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Peter Garrels – HSC Compliance Manager,
Roma Transport Services



Here’s how Roma Transport has benefitted from installing Navman Wireless technology:

- Real time fleet visibility, enabling improved fleet efficiency, better fleet scheduling and increased client service ability
- Comprehensive custom reporting
- Constant connectivity and communication with drivers in remote regions
- Driver behaviour tracking and improved driver safety

Roma Transport Services is a leading supplier of transport services to the Oil and Gas Industry. It operates from Roma in Queensland's centre, where it was started in 1992 by two partners who had a truck each. Today the company continues under the same partnership, however the business and its fleet has grown significantly to include 40+ prime movers, cranes, tilt trays, body trucks and 4WD vehicles.

It was the arrival of Santos in the region that initially bore Roma Transport, and since then Central and South East Queensland have become busy hubs for oil and gas exploration. Nowadays Roma Transport supplies services to a number of major oil and gas companies, which sees its vehicles traverse the whole country from Western Australia, to Queensland and the Northern Territory, transporting materials and water to service sites, employing cranes to work around rigs, moving grain elevators, carting pipework for drilling rigs and more.

For Roma Transport, ensuring a safe and healthy working environment for staff, visitors, contractors and other individuals is a top priority.

The challenge

Supplying to the oil and gas industry requires contracting companies to meet strict criteria, which include rigorous Work Health & Safety (WH&S) standards as well as scrupulous accountability around safety performance indicators. These standards are dictated by the highly regulated oil and gas industry, and for transport providers include measuring and reporting driver behaviour and vehicle safety practices. Without the right measures in place, a contractor cannot service the industry – and this could cost a company big business.

"We need to know who's driving a vehicle on a particular journey, how fast they're traveling, are they wearing seatbelts, are they braking too quickly, is cruise control in use and more," says Peter Garrels, HSC Compliance Manager, Roma Transport Services. "An In Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS) allows us to monitor and collect driver behaviour data, but we also needed to be able to provide comprehensive reports based on the data on a weekly to monthly basis as a contractual obligation."

To ensure the safety of its drivers, Roma Transport also required constant connectivity and communication with drivers – no matter how remote a driver might be on a particular job or journey.

"Having the right IVMS is crucial – if it doesn't measure up, we don't get the work. Safety is extremely important in the oil and gas industry – corporate reputation depends on it. All contractors need to deliver to this line of values," Peter says.

Roma Transport had trialed a couple of IVMS devices, however Peter found they offered poor reporting outcomes and little productivity benefit.

The solution

The use of Navman Wireless tracking units would ensure the highest level of compliance to industry standards, enabling Roma Transport to service the top four oil and gas companies in the region: Santos, QGC, Origin and Arrow. Roma Transport deployed 70 units across its fleet, each unit consisting of a GPS fleet management tracking device, sensors, driver identity option, and a satellite modem.

Navman Wireless offers a live system IVMS, which Peter says sets it apart from other IVMS options. "Using Navman Wireless technology we're able to ensure Roma Transport has all of the legislative processes in place, and we're also able to deliver greater commitments to the client around journey management. We know how a fleet is moved, where fleet vehicles are, and that drivers are safe and well."

"Having real time fleet visibility means we've got an accurate view of when trucks are due on site. If there's another job we're able to add trucks and drivers to the schedule and move fleets around, which wasn't previously possible," Peter says.

All operations managers including fleet owners at Roma Transport have Navman Wireless software installed on their computers and smart phones, so they can access fleet information and look at any truck at any time of day in real time, as well as revisit data and replay a day. This enables them to ensure trucks are taking legislative rest breaks and manage fatigue, as well as meet contractual obligations that require reporting on any exceptions to driver behaviour.

The Navman Wireless GPS tracking device connects all of the vehicle accessories and transmits driver information and messaging over the Next G network. Sensors connected to the tracking device allow Roma Transport to monitor driver behaviours including harsh braking and rollover, seatbelt connection and cruise control. The data collected then feeds into a system for reporting.

The outcome

Peter says there have been multiple benefits of implementing Navman Wireless technology across the Roma Transport fleet.

"While using IVMS is a contractual requirement, there's also an immense commercial outcome which offsets the cost of compliance," Peter says.



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"We're able to operate a much more efficient fleet because with Navman Wireless we know where our trucks are and what they're doing – this also helps with client management and means we can provide good service. We can tell customers where a truck is and how far away it is from a delivery, which is important on the field when you're trying to coordinate transport and logistics, other third party suppliers and urgent supplies," Peter says.

Roma Transport has also been able to implement more efficient and comprehensive reporting, and using Navman Wireless, Peter says it has become much simpler and faster to fulfil reporting obligations. The ability to combine native reporting with integration means it is possible to create complex rules beyond standard reporting and deliver custom reports based on individual company requirements. For example, if a company requires compliance to a maximum speed limit, Roma Transport can capture any exceptions by measuring instances whereby that speed limit is exceeded by a given amount for a specified length of time. Based on reports it can demonstrate safe driving behaviour, compliance to company policy and take action if required.

Peter says although some drivers had reservations about a driving behaviour tracking system, it has in fact assisted them greatly.

"The implementation of the Navman Wireless IVMS has significantly improved not just driver behaviour, but also driver attitude. Our drivers realise they are professionals and they drive like professionals. The GPS fleet tracking system has helped our drivers become safer and more aware on the roads."

Peter also cites Navman Wireless' level of service as crucial to the Roma Transport business. "The oil and gas industry is tightly regulated – if there's a problem with a vehicle, it can't be used on field. This can have a significant impact on our business. Navman Wireless' service is second-to-none, which makes a big difference to our bottom line. If something needs fixing, Navman Wireless has a local service centre with local technicians who get the job done quickly," he says.

Roma Transport's fleet has increased by 38 per cent in the past three years, which Peter attributes to Roma Transport's good reputation for offering service reliability, which has been largely enabled by deploying the right IVMS technology.