

Provision of Asset Inspection Services – Western Australia

Project: Pole Inspection Services.
Client: Western Power
Location: South West Western Australia
Duration: July 2010– June 2012 + options

Western Power operates the electricity network known as the SWIS (South West Interconnected System) which covers the south west corner of Western Australia. The SWIS includes the Perth metropolitan area and reaches from Albany in the south, Kalbarri in the north and Kalgoorlie in the east. It comprises more than 96,000 km of powerlines, 640,000 wood poles, 225,000 streetlights and almost 14,000 substations and is a growing network.

Electrix Pty Ltd was awarded the contract to provide wood pole inspection services for the southern portion of the SWIS in June 2010. The award of this contract followed a major review by Western Power of their inspection and asset management processes. The objective of the new processes is to transform the way in which network assets are inspected and to greatly improve network reliability, safety and maintenance planning.

The initial contract required Electrix to carry out inspection and minor maintenance tasks on approximately 80,000 poles per year for an initial 2 year term with further options to extend.

The scope of work includes:

- Ground line and below ground condition assessment of wood poles;
- Inspection of the top face of cross-arms, conductors and pole top attachments using camera technology;
- Visual inspection and thermo-graphic imaging of pole mounted switches;
- Treatment for internal rot and termites and corrosion;
- Minor maintenance including replacing earth and stay guards;
- Recording GPS Coordinates, digital photographs of defects;
- Capture of required asset data utilising handheld PDA's for download to a central database.
- Subsequently, the contract was extended to also include inspection of a further 7,500 steel poles per annum.

The contract presents major challenges with deployment of resources across wide geographic areas working under arduous climatic conditions and an extensive change management program to implement new processes.

The award of this contract further demonstrates the market leadership of Electrix in the delivery of value adding asset inspection services to electricity distribution networks across Australia.



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