

Project Synopsis

Ellipse Legacy Data Solution - RP Connect® Implementation

Oyu Tolgoi Copper and Gold Mine Mongolia

Background

Mongolia's Oyu Tolgoi copper and gold mine, in the South Gobi Desert, is the biggest economic undertaking in the country's history. Average annual production of 450,000 tonnes of copper and 330,000 ounces of gold are forecast. With 1.4 billion tonnes of reserves and a resource of 3.1 billion tonnes the mine will last for more than 50 years.

Turquoise Hill Resources (formerly Ivanhoe Mines), whose majority owner is Rio Tinto, holds a 66% share of Oyu Tolgoi and the Mongolian government own the remaining 34%.

Challenge

Oyu Tolgoi was due to decommission their Ellipse 5.2.3.7 legacy system in 2012 as the Business Unit was now using the Rio Tinto corporate ABS (SAP) Solution.

Continued access to the data within the legacy system was necessary to meet future regulatory and statutory requirements and to allow users to access the data to perform ad-hoc queries. This continued access however, would involve substantial annual on-going maintenance and support costs and require Oyu Tolgoi to retain knowledge of use of the Ellipse system.

Solution

COSOL had previously completed many successful implementations of RPConnect® for various Rio Tinto business units. This presented Oyu Tolgoi with the opportunity to utilise the existing and established Rio Tinto infrastructure for RPConnect® to reduce the complexity and cost of being able to access their legacy data, whilst lowering on-going maintenance costs.

Delivery

Implementation of RPConnect® initially involves taking an exact 1:1 copy of the legacy data for the RP Connect Staging area. COSOL's RPConnect® Migration Tool is then used to apply the extensive Ellipse Metadata Model to the data, to transform the data providing standardised naming, formatting and descriptions, which would otherwise usually only be available within the front end of the application. Providing an initial view of Oyu Tolgoi data transformed within RPConnect®, allowed stakeholders to promptly sign off the design within the Business Blueprint.

The project was predominately undertaken from COSOL's Brisbane office with a Technical Consultant on site in Mongolia for final preparation, go-live and training.

Benefits

RPConnect® now provides Oyu Tolgoi with secure read-only access to their Ellipse Legacy Data to meet regulatory and statutory requirements and align with the security and regulatory requirements of Rio Tinto.

As with many RPConnect® implementations, the implementation cost of the RPConnect® Project to Oyu Tolgoi, is less than an annual license and maintenance fee for Ellipse. In addition, further savings were realised as Oyu Tolgoi was able to decommission their Ellipse legacy system.

Oyu Tolgoi only used Ellipse during the feasibility, analysis and construction phase of the mine so many staff had only limited Ellipse knowledge and were no longer actively using Ellipse. RPConnect® is designed to allow infrequent users of the system to quickly familiarise themselves, as the RPConnect® Repository data is enhanced to provide metadata (field and table descriptions, drilling through tables). Therefore, Oyu Tolgoi no longer need to retain Ellipse users, or acquire expensive Ellipse expertise to interrogate their legacy data.

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