Making use of digital twin

NEWLY-rebadged Hexagon PPM’s recently launched Smart Digital Asset module – called ‘Collaboration’ – appears perfectly timed for the type of innovation that has largely alluded Australia’s LNG operators but will be essential, particularly as they consider North West Shelf life extension.

Energy News has learned that the SDA initiative, starting with the Collaboration module, underpins Hexagon’s strategy going forward for the next few years.

The SDA is an information management platform that will allow owners to create and maintain a "digital twin" of their assets, which is crucial for operators and suppliers alike to access the next wave of future tech that Hexagon sees on the horizon like extended reality and big data.

DNV GL’s Perth-based oil and gas country manager Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, Richard Palmer, recently told a digitisation function that the cloud-based "digital twin" would enable a new generation of advanced predictive analytics in the industry, particularly as Australia’s LNG sector transitions into operations.

Hexagon's first module to be released starts the process of building the digital twin during the project phase, making it much easier to maintain the twin during operations and maintenance.

Additional modules of SDA will be released in the coming months, Energy News has learned.

Hexagon initially launched SDA Collaboration at HxGN LIVE, the company's cross-industry technology conference in Las Vegas in June.

Hexagon CEO Ola Rollen said the SDA information management platform was a major step towards realising the vision of its PPM division - the smart digital facility that thinks for itself.

"The adoption of SDA Collaboration accelerates our customers’ ability to gain efficiencies, resulting in significant savings on total project and handover costs," he said.

SDA Collaboration improves information exchange between project stakeholders by gathering
and leveraging data to ensure the right deliverables at the right milestones are reviewed by the right specialists, based on intelligent rules.

This, he said, was an enormous improvement over the industry's document-centric approaches.

Developed in collaboration with a major owner-operator over two years, SDA Collaboration will be commercially rolled out in the third quarter of 2017 as a cloud-based service, with an on-premise deployment option planned for next year.

All SDA modules will be released as "cloud-ready", with a web-based user experience that Hexagon says is intuitive and robust.

Hexagon's goal in developing the SDA Collaboration is to deliver substantial resource efficiency gains by shortening cycle times, reducing costs and decreasing risks while improving total project quality.

SDA Collaboration offers a 10% reduction in change orders and up to 7% savings on total project costs, Hexagon said.

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