intero
THE SNIFFERS

Case study

From manual work in Word and Excel to one cloud-based pipeline integrity management software platform

One of our clients has been using pipeline integrity management software PRIMS and additional services for over a decade. In this case study, they share which daily work they manage in the software and why putting the pipeline as a focal point in the software is beneficial.

Word and Excel

The pipeline operator gathers lots of data of their assets. Before using a pipeline integrity management tool, they handled their pipeline data manually in Word and Excel. They then started looking for another system to handle this more effectively. It was then that PRIMS, formerly known as Pipeline Manager, was launched.

"After several discussions with the client, we signed our first 5-year cloud-based hosting contract in 2009", says Hartmut Gransow, Regional Director of The Sniffers GmbH.

"First, all pipeline data had to be imported in the software, which was an intensive task due to the amount of data. After this initial import, Inline Inspection (ILI) data was imported, and we started using the Third Party Activity Management module" states the pipeline operator.

Third Party Activity Management

One of the modules of PRIMS is the Third Party Activitiy Management (TPA) module to help pipeline operators in The Netherlands handle WIBON requests. In Belgium, this is known as KLIM/KLIP requests. The goal of this application is to improve communication between the pipeline operator, the regulator, and the contractor.

Our client uses tablets on which the TPA application runs. *"We use the TPA to manage the activities done by third parties. The tablet gives us the opportunity to take photos and to create 'observations' when executing a field inspection."*
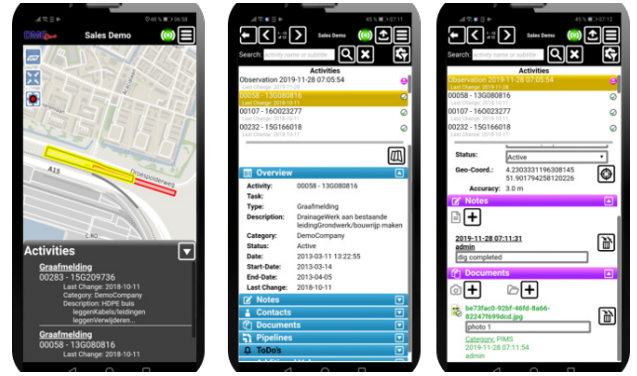
"A suggestion for further improvement would be to being able to take multiple photos in the field and handle the notifications afterwards when it suits us best."

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Visualization of pipeline data in geographical context in PRIMS

PRIMS Third Party Activity Management Mobile App

FFP Assessments

Besides the TPA Module, they use the cloud-based software application for Fitness-For-Service (FFS) assessments.

"It is important to note that we go beyond just selling hosting contracts to pipeline operators. We also offer our clients services using PRIMS. For example, we create FFP reports", states Hartmut from Intero - The Sniffers GmbH.

According to the client, the reports allow them to keep learning about the condition of their pipelines. All information is now centralized.

"In the past, data had to be exported and then imported again to know the pipelines' actual condition and work with the most actual information. In my opinion, we now find ourselves in a continuous improvement process" states the operator.
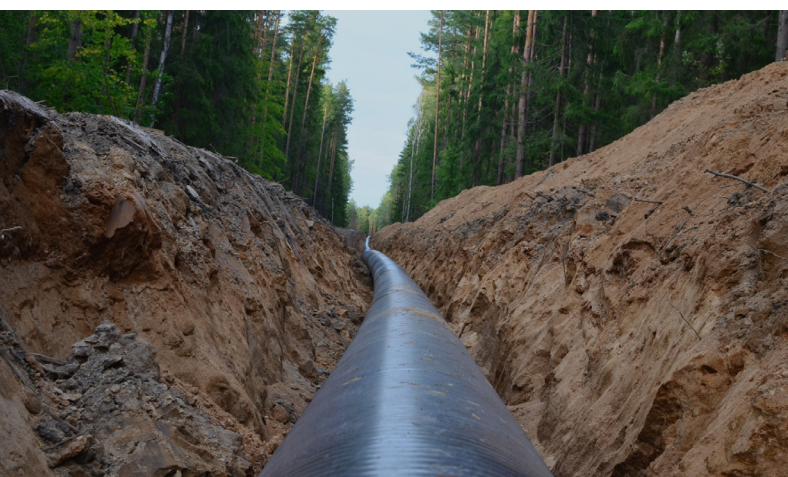
Daily work in handled in PRIMS

The asset operator handles some daily work in PRIMS. *"Examples include checking documents such as the pipebook due to rerouting, CP data, and ILI data."*

The pipeline as focal point

When comparing PRIMS with other pipeline integrity management software, several functionalities stand out. They emphasize that PRIMS is built with the pipeline itself as focal point.

"We see that the pipeline is the focal point and that the GIS system is an additional layer. This is in our opinion a strong advantage of PRIMS."

Another key functionality is the visualization in the geographical context. *"Being able to see the pipeline in a geographical context is essential for us. We can see the inspection data and analyze the corrosion growth after multiple pig runs."*

Finally, PRIMS helps them perform Remaining Life Assessments. *"When planning digging and repair activities, we use the software as a visual tool to determine the exact location where digging is required. Being able to see whether the pipeline is located at a reachable or difficult to reach pipeline network area, helps us make a more realistic cost analysis."*

Continuous improvement

"We finally have all information at hand in one centralized system and the most actual pipeline data within reach. We encourage Intero - The Sniffers to keep innovating and improving the software and we look forward to continue working with them" the pipeline operator concludes.