Top 10 Big Data Solution Providers 2017

The impending need for energy systems to become more intelligent and automated entails usage of data sources for capturing, crunching and creating meaning to information streaming from various sources like power usage, plant performances and recycle metrics. The adopted process is much like the transformation that the Internet went through – power companies are beginning to incorporate technologies like blockchain, Big Data and remote data distribution.

A recent research conducted indicates that energy organizations that use Big Data as an integral technology in their processes are 23 times more likely to prevail over those that are not. Considering this wide margin, it shouldn't come as a surprise that the number of emerging startups focused on delivering big data solutions for smart metering, asset and workforce management, and grid operations are on the rise; exponentially. Big data has two major promises for the energy sector – automation of processes and predictive analytics.

With the Oil and gas sector, the primary source of energy in the world today, generating terabytes of data on a weekly basis, energy companies have already been impelled to revolutionize their systems and process to incorporate big data solutions from a variety of vendors.

In the last few months, a distinguished panel comprising of CEOs, CIOs and analysts, along with Energy CIO Insight's editorial board reviewed and shortlisted the top companies, at the forefront of tackling big data challenges for the energy sector.

In this edition of Energy CIO Insights, we present to you "Top 10 Big Data Solution Providers 2017," featuring the companies that are delivering promising big data solutions to the energy sector.

QBA LLC - Quantitative Business Analytics

recognized by CIOINSIGHTS *magazine as*

Top 10
BIG DATA
SOLUTION PROVIDERS -2017

*An annual listing of 10 companies that are at the forefront of providing
Big Data solutions for the energy sector and impacting the marketplace*

Company:
Quantitative Business Analytics (QBA)

Key Person:
Gerard V Metzler
Founder & President

Description:
QBA is focused on providing value-added services to the Energy Industry including Utilities, Balancing Authorities, Transmission Companies, Plants, Suppliers, and Exploration

Website:
qbacorp.com

Quantitative Business Analytics (QBA)
Pinpoint Solutions for Big Data

The energy & utility industry continues to be disrupted as it faces the continuing task of incorporating 'Smart Grid Technology'. The era of 'smart grid' has been accompanied by the era of big data and interconnectivity. "The industry now has a never-ending supply of information that can yield real business value," says Gerard V Metzler, President, Quantitative Business Analytics. Based in Dallas, Texas QBA addresses the challenges posed by big data. QBA is a consultancy and value added service provider. "Our strategy is to provide utilities with consulting services and innovative big data solutions," adds Gerard.

Metzler's long association with IBM (retired Executive) and its business partners has helped QBA carve out a niche in analytics, serving energy and utilities clients. Specifically, QBA supports Landis+Gyr's meter data management system and their 'Advanced Grid Analytics' (AGA) product. These are sophisticated analytics products, combining both temporal (time-series) and spatial data analytics. "We are providing skilled resources to conduct power flow and other asset analysis by interpreting GIS data and combining it with the data from 'Advanced Metering Infrastructure' (AMI) systems. This contributes to the grids asset health, predictive and reliability centered maintenance, and positively impact the longevity of the assets which comprise the smart grid managed by the utility across its geography," says Gerard.

In addition to Landis+Gyr, QBA is a business partner of IBM in several key product areas: Business Process Transformation Software and quite naturally, Analytics. IBM has made enormous investments in software in recent years. It provides open source solutions throughout the world of information technology. This has created a number of service and solution opportunities for QBA.

Gerard V Metzler
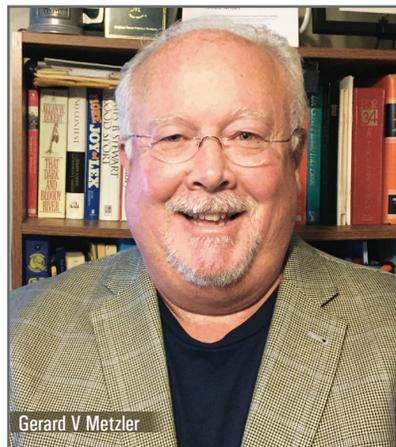
QBA has worked with clients at the strategy level by applying the "Smart Grid Maturity Model" (SGMM), highlighting opportunities to deliver significant benefits by rethinking their business processes to take advantage of the new capabilities implemented by Smart Grid investments. In addition QBA has launched its 'BIGEnergy Services', providing intelligence on the operation of customer energy resources behind the meter. Customer investments in home energy management technologies and rooftop solar have made customer demand for electricity much harder to predict. QBA provides a near real-time, high definition view on the operation of solar resources – helping energy companies make better decisions on the operation of the power grid.

Another case which showcases QBA's expertise in helping utilities is for a client who wants to proactively communicate with its customers during outages. "Accurate" restoration information will be provided to the utilities customers via a registered service. "QBA is working with this client to develop a more precise Estimated Time of Restoration (ETOR) and a system to communicate the ETOR with precision and accuracy," explains Gerard. The service relies on outage data, meter data, damage assessments, crew and skills availability and other data characteristics.

> **"**
> **We do a quick diagnostic and help our customers improve their business process and use the data more effectively**
> **"**

Driven by their mantra of customer focus and innovation, QBA seems to be on the right path for growing its global footprint. With a penchant for taking on challenges and providing unique solutions, Gerard says, "We are looking for business 'white spaces' and want to fill those with innovation and unique solutions." **EC**