ATP PiMSlider - Software Implementation and Support Philosophy

Oil and Gas companies are now investing heavily in Pipeline Integrity Management Systems in order to increase their ability to manage and maintain pipelines in a safe and profitable way.

PiMSlider software, from Associated Technology Pipeline Ltd (ATP), provides integrity engineers with state-of-the-art pipeline integrity management software, which enables operators to process pipeline, population and environmental information in an integrated way for all phases of the pipeline integrity management process.

The PiMSlider software solution includes a rich set of functionality containing an information retrieval system, an analytical system and a decision making system. PiMSlider is arranged as a set of modules (relevant for different specialities of the PiMS process) by combining areas of common functionality to build a comprehensive PiMS solution.

The implementation of PiMSlider software is most commonly divided into a set of three distinct phases, individually tailored for each customer. These phases can be defined as follows:

**Phase One - Pilot Programme**

Investing in a Pipeline Integrity Management solution is a long-term financial and resource commitment, and the time taken to choose a provider can become a lengthy part of a tender process.
In order to give confidence to the client early in this process, ATP can offer a pilot version of PiMSlider. A pilot version is a fully functional PiMSlider (with as many modules as required), but using a small set of (customer-selected) data.

Within 3 months, the client can receive a fully working system that can be demonstrated to high level management of the client giving them plenty of opportunity to fully assess the capabilities of the product. It will also help with the difficult decision making process of choosing a Pipeline Integrity Management System provider.

The pilot PiMSlider will be hosted on a laptop or as a cloud solution, implemented quickly, at low risk and with no over-runs in cost and time. For the pilot version, there will be no integration with any external data sources, and no customisation of PiMSlider.

**Phase Two – Award of Contract**

This phase is associated with the award of a contract and involves the full implementation of PiMSlider within a client’s secure environment. As part of the implementation process, ATP will configure data interfaces required to connect to client data sources - such as GIS, PODS, SAP, Maximo, DMS', or any other proprietary system.

Any other customisation requirements identified and required as part of the tender process, will be developed during this phase. ATP will also implement any specific industry or company standards or processes that the client wishes to adopt, and to configure any specific reporting requirements using the PiMSlider Reporting Expert module.

A comprehensive training programme is also delivered as part of this phase, towards the end of the project.

The result of this phase is a fully functional PiMSlider implementation (referred as “Production service”) that forms the basis of the next phase of the relationship.

**Phase Three – On-going Support**

This phase is the post-production relationship between ATP and the client. All clients enter into a support and maintenance contracts with ATP, thereby ensuring they have access to regular updates and support for using the software and bug fixes.

A well-established support team will interface with the client, ensuring that issues are managed correctly and resolutions provided in a timely manner. There is plenty of opportunity for further (or refresher) training as much of his can be done on-line, at short notice.

ATP often finds that, once clients have been using PiMSlider for a number of months, clients would like to enhance the PiMSlider software they have in Production, with further customisations and connections to new data sources - and thus improve their PiMS programme over time. In these cases, a new scope of work is identified between the client and ATP, and a small project is defined with associated costs and timescales.

Clients are free to add new modules to their PiMSlider portfolio, as and when required, and ATP is happy to support the client in this transition process.

Outside projects or support, ATP clients are encouraged to participate in the ATP PIMS User Group (PUG) or workshops, where clients can meet other like-minded professionals, learn of new or best practices from other users of PiMSlider and help shape the future of the PiMSlider software.
Conclusion

PiMSlider is an off-the-shelf software solution, having been developed over a number of years, by experienced software developers and installed in many clients around the world. The integrity management process can involve many different people, equipment, processes and technology and it is therefore vital to know and have confidence that the software a client has purchased is fit for purpose.

“It is valuable that all the parties responsible for pipeline integrity management use a common platform, as pipeline integrity involves various technical disciplines for specific areas. However, at the same time, the platform needs to serve specific technical areas. Therefore, information sharing within the same platform and cross disciplines is highly important for a lean work process. As such, the PiMSlider solution was chosen by StatOil in 2012.

The tool has a friendly graphical user interface (GUI), which incorporates all work within the same software and is satisfying the different technical discipline needs.

It can also be seen as a data model for storing and organizing pipeline data in a database to implement PIMS.” Statoil ASA Transport Net, Norway

PiMSlider®

Developed by Associated Technology Pipeline (ATP) Ltd, PiMSlider® software is suite of integrated modules to support the entire pipeline integrity management process. PiMSlider® is an off-the-shelf software solution, having been developed over a number of years, and installed in many clients around the world. The software includes all the advantages described above, but it also contains a large number of configurable tools that make the software solution truly unique. These tools allow the pipeline operator to further adjust the functionality to meet very specific needs.

The PiMSlider® offering allows operators to adopt a working system at the beginning of the project, and not just at the end (like conventional software projects). There are many advantages of doing it this way:

- The client gets access to a working system that is used today in the market, very early in the project (the same software base will be delivered)
- The client and ATP can start educating the user base with the philosophies and ideologies of using PiMSlider® software – often a small culture change when accepting new software
- The client gets access to a feature rich software application that will meet a very high percentage of requirements. In addition, the client will get access to a range of features not previously considered during the internal client activities of data and feature gathering
- The client’s user base gets access to a real working system, with real client data very early in the project, to help the various levels of the company to see a lot of data from many different sources (GIS, ERPs, Inline Inspections, Cathodic Protection, Survey data, Document Management Systems) – all visible from a single integrated software system.
- As this working PiMSlider® system is the same software that is currently in use in the market today, the Testing Phases would focus more on the feature-availability, rather than the stability of the system.

For more information about ATP and PiMSlider® Software please contact the Marketing Dept.
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