



Meticulous Staking of Electric Lines

Trimble's real-time correction service delivers a straight line to more precision, greater accuracy and enhanced precision.



Challenge

With its wide open spaces, the U.S. Great Plains stretches for hundreds of miles with lines of electric poles that seem to run straight to the horizon. For RMA Engineering LLC, a Kansas-based company specializing in the design and staking of electrical lines for rural electric cooperatives, the goal of every project is the same: straight lines. More than aesthetics, ensuring a straight line of poles is critical to the structural stability of the entire utility system. Crews rely on accurate horizontal position measurements to space the poles correctly as well as elevation measurements to choose the right-sized pole.

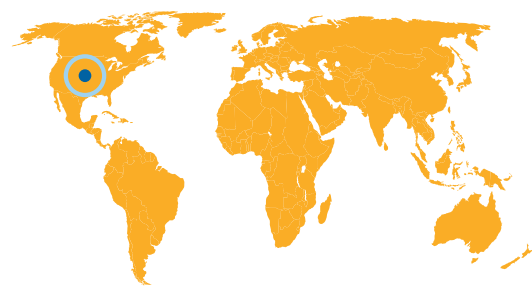
“At the end of the job, we want the poles so straight that when you line up and look down the row, all you see is the first pole,” says J.P. Metzler, PE, a civil engineer with RMA Engineering.

Solution

With exceptionally precise real-time high accuracy GNSS positioning, Trimble CenterPoint® RTX enables RMA Engineering crews to efficiently design and stake electric lines while in the field. Trimble RTX leverages data from a global network of tracking stations and advanced modeling algorithms to generate correction data for real-time precise global navigation satellite system (GNSS) positioning. By accessing current positioning accuracy in both the horizontal and vertical components, crews always know they are setting the stakes in the proper location and with the required level of accuracy.

“The system is so intuitive and easy to learn that our crews enjoy using it,” says Metzler.

With CenterPoint RTX correction service, RMA Engineering can set up that critical straight line of poles. “The straighter the poles, the stronger the line will be, which makes the whole system more resistant to strong winds or ice and snow deposits,” explains Metzler.



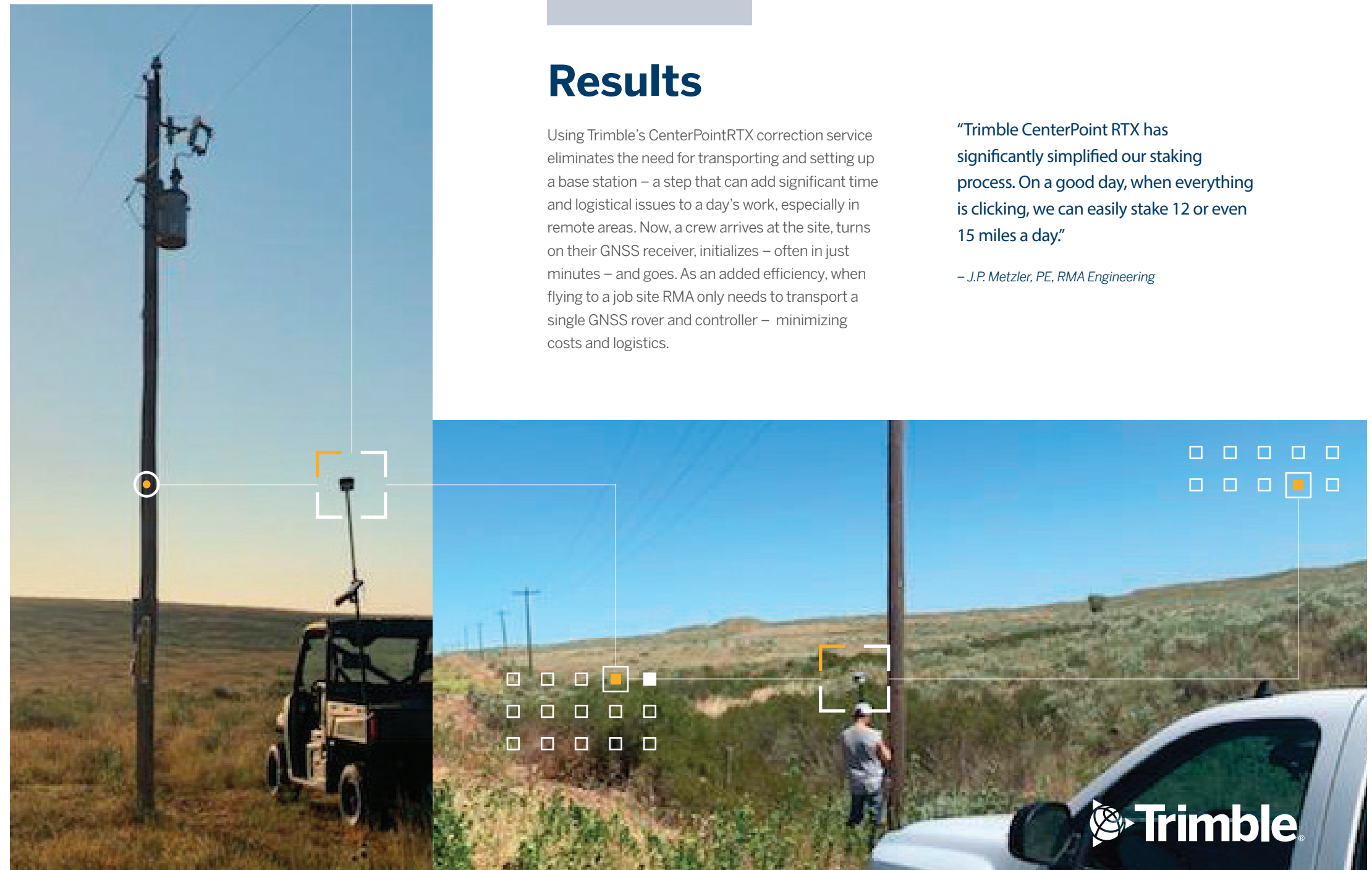
Great Plains, U.S.A.

Results

Using Trimble’s CenterPointRTX correction service eliminates the need for transporting and setting up a base station – a step that can add significant time and logistical issues to a day’s work, especially in remote areas. Now, a crew arrives at the site, turns on their GNSS receiver, initializes – often in just minutes – and goes. As an added efficiency, when flying to a job site RMA only needs to transport a single GNSS rover and controller – minimizing costs and logistics.

“Trimble CenterPoint RTX has significantly simplified our staking process. On a good day, when everything is clicking, we can easily stake 12 or even 15 miles a day.”

– J.P. Metzler, PE, RMA Engineering





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