

Major electricity distributor taps full commercial value of asset survey



PROJECT LOCATION:
Australia and India

COST TO CUSTOMER:
\$250,000

TIME FRAME:
November 2015-June 2016

CLIENT:
Confidential

AIMS 3D image capture - High-resolution street-level panoramic images recorded with a 360 degree camera takes images every five metres.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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A survey using AIMS 3D image capture, offshore data extraction and onshore quality assurance has uncovered high-value asset information for network owner.

CLIENT

Our client distributes electricity to more than 600,000 customers across Melbourne and Victoria through a network of 200,000 poles and over 10,000 kilometres of wires.

Like all utilities, our client must have accurate asset information in order to plan maintenance, receive the revenue it is entitled to, avoid penalties and, most importantly make sure employees and the community are safe.

CHALLENGE

Our client needed to conduct a survey of its network to ensure that it had accurate asset data for its asset maintenance operational and strategic decision-making.

At first, they considered traditional methods with boots on the ground but an initial investigation showed this to be slow, prohibitively expensive and likely to risk the safety of staff, contractors and customers. Geomatic Technologies was confident it could achieve the required 95% accuracy at a lower unit cost with a methodology using AIMS 3D imagery, offshore data extraction and onshore quality assurance.

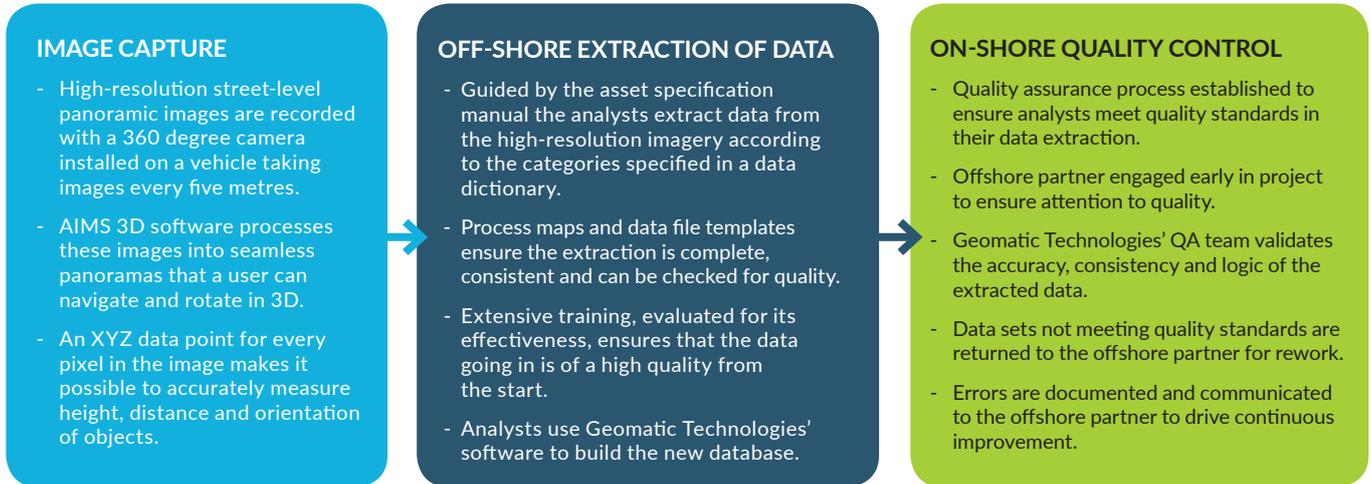
The client engaged Geomatic Technologies to do a pilot survey of its electricity and third-party communications infrastructure across 12 suburbs—all up, in Melbourne, approximately 25,000 poles along 1000 kilometres of road, over 15% of its network.

CASE STUDY: AN INNOVATIVE ASSET SURVEY METHOD

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SOLUTION

Geomatic Technologies proposed a methodology which would deliver high-quality information at lower cost by automating data capture and carrying out data extraction offshore.



RESULTS

Geomatic Technologies delivered a data set on electricity and telecommunications infrastructure assets in the pilot area that exceeded the client's required 95% accuracy threshold. This data quality was achieved at a cost significantly lower than surveying the same network area using the traditional boots on the ground method.

In addition to this, the survey uncovered missing poles, mis-located poles, incorrect pole material type, unidentified cross-arms, incorrect cross-arm material, chargeable third-party street lights and hybrid fibre-coaxial communications assets, non-approved insulators, and under-sized transformers.

BRINGING REAL COMMERCIAL VALUE

The survey, methodology and the pilot approach have brought a range of benefits to the client.

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| Correct information about assets and their condition | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maintenance contracts with correct specifications and appropriate KPIs.- More efficient work planning and execution.- Accurate reports to the regulator and billing to telecommunication third parties with implications for revenue.- Maintenance cycles that reduce risk of network and equipment failure.- Replacement of assets that have been incorrectly specified or which are operating outside their design parameters. |
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| Survey methodology | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Accurate surveys at a significantly lower cost to the business.- Costly site visits avoided by using AIMS 3D data for desktop reviews of the network. |
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| The pilot approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A baseline of reliable asset data that the client can use for a gap analysis on data for the remaining 85% of its network. This analysis will guide decisions on the optimal approach for surveying the rest of the network.- A tested methodology and knowledge which will minimise the cost of future surveys. |
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WHERE ARE WE AT NOW?

Geomatic Technologies now has proven a survey methodology that can be applied to any asset survey. Network owners wanting to reduce the cost of delivering business-critical functions can rely on our experience, expertise and quality assurance processes to leverage operational and strategic benefits, without risk to safety, service integrity and reputation.