

Case Study

Petra Diamonds | Centralising Asset Tree using a Placeholder Import



Client Background

Petra Diamonds is a leading independent diamond producer with one of the worlds largest diamonds resources. Petra Diamonds portfolio is made up of four producing operations; three in South Africa and one in Tanzania.

Petra Diamonds has been using On Key since 2008. However, each mine has had individual implementations and run as separate entities without establishing centralised information and knowledge sharing amongst the sites within the group.



“ The time saved by the import tool ensured that the project would meet the required deadlines. Without it the project would have been in serious trouble! ”

Kobus van der Walt

Key Challenges

- The Petra Group decided that it would be beneficial to have all their mines working from one centralised database. The project would be known as the Reliability and Asset Management (RAM) Project.
- In order to create generic Asset Types that would meet the needs of all mines involved it was decided to implement an Asset Type Tree that used component placeholder functionality.
- It had not been known that the extra options that could be used with placeholders meant that linking assets to the correct set-up would take a lot longer as each component and task would have to be manually linked.



Value Add

- The import tool saved a tremendous amount of time. One example is the reduction of three days of work to one hour.
- Quality checks of current linked asset ensured the completeness of the database.
- Reduced errors when linking multiple assets at the same time as the placeholders are filled using formulas so no mistakes can be made.



Pragma Intervention

It was not foreseen that the new multi-site database would take a considerable amount of time to link individual assets. Pragma created a methodology that could take an asset that had been linked and replicate its placeholders onto a new asset using the import tool. The process also included the following checks:

- Ensure that there were no empty placeholders (missing links)
- All components that were not required were inactive and marked accordingly
- There were no “new” components on the asset to be linked.

The tool also allowed for the isolation of components that were not identical. This meant that assets that had similar components but were not an exact match could also be imported.

Tools and Technology

- The information was extracted from On Key after all the component placeholders had been linked. An excel sheet was used to cross reference and prepopulate a .DAT file with all the information for the asset to be linked. The import tool read the .DAT file and inserted the information onto the new assets.
- This process had to be duplicated as the first step involved linking the correct asset types and the second step linked the correct components (including tasks).