

SIXNET



Application Stories

Process: Energy Market Production
Integrator: Industrial Network Systems
Contact: Rex Crane
E-mail: rcrane@ins3.com
Phone: (317) 843-5504

EtherTRAK At Rolls-Royce Corporation Customer Drastically Reduces Energy and Maintenance Costs...

Problem:

Rolls-Royce Corporation is a major producer of both aircraft engines and gas turbines for the energy markets. They desired an effective "Total Monitoring Tool" to control plant energy usage and reduce maintenance cost. A system needed to be implemented to provide monitoring and logging of data from various process signals such as temperatures, flows, currents, and running times of motors within the power plant. This system would provide the basis of energy costing and the implementation of preventive maintenance schedules. Traditional PLC systems proved to be cost prohibitive and awkward due to the highly distributed nature of this project. The client opted for Ethernet communications over proprietary networks to ease integration of the data into their existing software systems.

Solution:

INS provided a solution using SIXNET's EtherTRAK I/O system. The small packaging allowed the modules to be installed into the existing control panels thereby eliminating the need for additional panels. Conduit and wiring were virtually eliminated resulting in additional cost savings. Ethernet communications right onboard the I/O modules provide a multi-access interface that is both robust and very high-speed.

Implementation:

Signal lists were compiled for each I/O "node" from which a material list was generated. The client's own maintenance personnel were able to install the equipment one node at a time. DIN rail mounting made installation a snap. The client utilized INS's engineering staff to assist with configuration of the data. SIXNET's Control Room software provided the interface to the client's monitoring software as well as OPC and DDE servers for other systems.

Result:

The client has a reliable, highly distributed data collection system with a cost savings greater than fifty percent over traditional PLC based systems.

"The true beauty behind the SIXNET solution, aside from the affordable cost, is we can accomplish the installation in-house connecting one system or machine at a time."

-Tom Jennings, - Powerhouse Superintendent, Rolls-Royce Corporation