Imagine this – you're the IM/T manager and you have 450 global vendors supplying 400,000 pieces of equipment. Each has a unique tag number with around 30 required attributes. That's 12 million unique pieces of data to collect, consolidate and validate which is nothing short of a mammoth job for your engineering information management team.

Engineering data is often taken for granted and looked at as having little project value during construction, but when it comes to Commissioning Start up and Operations, Asset Data is vital to the point of critical. You simply cannot commission, operate and maintain an asset without the data.

There are allot of ways projects go about their data collection.

Individual spreadsheets are still No 1 and portals and database are still common. Why? Because there is a belief that excel is easy for a vendor to use but there is a compounding issue.

Let's do the math. 450 vendor spreadsheets x 4 revisions – now multiply this by 2.25 to include the Spare Parts and Ex registers = 4050 excel sheets. If you're in the IM team on major capital project you've probably dealt with this first hand.

There are enormous success savings of time and efficiency to be gained by improving this process.

Where is the time?

The amount of time it takes for spreadsheets and databases to go through the document transmittal process is huge. Critical data is sitting in limbo for Months over the life of a project. The amount of time it takes for document controllers to sort, collate, upload, download, consolidate and fix macros adds to the problem. Now throw in managing the workflow, engineering review, cover pages, doc numbering, comments and we're chewing up lots of... yes you guessed it

Where is the efficiency?

The transmittal cycle for data in a DMS is also quite incredible when you break it down: Client to EPC, EPC to Vendor, Vendor back to EPC, EPC to Client, Client to Reviewer and Reviewer to Client. There are also three document control teams in the middle processing these submissions twice around.

Now don't get me wrong, document control is a very valuable project function for unstructured data, they are essential on projects to manage the hundreds of thousands of documents, but for structured data, doc control is not the answer.

In the end, does it all come down to the types of systems and processes a project specifies? To an extent yes, but the support model, training provided and experienced personnel is also paramount.

AssetNet has this covered

AssetNet is a cloud based system to collect, consolidate and validate large amounts of equipment data.

The system has on-board review and comments tracking, a colour coding tool set, inbuilt revision control, import/export function, sort and report, traffic light reporting and more.

Being in the cloud you can now manage hundreds of global vendors within the one system whilst reviewing and tracking each package individually.

The vendor wants to work in excel though? Sure they can, just export then import the data template back into the system. You want to start your RBI and Maintenance tasks? Sure just export the validated data. You need completeness reporting? No problems we have it covered.

Now the formula is starting to look allot more like -

Asset Data ÷ Time + Efficiency = Success.