

Know Edge Ltd Case Study Northern Ireland Electric



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Northern Ireland Electric



Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) has over 688,000 customers and 1260 employees . The Company is responsible for the regulated procurement, transmission and distribution of electricity to domestic and business users across the Province. As a utility business, the location, attributes and deployment of its assets are a key source of information.

In the mid 1990's NIE considered that a detailed knowledge of its assets was an important foundation for future asset related investment decisions. In 1998 Know Edge Ltd were appointed as GIS Consultants to assist in the selection, procurement and implementation of a GIS system across NIE.

SHL Vision was selected -a Canadian Company which was subsequently purchased by AutoDesk. David Weatherill was appointed as full time Project Manager to implement SHL and the data capture required to support it.

On appointment, David presented a sound business case to create an in-house data capture team. Detailed specifications, quality assurance and training plans were put in place. The capture team of 30 temporary staff was recruited and trained locally. The capture task was completed over a period of two years using two shifts.

During the latter stages of the project (late 2000), NIE decided to roll-out the works to a wider group of individuals than had been initially planned. Know Edge recommended that this be achieved using a web based browser solution. This was achieved with MapInfo's products, customized to meet the needs of NIE. The early adoption of a web solution together with the centralization of data maintenance resulted in a capital saving in excess of £1m against the initial investment programme.

