

HotButton Solutions Launches Digital Plant Log

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Calgary-based HotButton Solutions, the software developer that bridges the gap between applications and handhelds, recently released a new product known as Digital Plant Log. This unique innovation will enable operators to record daily plant readings by entering the data directly into a handheld instead of the traditional method of recording data with a pen and paper.

Digital Plant Log was built using HotButton Solutions core technology – ArrowSync. HotButton Solutions emerged in 2002 and within one year it developed the ArrowSync solution to manage two-way data transfer between the field and multiple applications. Since then, HotButton has formed partnerships with various application companies in order to develop integrated ArrowSync solutions. These solutions are customized for each partner's application functionality. HotButton not only enables applications for quick mobile deployment to a handheld but also allows for multiple applications to be shared out to the handheld thus simplifying an operator's field data capture process.

ArrowSync was a result of the industry's need to create a field capture method that was more versatile and user-friendly. Previously, the handhelds that were used for field data capture had limited memory left after the internal memory was programmed with the application. With a limited amount of memory left on the device operators were restricted to using the devices for single applications. These single use handhelds also regularly required software upgrades that had to be done by shipping them back to the head office.

The cumbersome use of handhelds in plant operations is on the brink of dynamic change. Through ArrowSync, the information captured using Digital Plant Log is stored on a Flash Memory card not directly on the handheld enabling multiple applications and effective handheld administration. Digital Plant Log can be operated on a variety of mobile devices, including ruggedized units. The software design also provides effective data transmission in low bandwidth situations. Digital Plant Log is also compatible with identifying tags such as ButtonMemory™, RFID, Barcode, and GPS.

The data gathering template can be easily developed for the specific requirements of each facility. The captured plant log data is seamlessly stored in a central database. The IT requirements are simplified since the system is compatible with various corporate IT strategies. Security is ensured since collected data is stored on customer premises. The data collected is accessed through ArrowSync's database, ArrowData, and can be exported into an Excel spreadsheet or as a CSV file. In Excel users can manipulate and graph the information or generate standard reports using Crystal reports. Reports can either be generated directly from individual handhelds or from ArrowData. This enables the information captured to be available in report form to operations staff, plant maintenance staff, and engineering. The graphical and numeric reports produced by Digital Plant Log, are invaluable tools for anyone wanting to monitor, trend or optimize production equipment within a facility.

Digital Plant Log will help companies optimize their plant operations. With this unique and seamless ArrowSync solution, this new product will streamline data gathering and administration. The two-way communication from the handheld to head office and back again will enable companies to maximize use of field personnel at a time when human resources shortages are straining the entire oil and gas industry.

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