

GeoPal mobility solution improves efficiency and accuracy of data collection and job assignment to employees in the field.

Success Story:

Frontline Energy & Environmental is an engineering company that delivers Facilities and Energy Management services in Ireland and internationally.

Facilities Management services include maintenance and care of offices, industry and manufacturing sites, commercial or institutional buildings. Energy Management services include energy audits, monitoring, targeting, and managing, operating and maintaining plant and equipment assets.

The Challenge:

Frontline Energy was commissioned to undertake a national audit of energy meters, with a tight project timeframe.

With paper-based survey forms, the delay in receiving the results back to the office for analysis and the time needed to decipher hand-written forms, meant that accuracy of the information would be inconsistent and it would take longer to provide reports to their client. Paper was *'not an option'*.

The options available to Frontline were to build a bespoke mobile application or to find an 'off-the-shelf' mobility solution that would meet their requirements. Building a bespoke app would involve development, testing and maintenance, which would have required too large an investment in both time and costs.

Several off-the-shelf mobile apps were evaluated also, but the functionality was found to be too restrictive to meet the changing requirements of their client.



The Solution:

Frontline Energy has adopted GeoPal in favour of paper forms or an expensive bespoke app to complete energy audits in the field, scheduling assignments to employees, accurately capturing data in different formats, and reporting in real-time. Employee locations are tracked using GeoPal to improve productivity & compliance.

The flexibility of GeoPal has enabled Frontline to configure mobile forms and make changes to staff schedules as needed to suit the requirements of their client, enabling the faster creation of accurate reports, for happy stakeholders.

GeoPal is an 'off-the-shelf', yet highly configurable, web and mobile application for creating mobile forms, capturing data in the field, and receiving accurate reports from the field in real time.

Workers carry a GPS-enabled smartphone and use the GeoPal mobile app for receiving and filling out mobile forms and capturing and updating field information, such as: text, photos, barcode or RFID scans, signatures, voice notes, etc.

All information captured on the phone is automatically sent to the GeoPal web management system. Managers use the web management system to locate workers and assets on a map, configure mobile forms, manage assets, and review, process and analyse data collected in the field for reporting.

The GeoPal Impact:

Real-Time Operational Improvements

GeoPal enables real-time process changes, reporting and analysis of data captured accurately in the field, supporting critical decision-making and operational improvements.

"What I really liked about GeoPal is that you can edit the forms used for the surveys instantaneously – with no retesting required. It was very easy. Everything was there, depending on what way you wanted to build it. The app can be manipulated quickly and successfully to match your business requirements for surveying and reporting."

Productivity Improvements and Compliance Checks

GeoPal eliminates the need to re-enter data from paper forms, saving time and increasing productivity. GeoPal also ensures all information is time, date and location-stamped, providing detailed information for monitoring or auditing work completed, to enhance performance.

"I also really liked that you can track employees to monitor their performance. There is a clear record of everything, all activities completed, with date, time and location verified. You can make sure they are doing what they should be - with the date and time stamps, it ensures compliance."

Increased Efficiency for Reduced Costs

GeoPal streamlines operations and significantly reduces costs and increases efficiency in a number of areas.

"When asked by the client to make changes to the survey we could do this instantly and have the changes ready and available to all the surveyors within minutes, rather than the cost & number of days it would have taken to make changes to paper-based forms and send out to all the surveyors."