



ATCO Gas Conversion of Rural and Town Plans



Custom
Development

Spatial
Integration

Conversion
Migration
Harvesting

Overview

ATCO Gas had completed the conversion of Calgary, Lethbridge, and other towns in their Southern Alberta Service Area. The conversion originally started in 1983, but completion was restricted by capital work in the converted areas. In order to position the company for electronic distribution, and to eliminate the dual maintenance environment (CAD and Manual) ATCO decided to request external conversion companies to complete the conversion.

Solution

1. **Build the Capture Environment.** A "Data Capture System" is a collection of software tools and procedures that organize and integrate all information necessary to streamline and speed up the conversion process. The existing capture environment consisted of a large number of user commands (>1100). Team WayTo extracted the standards and built a capture environment based on the standards.
2. **A CAD conversion that would support a migration to a GIS System.** The capture was done in a way that would allow the subsequent processing of the CAD files for Extraction of Attribution and connectivity from the CAD Environment.
3. **Convert ATCO's records into a newly defined document standard and map projection.** The partially converted records existed as portion of Sections and Quarter Sections, which needed to be incorporated into a Township map. In addition, all UTM based mapping needed to move to 10TM in areas outside Calgary. Other standards that needed adjustments were a fully drawn 15 meter overlap. These overlaps would need to be removed and merged to prepare for a connected model (GIS) in the future.
4. **Provide a Source Error Resolution (SER) Process.** With the number of areas requiring interpretation and with source data inconsistencies, WayTo implemented a web based Source Error Resolution process. Our conversion partner (in India) would clip portions of the .tiff or design file sources and submit them along with the specific question. Since source documents were large, the process of resolving the source issues was significantly enhanced. This process managed the flow of the Source Error as well. WayTo had the first opportunity to respond to the request. If WayTo provided the answer, ATCO would see the answer and over-ride if necessary. At the end of the project, the statistics provided both WayTo and ATCO management with debrief information for any future improvements.

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Results

The project was completed in September of 2002. By year-end, ATCO was operating in a totally automated environment and started work on the next step, supporting electronic distribution and migration to a more sophisticated data model. The initial model will be in a neutral format, allowing them to operate with enhanced processes, and yet move to any GIS platform in the future, when the cost justification warrants it.

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