MapTools BV

Test and Measurement Industry Boosts Efficiencies with Remote Data Acquisition Using Sierra Wireless® AirLink® Gateways - A Sierra Wireless Remote Monitoring Solution

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A Sierra Wireless Remote Monitoring Solution

CUSTOMER CRITICAL CHALLENGE

- Data acquisition for test and measurement initiatives in a variety of industries
- Required reliable connectivity to remotely acquire data from field devices in multiple locations

SOLUTION

- AirLink® intelligent gateway provides persistent high-speed connectivity, remote two-way data transmission, and a rugged design for use in harsh industrial environments

BENEFITS

- Reliable connectivity for acquisition of test and measurement data
- Remote management of devices from anywhere, at anytime
- Elimination of travel time and resource expense required for manual data extraction, saving time and money

Business Challenge

MapTools has a long track record in test and measurement, providing dataacquisition solutions to installers in industries such as energy, waste management,mining, pharmaceutical, and automation. One of the biggest challenges faced bythese industries is efficiently acquiring test data from a series of devices locatedin multiple, disparate locations. MapTools was looking to establish remote controland management capabilities for their data acquisition and test and measurementsolutions in order to eliminate the time and resources required to travel to eachindividual device, such as an electric meter, in order to download recorded test andmeasurement data.

Sierra Wireless AirLink Solution

MapTools began testing remote management devices using cellular broadband toprovide long-range connectivity to download and analyze test and measurement datain real time. MapTools trialed both a Sierra Wireless AirLink gateway and a connectivitydevice from another prominent manufacturer before deciding on the AirLink gateway.The MapTools solution consists of the gateway paired with a locally sourced ComportServer to provide remote acquisition of data from the Fluke 430 and 1700 seriesPower Quality Analyzers.

“The results we received from the AirLink device were superior,” said Michiel Nijsen,president of MapTools. “We went with the Sierra Wireless product because of the goodquality, reliability, and great customer support.”

Designed for industrial applications, the AirLink gateways are the ideal dataconnectivity device for MapTools because the rugged design assures reliableperformance in any environment. The embedded module also offers severaladvantages, including increased security and more comprehensive integrationwith remote device management tools, over a gateway with a USB stick

used forconnectivity. In addition, a vast library of embedded protocols enables advancedcoordination with other pieces of equipment in any solution.

Results

“A half-day of travel can cost a company about 400 EUR ($560 USD) in resources,”explained Nijsen. “If a company saves two or three trips a month, they will haverecouped their investment.”

Now instead of measuring data on location, customers can install energy meterswith an integrated gateway and wirelessly retrieve data remotely from that meteranytime. In addition, remote data acquisition greatly improves speed-of-delivery ofdata required for test and measurement initiatives, allowing more efficient and timelyanalysis and conclusion. Finally, the remote data acquisition capabilities offered bythe AirLink gateway have enabled MapTools to offer a complete solution to its resellercommunity.

“Because of our successful results with the Sierra Wireless AirLink gateway, we areable to add an additional revenue stream by expanding our Fluke reseller channelworldwide,” concluded Nijsen.