

Two Suppliers Team Up — Bring Modular Telemetry to MicroBulk

By Timothy A. Neeser, Chart Industries

Chart Industries offers a solution for nearly every cryogenic application on the market today, with products and services that cover the entire cryogenic value chain. Chart pioneered the concept of MicroBulk systems in the US and understands the applications and flexibility customers require to make their MicroBulk business successful.

The Cyl-Tel[®] electronic liquid level gauge designed by Chart Industries for the Perma-Cyl[®] product line was introduced in 2000 to the MicroBulk market. Since then, this telemetry ready, cost-effective gauge has become the “standard” level sensing device for the expanding cylinder and tank monitoring market. Cyl-Tel’s success has been primarily driven by its ability to connect to the wide range of telemetry platforms that have evolved in recent years, including the system from DataOnline[®]. In addition, the Cyl-Tel is CE listed for Europe and has moved into other global markets.

Now, Chart Industries has teamed up with DataOnline to repackage the Cyl-Tel electronic liquid level gauge so it can be readily upgraded in the field to transmit data to DataOnline’s secure website. DataOnline is a leading global provider of M2M (Machine-To-Machine) solutions specifically for the monitoring of remote assets (see “Trends in Telemetry: DataOnline Gears up for Global Growth,” *CryoGas International*, July 2007, p. 28). DataOnline is a technology leader in the industrial gas industry, due in large part to its success in establishing long-term relationships with gas companies and related equipment suppliers, like Chart.

The new Cyl-Tel Universal design uses the same case as DataOnline’s popular DataPort[™] telemetry unit. This redesign makes the components interchangeable between the two products — and ultimately, allows the user to select the level of technology needed for each installation. Exchanging the front gauge face of the Cyl-Tel (which carries the electronics) for a DataOnline telemetry face plate, the conversion is completed into the Cyl-Tel² telemetry system in just a matter of minutes.

With DataOnline’s wireless communication packages, the proper cell radio is ordered directly from DataOnline so it matches Perma-

Cyl’s installation address for optimum cellular coverage. There are four platforms in all, and GSM leads the way — especially in indoor installations. To power the system, two wireless options are available: a long-life replaceable alkaline battery pack can be installed inside the case, or a solar rechargeable battery system for outdoor installations can be used to achieve a longer battery life.

Another option for communications is a custom-designed, hard-wired analog phone modem. This printed circuit board is installed inside the Cyl-Tel Universal’s case for a clean installation. The phone modem may be necessary if no cell coverage is available and/or the gas supplier wants to further reduce monthly subscription call fees. For installation convenience, this hard-wired phone modem can be purchased and pre-installed in the Cyl-Tel Universal gauge on new

Perma-Cyl tanks from Chart’s factories. Once upgraded, the Cyl-Tel² transmits to a secure website hosted by DataOnline for easy tank level retrieval.

DataOnline’s web portal provides supply chain and asset management tools 24/7 to help you manage your business. This web site features automated data collection and reporting along with customized application and user interface for easy navigation. The software incorporates alarm notifications and advanced analysis with trending algorithms to better coordinate delivery routes. If customers desire the data be fed into their corporate operating system, like SAP[®] or JDE[®], DataOnline can deliver that as well. A robust fault-tolerant system can easily be accessed through a standard web browser for easy tank level retrieval.

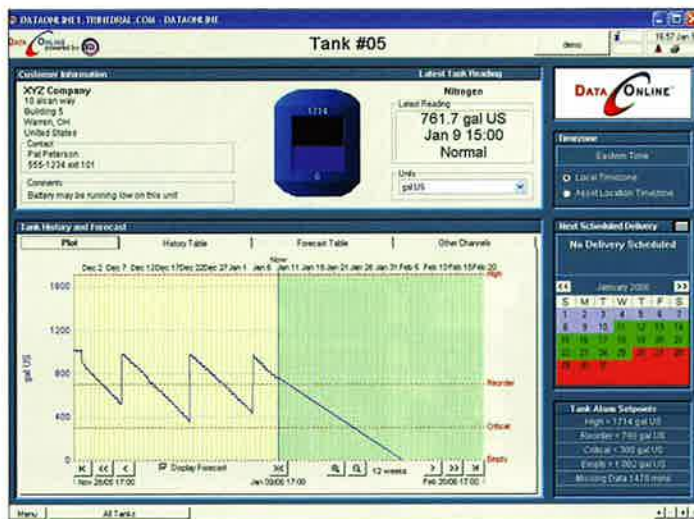
Expanding into the international markets, DataOnline is well positioned. They have an office in the United Kingdom and have recently opened a new office in Malaysia, which will support the Asian market (see *Industry News*, p. 14). As MicroBulk expands its global reach, Chart Industries and

DataOnline are poised to bring an economical wireless telemetry solution to meet the requirements of this marketplace.

For more information visit www.microbulk.com or www.dataonline.com. □



Cyl-Tel² with upgraded DataOnline cell radio for MicroBulk telemetry



Typical web view of DataOnline's reporting format