

**PRE**

Adopting CROSS for asset and inventory management in advanced fiber network

PRE

Building extensive wholesale fiber assets alongside a growing smart grid

The PRE Group is a venerable organization with a long history as a supplier of electricity in Prague. Dating back to 1897, it's now the third-largest supplier of electricity in the Czech Republic. In addition to supplying energy to consumer and business customers, PRE also operates a highly reliable distribution network.

Alongside this network, PRE has also invested in a new optical fiber network, using its footprint of transmission infrastructure to enable rapid and cost-effective deployment. It operates this fiber network on a wholesale basis to local telecoms operators and service providers.

To manage this effectively, it's essential to track assets and to match these to the services supplied to PRE's partners and customers, and to effectively manage service performance.

To achieve this, PRE needed to ensure that it could accurately manage the inventory of assets and services. The organization turned to CROSS Network Intelligence – or CNI - to help out.

Accurate inventory management for agile service automation and workflows

CNI delivered its CROSS solution to PRE. It's a complete resource inventory solution, which allows PRE to maintain accurate records of its advanced optical network. As this is multi-service, it also enables PRE to track allocation of technologies to the physical assets in the network – for example, ensuring effective tracking of DWDM and access technologies, or for point-to-point microwave radio links in the backbone.

CROSS was implemented alongside PRE's Telco Service Management System (TSM). Together, the systems enable the service catalog to be maintained and aligned with customer records in the CRM.

Crucially, it also allows automated workflows for key processes. These include:



Service provisioning



Trouble ticketing



Change management

As a result, PRE is able to support more agile operations. For example, because all resources (physical, virtual, logical and service) are clearly understood and their locations known, a customer request can rapidly be accommodated via zero-touch processes from order to activation. The solution also supports a range of other operational activities.

Local operators and service providers are now more easily able to obtain access to the network, as they rollout their own services to end-customers. With CROSS, PRE can quickly provision paths and provide the connectivity and service levels they require.

Extending use cases and supporting wholesale partners – fiber and 5G

There is growing demand for this network, not only for the provision of fiber services to their customers but also for fiber connectivity to support new 5G investments. Every 5G radio access cell must be connected via fiber, so it is essential to establish connections to the PRE network for backhaul quickly and easily – and to match coverage rollout to both existing fiber availability, as well as to planned fiber deployment.

Of course, service assurance is critical, particularly for SLA-backed contracts. The TSM with CROSS enables quality assurance for planned and unplanned network outages, ensuring consistent performance and minimizing downtime in the event of any incident. This is enabled by a clear understanding of resource availability, capacity and status, conferring the ability to provide alternative routes that bypass any affected area.

Accuracy supports enhanced business reporting and financial analysis

The ability to clearly understand resource utilization also delivers financial benefits. PRE is able to monitor the profitability of each service because there is a clear understanding of the underlying network operational and asset costs – which provides better financial reporting and, in turn, allows better decisions to be taken regarding future network investments.

Finally, PRE also uses the deployed network to support its energy business. Smart meter rollout is in progress and the inventory assets included within CROSS include both meters and additional solutions that are involved with the operation of the smart, dynamic grid that PRE has built.

About CROSS Network Intelligence

Founded in 2014, CROSS Network Intelligence (CNI) is an international team of telecom professionals dedicated to delivering industry-leading OSS/BSS solutions. The CNI team has extensive domain and technical expertise, both from the customer and vendor side, from companies such as GE, Vodafone, Ericsson, T-Mobile, BT, Oracle, Cisco, IBM, and more. CNI is supported by a strong network of global partners.



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