

Project Overview



Project Name: Time Expired Meters Refresh – IT35

Description:

Multinet Gas maintains a meter integrity program (Time Expired Meters) that involves sample testing of meter families at pre-determined periods to ensure meters comply with accuracy limits as specified by the Gas Distribution System Code.

Each sample represents a common type of gas meter in the network. Gas meters that do not pass the sample testing have their entire population replaced across the gas network.

Over the current GAAR period (2013-2017) the average number of meters requiring replacement each year is approximately 30,000 with a maximum in any year of 75,000 per annum. It is anticipated that similar numbers will require replacement in the next GAAR period.

To manage the scheduling of this bulk meter replacement program, MG relies on a legacy Microsoft Access Database application that was custom developed approximately 9 years ago. This application has minimal support and cannot be modified to suit changing business requirements.

The purpose of this project is to upgrade the legacy Time Expired Meter system to a fully supported platform to maintain this capability and mitigate the risk of a failure in this system.

Strategic Alignment: The key drivers for this project are to:

- Maintain systems to industry standards to reduce risk of disruption to customers and to retain levels of efficiency.
- Ensure ongoing performance, resilience and safety in the changing distribution system

The capital expenditure for this project is justified as it is:

- Prudent and efficient in line with accepted good industry practice: and
- Necessary to maintain the integrity and safety of MG's services.

Options:

All credible options to meet the key drivers of this project have been assessed:

1. Do Nothing
2. **Replace the Time Expired Meter application with an alternative solution**
3. Delay refresh of the Time Expired Meter application

Rationale:

The recommended option is:

2. **Replace the Time Expired Meter application with an alternative solution**

The recommended option provides the least-cost, least risk approach to establish a supported platform for the Time Expired Meter application. The current MS Access database and associated interfaces are based on obsolete technology, have minimal support and expose MG to unacceptable risk in managing the critical gas meter replacement program.

If the Time Expired Meter refresh were delayed beyond 2018, MG would be exposed to additional risk of operating outdated software with the potential adverse impact on core gas meter compliance obligations.

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The Do Nothing option fails to meet the key business drivers and exposes MG to unacceptable risk in managing the distribution network and maintaining current reliability, security of supply and safety standards.

Timing: 2018

Cost: Total Cost: \$0.6m
An additional annual IT operating cost of \$15k is expected from 2019

Notes:
