

When Less is More



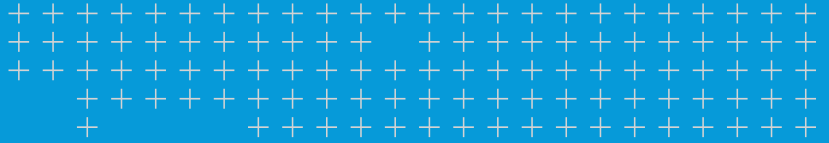
The Trimble SX10 allows users to scan an entire property.

A comprehensive scan of a property means more value, more flexibility and more data—all while spending less time in the field.

From construction to industrial and residential, how one company uses the Trimble SX10 Scanning Total Station to survey it all.

Solution

Trimble® SX10 Scanning Total Station
Trimble Business Center Software
Trimble Access™ Software
Trimble R6 Receiver



overview

One of the biggest challenges facing land surveying companies today is recruiting the right talent. Just ask Rafal Pawlowski, principal at RP & Associates Land Surveying and Drafting, LLC (RPA), which serves the Charleston, South Carolina area. “It’s becoming harder and harder to find good surveyors,” he says. “But what we lack in manpower we make up for in technology.”



Location
SOUTH CAROLINA, USA



Although just a team of three, RPA consistently punches above its weight. Its secret? Versatile technology.

“I don’t like buying a piece of equipment that only does one thing,” says Pawlowski. “The more it can do the better off we are – and the Trimble SX10 definitely delivers.”

As RPA does a wide range of surveying work, including commercial, industrial, residential and construction, it appreciates the fact the SX10 streamlines several functions. “The SX10, with Trimble Access’ integrated surveying feature, lets us jump between GNSS or conventional surveying (which can be used simultaneously) to scanning by simply switching functions in Trimble Access on the collector,” explains Pawlowski.

Pawlowski says that with the SX10 and a Trimble R6 GNSS receiver, a surveyor can connect to a VRS network and survey what they need with GNSS. They can then select the

conventional survey function and use the SX10 as a total station, and then select the scan functions to start scanning – all from the same location and without having to swap equipment or redo work.

“This lets us setup on one side of the job, jump in the truck and switch to RTK and go survey on the other side, return to where we were working, and switch back to conventional or scan without missing a beat,” says Pawlowski. “We don’t have to breakdown and move equipment every time, which makes our work more enjoyable and efficient.”

ADDED VALUE FOR THE CLIENT

With the SX10, RPA can scan an entire property instead of having to take individual shots on, for example, a building’s corners and improvements. “It may take a little longer upfront, but the scan data prevents us from having to



The SX10 lets a surveyor focus on the boundary instead of worrying about whether they missed something.

revisit a site, which saves us time and manpower,” he says. “This feature also enables us to quickly answer client requests for additional data without making another trip to the site – which is a big competitive advantage for us.”

Sometimes the scan even captures assets outside the original planning. For example, on one project, RPA noticed a trestle that the client would never have been able to get their equipment through if they didn’t know it was there. Although this wasn’t within the scope of RPA’s work, because the SX10 picked it up, the client was able to avoid a potentially time-consuming and costly headache.

“The SX10 lets a surveyor focus on the boundary instead of worrying about whether they missed a building corner, a fence post or any of the other things that need to be measured,” says Pawlowski. “At the end of the day, I’d rather get too much data and have to throw it out than have to go back to a site two or three times.”

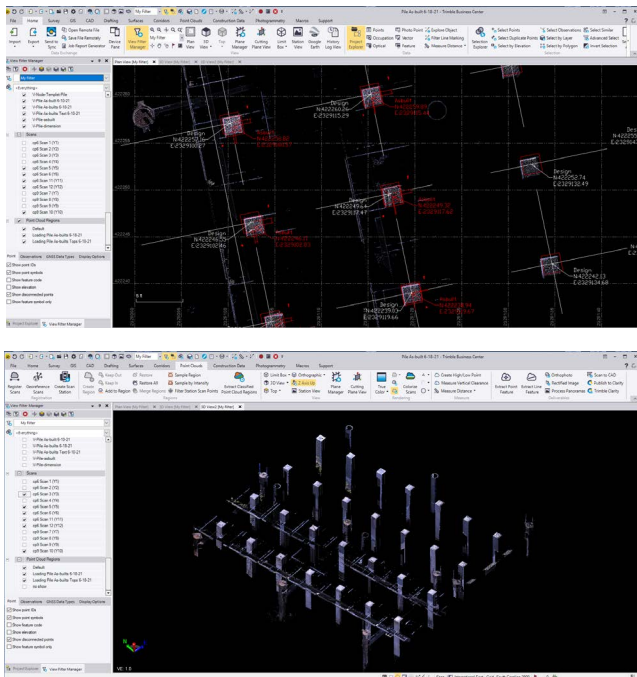
RPA recently used the SX10 on an as-built project to scan a fire sprinkler system going into a new data center. “We’re able to show the client where the lines are before they are covered or obscured by other installations,” adds Pawlowski. “This info can be particularly useful to them for running utilities in the future.”

EASY TO USE, VERSATILE AND EFFICIENT

With less time spent going back to the field, the RPA team can focus their resources on data processing and analysis. For this, they leverage the SX10’s complete integration with the familiar workflows of Trimble Access and Trimble Business Center Software. It also allows for data to be shared between team members and enables direct collaboration with other stakeholders.

Pawlowski recalls how processing used to be a cumbersome time sink that required manually registering all the scanned data into a single point cloud. “The SX10 seamlessly registers the data to where it needs to be—all you have to do is download the scan,” he says. “In less than 15 minutes we’re done and ready to analyze, where before it would have taken us that long just to download the unregistered scans.”

Thanks to its ability to streamline both fieldwork and office work, RPA has made the SX10 a permanent fixture in its everyday workflow. “Using the SX10 is simply a no brainer,” Pawlowski says.



Above: The SX10 offers complete integration with Trimble Access and Trimble Business Center Software.

Left: The SX10 seamlessly registers data to where it needs to be. All the user has to do is download the scan.

“The SX10 is easy to use, versatile and efficient – not to mention that our clients love it.”

— Rafal Pawlowski, principal at RP & Associates
Land Surveying and Drafting, LLC



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& Instrument, Inc.**
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