



Prodigy News

UPDATE

Issue No. 11

State of the art test facilities for Rover Cars

The development of two new state of the art gearbox and transmission test rigs at Rover's Longbridge facility is now well advanced. Again, Rover have chosen Tascomp's Prodigy-ET package to control and monitor the automatic test cycles.

Each test rig can be powered by either a BMW V6 petrol engine or motor driven using drives from Control Techniques.

Control of the BMW engine and auxiliary monitoring is performed directly by Prodigy-ET.



Control of the input drive and output absorb motors is via a multi-drop serial communications network to each of the drive controllers.

Automatic gear changes within the test sequence are performed by a C.P. Engineering robotic arm whose actions are supervised by Prodigy-ET.

Plans have already been made to allow road load data to be used to control future tests which will provide an even more realistic simulation of real world conditions.

CU @ C&I

Tascomp and ISS will be demonstrating Prodigy on stand A15 at the NEC, Birmingham as part of this year's Control & Instrumentation exhibition.

Please call 01642 370666 or 01943 602001 for tickets and further information.

ZENECA

Data from 20 of Zeneca's ecotoxicology laboratories is now being collected by a dual redundant PC system which runs the Prodigy SCADA package. The system makes use of a network of 86ADAM4000 data collection modules for process measurements and 20 Prodigy Remote terminals for data access in each laboratory.

The system meets the statutory requirements for Good Lab Practice by password encoding the data to ensure that the integrity of the original data set can be assured.

Zeneca are now looking to expand this system to cover another 80 key temperature points in their Husbandry department.

Expansion at Anderton International

As part of a plan to expand the production monitoring facilities at their Bingley factory, Anderton International have added another Prodigy based SCADA system. Production data from these systems will be distributed via a local area network running the Prodigy Interconnect software.

As well as monitoring two Torvac Vacuum furnaces, the system will use

Raytek's new two colour ratioing pyrometers to perform non contact temperature measurements on a part of the process which was previously deemed too difficult to monitor.

Future expansion is likely to include the addition of the effluent plant and further furnaces with the ultimate aim of monitoring the entire site through a network of Prodigy systems.

traditional wired methods due to the long distances between the control centre and each remote tank.

The second Prodigy system will "listen" to the data being transmitted from the telemetry outstations and provide a complete duplicate monitoring system (and hot stand-by) at a separate location within the power station.

Nuclear Electric will initially use these systems to monitor materials usage. By using Prodigy's automatic fax reporting package, Nuclear Electric will also be able to automate the re-ordering of product from many of their bulk material suppliers.



Nuclear Electric

Remote Tank Monitoring At Dungeness Power Station

Nuclear Electric have placed an order for two Prodigy systems through Access Instrumentation. The main system will use a radio telemetry network to collect data from a number of fuel and chemical storage tanks located on the periphery of the power station.

The use of radio communications has given significant cost savings over

British Creameries Milk Monitoring

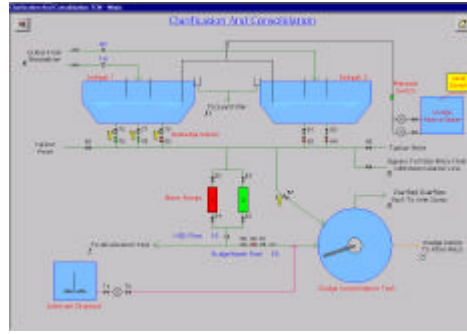
ISS have completed installation of a new Prodigy SCADA system at British Creameries West Marton factory. Temperatures from a number of milk silos and cream tanks are obtained by serial data links to West 8010 process indicators. For further information contact ISS directly on 01943 602001.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Monitoring

Tinsley Wire (Sheffield) have invested over £½m in control and monitoring systems supplied by Tascomp. As users of the Tascmaster SCADA package since 1987, Tinsley have benefitted from Tascomp's commitment to long term support, something which is all too often missing from other SCADA software suppliers.

Tinsley have recently purchased two new Prodigy based systems. One is being used in the welded mesh department for *machine utilisation and downtime monitoring*, the other has been installed into the waste water treatment plant as part of a project to *improve efficiency and reduce manning levels*.

Plant control is performed by a number of Allen-Bradley PLCs which are linked to the Prodigy system via a DH-485 network.



All key process measurements including pH, Turbidity, flow rate and volume are continuously monitored and recorded by Prodigy. This allows weekly and monthly reports to be produced automatically and process disturbances to be brought to the attention of the operator before they cause any major problems.

This system is one of the first to make use of Prodigy's on-line plant information facility to reduce operator error and improve understanding of the process.

Clutch testing at SSS Gears

SSS Gears design and manufacture *Self Shifting & Synchronising* clutches. These devices are used to automatically engage and disengage drive line power. They form a key component in many applications including ocean-going liners, power stations and submarines.

Each clutch varies in design according to its application with the largest design used for power station applications each weighing several tonnes. As part of a program of inspection and testing, each clutch is mounted in a test rig and run up to operating speed of between 2000 and 16000 RPM.

SSS Gears have ordered Prodigy-ET based test systems for four of its test rigs. Each system provides dual operator displays and continuously monitors and logs over 60 key measurements. Prodigy-ET will provide the test results in a number of formats, including pre-formatted printed reports and data files which can be accessed via the company network.



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News in Brief



Prodigy now provides communications with the Allen-Bradley PLC range. Network protocols supported include DH-485, Data Highway+, DF-1 and ControlNet.



ISS have received an order for a Raytek MP40 line scanner to be used for thermal imaging on an automotive carpet line. The system will use Prodigy's ThermMonitor package to provide a thermal image of the product as it exits the ovens. Prodigy will alarm on temperature deviations and automatically snapshot the thermal image for later analysis. This system offers many advantages over the traditional thermal cameras including reduced cost, greater accuracy of temperature measurement and integration with customers existing control equipment.



The Land Rover is arguably the worlds best **4X4XFAR**. Its reputation as one of the most indestructible off-road vehicles is legendary. To maintain this reputation it is therefore vital that all power transmission components are exhaustively tested and refined before they are incorporated into the production vehicles.

In the future the control and monitoring of these tests will be performed by Prodigy-ET which Rover has chosen as a replacement for their existing DSP based system.