Success Story of "Water NRM" in Holland

WMD sets its sights on the new international Smallworld 4 GIS Software Standard

Working together, GIS specialists GE Energy and Mettenmeier have helped satisfy another customer with a Water Network Resource Manager (Water NRM) solution: WMD (Waterleidingmaatschappij Drenthe), Assen in the Netherlands.

Following the "Water NRM" operations set up under GE Energy's Smallworld 4application in conjunction with PWN (Provinciale Waterleidingbedrijf Noord-Holland) in 2004, WMD is now also profiting from the new international GE Energy standard model. "After taking a close look at the productive solution achieved by PWN, we were immediately convinced that we should change over to the standard data and process model on upgrading from version 3.1 to 4", explained Soren Dijkema, GIS project manager associated with WMD.

To date, WMD had an individual data model of their own in operation. The advantages of a standard solution and the product maturity of Water NRM were the crucial issues in making the decision then reached, however. Working together with GE Energy and Mettenmeier, it was decided how the water network database should be transferred. Objective of this was to apply the standard model as far as possible, only allowing changes or extensions when this proved absolutely necessary. A water database, to which the new and partly simplified object classes and attributes were allocated, was set up on this principle.

180,000 household and business connections

The new solution was convincing both in its functions and its technical applications. The intuitive user interface of the Smallworld 4 application also facilitated the training of staff. Altogether 180,000 private household and business connections with an overall length of 6,800 km of supply network are depicted in Water NRM. A special Dutch dimensioning plays its part in this process.

The obligatory quality control during the migration process foresaw the following measures:

- Completeness tests by using statistics before and after migration
- Generation of log files for error documentation (data cleanup) as well as an attribution of each object so that the original object can be retraced
- Quality control based on the comparison of example plots after migration
- Study of the results of test migration in terms of the planned operation
- Acceptance test by the customer with the completely transferred data.

Positive experience with the software and good mutual cooperation among all participants has led to an appreciable harmonic resonance of Water NRM in the Netherlands today. Two other supply enterprises are already using their updates to the Smallworld 4 product as an opportunity of introducing the international Smallworld application standard as a means of safeguarding their investments in GIS solutions over the long term.

WMD water Waterleidingmaatschappij Drenthe

The Water Supply Company Drenthe's (WMD) is located in the northern part of the Netherlands and supplies reliable and clean drinking water to the inhabitants of twelve municipalities in the province of Drenthe. To this end, the WMD extracts and purifies 32 billion litres in twelve drinking water production utilities annually. Through a 4,000 km mains system and a distribution network of 6,800 km WMD takes their drinking water via 180,000 connections to 450,000 homes. The WMD shares their know-how on clean drinking water with others. The first priority is countries where the population is driven out of poverty to use water from rivers and lakes which are often polluted. The WMD is active in the Indonesian archipelago and in Africa.

Information:

Sören Dijkema
WMD
soren.dijkema@wmd.nl

Dennis Murphy
GE Energy
dennis.murphy@ge.com

Joachim Magiera
Mettenmeier GmbH
Tel.: +49 (0)5251 150-528
joachim.magiera@mettenmeier.de