

The Problem

Total Infrastructures Gaz France (TIGF) operates 4,900 km of pipeline in the South West of France, and is currently engaged in a significant upgrade of its IT support systems.

New regulations in France concerning pipeline integrity management are driving TIGF to migrate a significant portion of its current pipeline management database to a new GIS-based system that provides full geo-referencing. To move the project forward, TIGF sought to perform a needs assessment study to help define the "roadmap" for this migration, including a comparison with best practices in the US where similar regulations have been in place for a number of years.

The Solution

Through individual interviews, site visits and analysis of sample data, Petris was able to successfully deliver a comprehensive needs assessment study for TIGF that will help ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. In addition, Petris performed a benchmark study of TIGF practices to review and identify:

- ▶ Global IT Architecture relevant to GIS issues;
- ▶ GIS software currently in use;
- ▶ Geospatial data currently in use;
- ▶ Other French regulatory compliance requirements that may require GIS support tools.

Using the results of the needs assessment and benchmark studies, Petris was able to define an "optimized roadmap" specifically tailored to guide TIGF through the migration towards a fully GIS-enabled pipeline integrity management system.

This roadmap defines the actions and projects to be conducted and the order in which they should be executed. It provides TIGF with the confidence to move forward on an optimal migration path that takes account of its starting position, medium term regulatory compliance objectives and the long term pipeline integrity management objective of operating using internationally accepted standards.

The Benefits

Petris leveraged its broad experience with US pipeline regulatory compliance issues to offer new insights to TIGF that will help it effectively plan to be compliant with emergent French regulations. The roadmap and accompanying study results also helped TIGF to embrace the compelling value proposition for the deployment and use of a GIS-based pipeline data management and integrity monitoring systems. Benefits include:

- ▶ Access to a global and consistent geospatial data management system, with visualization of all information related to the pipeline infrastructure network;
- ▶ A shared (and controlled) digital access to information for both regional and centralized maintenance and operational centers;
- ▶ Minimized reaction time to unexpected events;
- ▶ Confidence that information systems are effectively contributing to regulatory compliance.

This study began the collaborative effort between TIGF and Petris. Since this time, Petris has designed a conceptual data model for TIGF and conducted a pilot study to validate the potential for use of hand-held field data capture during in-situ inspections.

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