The Engineering Information Management team needs to ensure a consistent and quality flow of tag and asset data from vendors. Not an easy thing to achieve on most projects.

Take any large construction build.

When it comes to dealing with hundreds of external users outside of the company network it’s a difficult task to control the standardisation and accuracy of data received.

The equipment is sourced from all over the world so vendors are working in isolation from the project management team. They all have their own way of translating data into something meaningful and their interpretation of what should be supplied is always varied, sometimes just depending upon the country of origin.

A common one is they simply don’t understand what the field is asking for so it’s - let's just enter lots of not applicable’s. Another really big one is the different units of measure by region - and these are really time consuming to fix.

AssetNet has gone a long way to resolve these issues to ensure there’s some standardisation in the way users interpret what’s required.

When working within AssetNet all users are in templates developed for the custodian of that data – the EPC or Client. There's far less interpretation of what should or shouldn’t be entered against a tag when it’s predefined within the system. The vendor can’t mess with macros, insert rows or delete columns and cells like using excel or access.

A nice feature of the system is where the vendor can hover over a field, read the exact description of what's required and enter it confidently. The reviewer also likes this feature to ensure they too understand what's being asked for.

To go further, AssetNet now promotes and uses colour coding on data fields when reviewing. At a glance you can see how a vendor is tracking and in turn they know exactly which fields need to be fixed. Now everyone can visually view the package status and your traffic light reporting becomes a breeze.

Add these features to the 'field comments tracking' which allow you to comment on, and capture your two way communications and we're making huge inroads into improving both the user experience and the data quality.

When you look around there's some really clever engineering data systems out there but there's no one size fits all. Some do management of change and the class library well, some do risk based inspection well and some manage the entire asset in operations.

But before any of this happens: You first have to capture and review your data and AssetNet fits really nicely into this space.