

Sigma Seven takes off with Symbion Power and PDG Helicopters

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Sigma Seven, a leading mobile mapping technology company, are pleased to announce that Symbion Power, a division of PDG Helicopters, have implemented their innovative field mapping and data management solution, GeoField.

Symbion Power specialise in overhead power line inspections by helicopter for the electricity supply industries in the UK. Flying alongside the power lines at low speed, inspectors carry out checks and identify problems that might not be seen from the ground. It is a complex task that is challenging and time-consuming to carry out using traditional paper maps and plans.

A multi-function, mobile mapping solution, Sigma Seven's GeoField product is ideally suited to this large volume helicopter work. It provides the inspector with all the map information required in an accessible and easy to use form as well as all the necessary tools to make recording the inspection results both quick and accurate.

The maps are linked to the helicopter's GPS which helps the inspector with positioning as well as providing a record of the helicopter's inspection route. Because GeoField synchronises with utility companies' existing GIS, asset management and workflow systems, the captured data can be fed directly in and out of the utilities' data store.

Donald McGarrie, Sigma Seven's Utilities Business Manager, said, 'I am delighted that Symbion Power have chosen GeoField to help in their aerial survey work. We believe that our GeoField software suite offers valuable tools for utility companies and the companies that support them. GeoField is versatile enough to help streamline any map-based field work, making it more efficient, accurate, better integrated with corporate systems and less reliant on cumbersome paper-based processes.'

'Working closely with Sigma Seven has enabled us to develop a solution which enhances our service to the customer,' said Adam Crick, General Manager of Symbion Power. 'For some time, we have been looking for alternatives to conventional methods that would allow us to utilise tablet based PC technology in the aircraft more effectively. We have managed to achieve that and now have a solution that is easier to use and more efficient than paper maps and which also greatly improves the data flow between ourselves and our clients.'

Sigma Seven was formed in 2000 by a group of mapping, data management and GIS professionals from leading IT Service and Utilities companies. Recognising the growing demand for flexible and affordable mobile map-based solutions in all organisations with field workers, the company has developed the GeoField product suite. Sigma Seven has helped some of the largest utility companies in the UK to take mapping out of the office and into the front line.

Donald McGarrie and other members of the Sigma Seven team, including co-founder Paul Reid, are available for interview, company profiles and comment on GIS within the utilities industry.

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