

# Fast Track Estimating System

Atad Data was established and started trading in 1994. The company was incorporated in 2001, since this time, Atad Data has developed and written specialised data-based systems used in both electrical and mechanical industries. Atad Data also developed other systems used to operate and maintain pricing databases, coordinate projects and an accounting program.

About 15 years ago Chris Hughes, who is a Managing Director of Atad Data, saw an opportunity to offer a better service to industrial electrical estimators and so the inception of the Fast Track Estimating System was born. The aim of creating this estimating system was to provide an 'off-the-shelf' software package that could be purchased complete with a manual, installation disk, and instructions enabling the program to be installed within about 10 minutes. The program is designed to fulfill the requirements and needs of the user, whereby customer feedback allows us to implement new features and adjustments on a regular basis. When we receive several requests for a particular feature, this is then added/ modified in the program and documentation is updated for our customers who can access the latest manual via Atad Data's web page.

The Fast Track Estimating System is an Omnis based program designed to run in conjunction with Smart Price. With these two systems combined the Fast Track Estimating System becomes a very powerful tool for the estimator. In order to keep Fast Track users up-to-date with all the features and uses of the estimating system, training sessions are held annually. The training sessions are interactive, allowing the attendees to have their specific questions addressed. Atad Data also offers telephone support and if required, in house support at an additional charge. This is supplemented by a mobile phone service virtually offering 24 hours-a-day support.

The system is now being used throughout Australia by electrical and mechanical estimators. At present, there are over 200 active and regularly supported systems. Fast track is used to produce estimates from \$1,000 to \$100,000,000. The Smart Price program provides the latest prices from all major electrical vendors.

The users of the system are people in positions such as estimators, electrical supervisors, purchasing officers, and any other person that requires to look up prices with speed. To meet this need, Atad Data created an internal software program called 'Price Master'. This system collects data from various vendors, verifying, controlling and distributing the pricing data to clients via email in a .bcf (binary compressed file) format.

The Fast Track program can also be used to extract information and convert it to other applications such as spreadsheets and word processing programs.

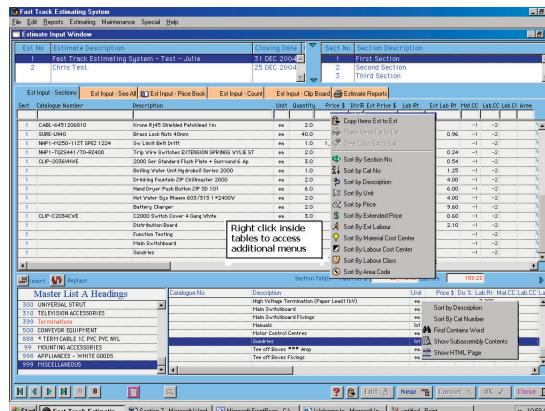
# case study

> Company Atad Data  
> Sector Retail / Trade

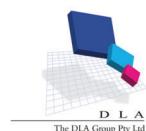
*"This makes the manipulation of the data much more straight forward and keeps the users up-to-date with pricing information for their estimates."*

Chris Hughes, Managing Director, Atad Data

The Fast Track Estimating System originally started as Omnis 7.1 version. Today the most versions are operating on Omnis studio 3.3. The system is easy to learn, fast, efficient, accurate and easy to install. The system is on a CD and comes compressed, ready for immediate use. For an inexperienced user it does not take long to gain a basic understanding of the system. The system comes with tool tips. The tool tips are available for the buttons and screens and assist the user to learn the system without constantly searching through the manual. However, for the estimator to use the system to its full potential, the training is also offered. Chris has been running training sessions, showing all the attributes of the software to the individuals and to the bigger groups of estimators.



Atad Data is continually improving the Fast Track Estimating System. Atad Data is in the process of developing other packages such as an Accounting program (called Deoffice), as well as a Project Management system known as 'Kontrol Pro'. These packages can all be used on the same data base engine that drives the Fast Track Estimating System. The Deoffice Accounting system handles all the office management needs for Atad Data such as invoicing, wages, shares, transactions, and so on. This program also has a web extension version, whereby the Accounting system can be accessed and modified by staff over the internet. The other system 'Kontrol Pro' controls the input/output of Project Assets, Cable Schedules, PLC Register, Termination Schedules and Project Progress.



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