

Optimizing Natural Gas Transportation

At Transportadora Brasileira Gasoduto Bolivia-Brasil



Challenge

Transportadora Brasileira Gasoduto Bolivia-Brasil (TBG) owns and operates the Brazilian portion of the Bolivia-Brazil gas pipeline. This pipeline, known as GASBOL, is the largest in South America. The Brazilian portion covers 2,500 kilometers—more than enough line to stretch from Manhattan to Miami.

Since its founding in 1997, TBG has established a progressive business culture with regards to both technology and business processes thought. State-of-the-art SCADA. Operational excellence. Smart maintenance procedures. And it uses Emerson's (formerly Energy Solutions International) realtime pipeline modeling suite, PipelineManager®, to master functions such as planning, leak detection, scraper and pig tracking, training and the creation of overall competitive advantage. However, the industry-wide increase in gas demand and competition is raising the bar for companies like TBG. At the time of TBG's engagement with Emerson, there were over 10,000 miles of pipeline in South America underway, planned or proposed. And along with this industry-wide growth comes a greater need for total enterprise-wide information. TBG needed a timely awareness of what was going on in all parts of the company to improve service levels, optimize operations and make smarter use of technology spending. But around the globe, those goals are easier said than done.

Solution

Utilizing Emerson's PipelineTransporter® for gas, TBG enabled data sharing between its operations and business systems. This solution gave TBG a single integrated application which automates commercial procedures and enables the acceptance of customer nominations via the Internet. PipelineTransporter's advanced middleware technology integrated with the Internet, TBG's PipelineManager software, SCADA system and measuring software. It even connected with TBG's SAP R3 accounting software.

PipelineTransporter communicates with TBC's informational environment to support its gas scheduling and capacity management efforts in a way that improves technical and operational efficiency. The system automates the integration of functions such as contract configuration and management, scheduling, measurement certification, allocation and preinvoicing. It also provides flexible reporting — and all from a single, secure online point of access.

Combining PipelineTransporter with PipelineManager's predictive modeling integrated the company's business and operational activities across the entirety of the transportation value chain. After nominations, the modeling components verify transportation capacity. The system considers everything from line pack to equipment availability and sends this information to the gas management component. If there is a problem, nominations are rejected or curtailed.

Results

Through its implementation of Emerson' technology, TBC can function as a single decision-making unit — rather than a collection of independent silos working from isolated data. PipelineTransporter has made true capacity and system status immediately available and easy to access. The ability to operate efficiently and eliminate opportunity cost was improved. And the solution has optimized TBC's overall business processes, resulting in a higher state of regulatory compliance and better customer service.

Today, TBC's nominations occur much more quickly — giving it quantifiable competitive advantage. Its compressor stations consume less fuel because the company's operational side gets better information. And TBC pays fewer contract penalties because of PipelineTransporter's ability to integrate shipper interaction, business administration and technical applications so that all parties get the information they need to make informed, profitable decisions. Mauricio dos Santos Silva, a Commercial Advisor for TBC says, "It makes our lives easier day by day."



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