

Network Sectorisation & Monitoring for Non-Revenue Water Control





CASE STUDY KEY POINTS

How to **build capacity** and network knowledge to **reduce water losses** and **sustainably maintain** those gains

Active Leakage Control 'find and fix' in DMAs supported by software application data analysis

> How EPAL reduced leakage by 200 m³/hour from 500 to 150 litres/connection/day



Be as smart as you need to be

PORTUGAL NATIONAL CONTEXT



We know that water losses within distribution systems are an economic & environmental problem which must be addressed.

A water loss reduction project brings operational efficiency along with financial and sustainability benefits.

Portugal

- 92.200 square km
- 10.6 million population
- Majority of Water sector publically owned
- Mix private, public & concession operators
- Divided into bulk treatment companies, separate from distribution utilities



PORTUGAL NATIONAL CONTEXT

Problems contributing to Non-Revenue Water (NRW):

- Poor measurement of system water balances;
- Aging networks and often built with poor quality materials;
- **Deficit of knowledge** regarding networks: GIS, technical, operational;
- Insufficient data, standardization & systematization of reporting;
- Insufficient technical teams with low skill levels and poor knowledge.

In Portugal, efficiency targets have been set for utilities to achieve and funding mechanisms created for their implementation. 2011 2025 40% 25% Absolute average

Annual Water Loss Value Proven Source: ERSAR – RASARP 2012 (Portuguese Regulatory Report)

EPAL – ORIGINS IN 1868

Bulk Supply to around 2.9 million people in 34 municipalities around the Lisbon area and the city itself

Management of **Águas de Lisboa & Vale do Tejo** totalling 96 municipalities

Direct Supply to 350,000 domestic and commercial customers within City of Lisbon

Largest water supplier in Portugal with a net profit of €47 M and a turnover of €144 M in 2015

CITY OF LISBON DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM 550,000 Population 170,000 m³ Daily Demand 1.450 km Distribution Mains 5 Pressure Zones



EPAL NON-REVENUE WATER SITUATION

Challenge

How to reduce annual NRW volume in the Lisbon distribution network which reached **40 million m³** at the turn of the millennium?

Strategy Decision

EPAL adopted solutions which:

- 1. Minimize inefficiency generated by water losses;
- 2. Are easily implemented and sustainable;
- 3. Are transversal to all areas of the company;
- 4. Allow optimization of investments and resources;

5. Generate **financial return** for the company and stakeholders, creating **greater resilience**.

Project undertaken by company employees to build capacity & retain knowledge in-house

STRATEGY REQUIREMENTS



4 PHASES TO IMPROVE NETWORK KNOWLEDGE

1. DMA PLANNING & SET UP

Create metering points & telemetry Design & boundary validation DMA Implementation

2. CONTINUOUS MONITORING

Recording of **pressure & flow** Passive system with **active alarms**



4 PHASES TO IMPROVE NETWORK KNOWLEDGE



3. DATA ANALYSIS Integration in analysis software Practical Performance Indicators System Alarm & Alert Management Leakage assessment & Target setting Surgical Control of leakage

4. INFORMATION REPORTING DMA Proposals & Reference Manuals DMA Analysis & Audit Project Reports













CASE STUDY: DMA 1060

DMA Analysis Project Methodology:

Data analysis revealed Recoverable Night Flow 130 m³/h

Fieldwork –Find 'n' Fix:

DMA boundary valve validation

- Leak Detection
- Ground microphones
- Accoustic Correlation

Temporary DMA Alterations
Leak Repair
Validation of results
Leak location registered on GIS



CASE STUDY: DMA 1060



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NON-REVENUE WATER REDUCTION SUCCESS



- Impact of Network Rehabilitation & Active Leakage Control
- Enhanced network management & control
- Positive results across all performance indicators
- Improved Resilience & greater know-how created within EPAL

KEY CASE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Provoke a cultural change at all levels and areas, adapting to new concepts of management

Build water loss control capacity, both physical infrastructure and sufficiently trained staff

Acquire and retain **empirical knowledge** of the company's network within the organisation

Success achieved by creating a **dedicated water loss control team**, supported directly by management, with **resources and responsibility** over fundamental factors;

- DMA planning, implementation and subsequent management
- Maintenance of DMA meters, telemetry and boundary valves
- Active leak detection
- Data management software with KPIs focused on water loss assessment

Consider the correlation between **DMA size** and potential **achievable water loss reduction**

Water loss control concepts are well-known, the **challenge of sustainably managing** such systems over the long-term with **constant vigilance is the key goal**

Common-sense solutions, Smart People...



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