration of PSS®SINCAL software components into external applications
- PSS®SINCAL COM servers and functionality
- Automation of the PSS®SINCAL user interface
- Automation of the PSS®SINCAL simulation engine

With extremely high interest in this workshop, four additional workshops were scheduled. The first two workshops were held in Erlangen in the beginning of this year and one additional external workshop was held in Vienna in April; all workshops received very positive feedback from attendees. The next workshop was offered in conjunction with the German PSS®SINCAL Users Group Meeting on May 9, 2012 in Dresden, Germany.

Besides helping the users understand the PSS®SINCAL automation functionality and possibilities, these workshops also help Siemens PTI to gain insight into the customers’ needs for special solutions. During these workshops the software team had interesting discussions with customers and identified various possibilities of how to provide extended engineering services.