

Oil & Gas Distributor Improves Inventory Management with Wireless Level Measurement

RESULTS

- Increased visibility of tank level measurement
- Lowered risk of tank overfill
- Reduced safety risk to plant personnel

APPLICATION

Volumetric measurement of ethanol storage tanks

CUSTOMER

Oil and gas distributor in the United States

CHALLENGE

Site personnel had to manually approximate the ethanol level in storage tanks with a stick. The company needed to better monitor ethanol levels to reduce the risk of spills.

The oil and gas distributor had no automated way to measure ethanol level in their storage tanks. In addition, the distributor had no capabilities to integrate a level signal into a control system at this site.

The manual gauging process was unreliable leading to a risk of spills. The manual measurement method also exposed personnel to the fuel twice per day. In addition, climbing the tank to take the measurement was dangerous in winter months. Manual measurements took approximately a half hour per point, which in turn took at least two hours per day.

SOLUTION

Two Smart Wireless THUM™ Adapters were coupled with Rosemount 3300 Level Transmitters to wirelessly transmit volumetric measurement. Since there was not a control system to easily view the information, the measurement information was sent directly to a computer through the Smart Wireless Gateway. The distributor now has visibility to read the volumetric measurement of the ethanol storage tanks more frequently and more accurately than before. This was accomplished without the need to run new signal wires.



Rosemount THUM wireless adapter increases visibility to feedstock levels.



Figure 1. Installed Rosemount Smart Wireless THUM Adapter

The customer can now prevent overfilling the tank, thus eliminating the risk of spills. Site personnel are more efficient due to elimination of manual measurements. Project costs were minimized by eliminating the need to run new wires. Finally, safety is improved due to elimination of slips and falls during manual measurement, and reduced exposure to ethanol.

RESOURCES

Emerson Process Management Oil & Gas Industry

http://www.emersonprocess.com/rosemount/industry/oil_gas/index.html

Emerson Smart Wireless

<http://www.emersonprocess.com/rosemount/smartwireless/index.html>

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