Remotely Monitor Volume Correctors for Safer Gas Distribution

RESULTS

• Enabled internal resources to focus on higher priority tasks

• Increased worker productivity with less windshield time

• Better able to manage volumes, pipeline and supply

• Cost was easy to get approved and prove strong return

• More accurately able to provide volume corrections, anytime

APPLICATION

Zedi Access
Zedi Go mobile app

CUSTOMER

Small gas distribution company operating in the southern United States with 39,800 end customers

CHALLENGE

Remotely located gas distribution stations was absorbing far too many people hours and increasing safety risk by constantly driving to and from site to simply monitor and keep volume correctors up to date.

Monitoring, data gathering, timely analyzing the volume data, and routine walk-outs are time consuming, human resource intensive, and continue to increase overtime and resources for sudden spikes in volume, overnight call-outs and holiday needs.

Company wanted a better way to monitor 24/7, and get notifications at predetermined thresholds for abnormal, or higher consumption rates. They also wanted a more manageable way to quickly gain data to analyze the flow and volume trend data and provide them with insights if/when more gas is required in the pipeline.

With a small amount of end customers available budget is tight and yet goal post is still to be safe and reliable service with widely varying volume usage and remote stations.

"Our focus has significantly increased on more impactful tasks and projects that we never used to seem to have time for because our people aren't on the roads nearly as much to simply check volumes. Now we know our volumes and can quickly pivot as needed, while ensuring our customers have all the final product they need at all times."

Natural Gas Distribution Company
 - Chief of Operations

Zedi SaaS SCADA

EMERSON.

SOLUTION

Solution involved getting communications with assets at each station to enable near real-time monitoring to know volumes and keep on top of consumption rates for appropriate measures and increased safety for their personnel and end customers; ensuring proper supply and volumes to meet always changing demand and needs.

Emerson provided complete training and on-boarding with live, human 24/7 support if any questions arise by end users, at anytime.

IIoT (Industrial Internet of Things) platform with SaaS (Software as a Service) was quickly budget approved with low-cost monthly charge instead of initial unattainable giant project cost. This also enabled the company to scale for it's initial, most critical needs and grow to additional assets over time as budgeting allowed for even more monitoring and in some cases control of remotely located assets.

With the new ability to monitor stations volumes from anywhere has begin to free the staff from constant trips to site to focus on more pressing matters and their core business improvements and efficiencies, while providing the best end customer experience possible. Risks where significantly reduced with only needing to go to site for scheduled or preventative maintenance while avoiding volume correction and supply concerns.

Alarms were easily set for several critical thresholds and set-points and based on authorized users status and role for volumes and other managed knowledge needs.

Now they can easily see visualized trends from analyze data for flow and volume and know exactly when more gas is required in the pipeline.

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