
eTRASSE

The Online Network Information System

All utilities – all regions – all systems – efficient

Utility companies bear high expenses for network information



The German network for pipelines and cables is a dense one; the gas supply network alone covers 460,000 km of lines. Therefore, constructing companies are

obliged to gather information about the location of networks before starting underground works. On the other hand, utility companies have to give out the information about the location of their networks. So far, these duties can only be carried out in a limited way.

The duty to provide information ties up a lot of the utility companies' resources: All in all, the annual costs for documenting, monitoring and informing about the networks amount to several million Euro.

Considerable damage despite high efforts

Despite all these efforts, networks are damaged again and again: Nearly every second damage to cables or pipelines is due to

underground works. The total costs resulting from damages to networks are estimated at 500 million Euro each year.

We therefore need a system to reduce damages to networks, a system that combines low costs for the information with an improved usefulness.

eTRASSE will reduce costs and damages to networks

A new concept for an online network information system has been developed in a close cooperation between business and research. A prototype has been tested successfully together with network operators and building authorities. The system can be implemented anywhere with immediate effect.

The concept is not only sound from a technical view, but is also based on a business model which makes it possible to implement the information service

early, straightforward and at low costs. It was developed together by the association Runder Tisch GIS e. V. (Round Table GIS), residing at the Technical University Munich, and MICUS Management Consulting GmbH.

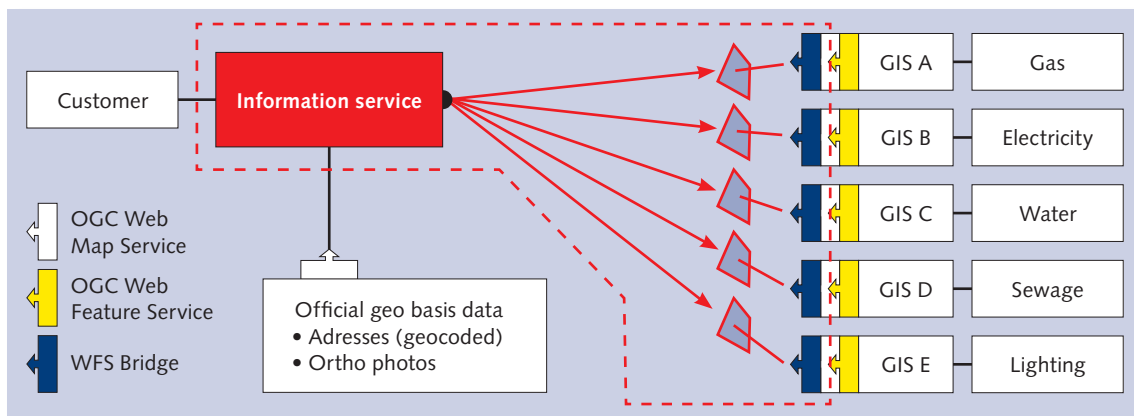


eTRASSE – a web application based on standards

The online network information service **eTRASSE** is based on standards of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) for the area of GIS and on general IT standards. The service is therefore independent from producers, guarantees interoperability and can easily be expanded to include any utility. The data, decentrally distributed in different systems, is not laboriously integrated into a central geographic information system, but stays with the network operators, who are responsible for keeping the data up-to-date. The online network information service communicates the information about the location of the cables or pipelines to the user online. For the first time, information about all networks from all different operators can be bundled.

eTRASSE makes it easier to get information about networks, and the damages to pipelines and cables can be significantly reduced: 5 % less damages would already save 25 Million Euro. At the same time, there are considerably less time and effort necessary for both users giving and seeking information.

The application can also be used for coordinating construction sites; here the underground works of different operators are coordinated. First experiences show possible savings of 20 % of the costs for underground works. In addition, this creates a communication platform between authorities and companies that gives highly up-to-date information about changes in buildings and infrastructure.



THE PORTAL ONLY FORWARDS INFORMATION WHETHER AN AREA IS AFFECTED BY NETWORKS; THE DATA ITSELF STAYS WITH THE GIS OF THE NETWORK OPERATOR

Why don't you as well use this possibility to raise your network information system to a new technical and economic level? Contact us today for further information!

For further information please contact:

Dr. Martin Fornefeld

MICUS Management Consulting GmbH
Phone: +49 211 3003 420, www.micus.de

Prof. Dr. Matthäus Schilcher

Technical University of Munich
Phone: +49 89 289 22578, www.rtg.bv.tum.de

The Runder Tisch GIS e. V. (Round Table GIS), residing at the Technical University of Munich, has broad expertise in the areas distributed geographic databases and international rules and standards for geographic information systems. MICUS Management Consulting GmbH has published several successful market studies about the market for geographic information and has distinct experience about the development of business models.