

Compiled by Nicole Bowling



Rob Bissey

Metering Goes High-Tech

Wi-Fi, relay points are among new trends

As automatic meter reading becomes commonplace, utilities are able to operate more effectively and provide better customer service. *WWD* Assistant Editor Nicole Bowling recently spoke with Rob Bissey, president of Eastern Meter Management Assn., about metering challenges and trends.

Nicole Bowling: What are the latest trends in automatic meter reading (AMR) and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI)?

Rob Bissey: AMR and AMI systems are more widely available now than they have ever been. They are allowing utilities to improve customer care by giving them the ability to answer questions quickly and accurately without trips to the field.

Also, AMR leak detection for distribution systems and service line connections, using either drive-by or fixed-base AMR, is reducing non-revenue water loss. Related to this are alarm features with AMR. Utilities can monitor a customer's leak detection, tampering, empty pipe, reverse flow or backflow.

Bowling: What are the biggest metering challenges that utilities are facing?

Bissey: A big one is customer education. Before you roll out any new AMR or AMI system, you need to educate the public about what you are doing so they have a better understanding of how it will actually affect them. This way, you will minimize push back and ensure them that it is not "Big Brother" watching them.

Bowling: Have you come across any interesting projects lately?

Bissey: I read an article in the February 2012 issue of *Water & Wastes Digest* about a Kansas municipality that implemented the AquaSense water management solution from Sensus. This was really interesting.

Bowling: What are the latest technologies you are excited about?

Bissey: It depends on whether you are a public or private utility and what you want to obtain while keeping an eye on the bottom line. Two-way and one-way systems are very different,

but I haven't seen anything over the top. Mueller is making a reading and billing system that is neat because it has relay points that you can stick on utility poles to boost a subdivision to another collector if it is out of range of the main collector. It also has a relay point that actually goes in the cap of a fire hydrant, which water utilities obviously deal with. Another neat feature is that it has a meter with a valve actually on it, so if you have a customer that you want to put on reduced service or turn off for non-payment, you can do it right through the meter system.

Also, the latest thing we have seen at Eastern Meter Management is a meter from Capstone Metering that uses a Wi-Fi system for reading.

Bowling: What are your predictions for the future of AMR and AMI?

Bissey: I see it growing in use.

Everyone is looking at it and the technology is getting better. I think the leading vendors out there are constantly improving on their products. I foresee down the road some new products that we haven't even thought about.

Bowling: How can members of the metering industry keep up with the technology?

Bissey: I think the biggest thing to help with this is an organization like Eastern Meter Management. We get together quarterly and our slogan is, "Sharing the experience." We'll have a jam session where we go around the room and everyone gets to talk about what projects they have going on, what vendor they're using and problems they have had. We also have vendors come and show us new products. They give us suggestions and we give them suggestions about what we would like to see as well. Being a member of an association and sharing your experiences really makes a difference, especially when you roll out big projects. *WWD*

Rob Bissey is president of Eastern Meter Management Assn. Bissey can be reached at robb@yorkwater.com.

Nicole Bowling is assistant editor for *Water & Wastes Digest*. Bowling can be reached at nbowling@sgcmail.com or 847.391.1013.

For more information, write in 1114 on this issue's reader service form on page 50.

News Briefs compiled by *WWD* Assistant Editor Nicole Bowling

Industrial Valve Sales in Wastewater to Increase



Sales of industrial valves and actuators in wastewater will exceed \$4 billion in 2013, according to a report by Mcllvaine Co. Municipal water and wastewater will account for 18% of the total \$55-billion-dollar industry.

The report also found that the movement toward "smart valves"—valves that can be monitored remotely—is accelerating, and that actuators comprise up to 25% of the value market.

(MWRD) has received perfect scores on annual reports submitted to the National Assn. of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). Five of seven MWRD treatment facilities have received the Platinum Peak Performance Award, the highest NACWA honor.

These awards recognize exceptional performance under National Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements and federal Clean Water Act standards. The MWRD has received platinum peak performance honors for as many as 20 consecutive years of 100% compliance.

WERF Launches Online Knowledge Database



The Water Environment Research Foundation recently launched

WATERiD, an online living knowledge base that permits utilities to easily share their experiences, information and lessons learned in managing the nation's water infrastructure.

This sharing is accomplished through a "wiki"-like capability for utilities to submit their information on cost, performance and capability of various technologies. Utilities then can access all of the information necessary to assess whether a practice or technology is right for their application.

Bangladesh Gets Central Effluent Treatment Plant



Singaporean company Flagship Ecosystems Investment Private Ltd.,

together with its local Bangladeshi partner, established the first centralized effluent treatment plant in Bangladesh on a 30-year build-own-operate arrangement with BEPZA, the free trade zone authority in Bangladesh.

It will receive effluent from all generating industries in Savar Dhaka Economic Processing Zone at an approved service tariff rate with guaranteed effluent volumes. The total investment of the project was SG\$10 million.

Messe München Intl. Launches IFAT India



Messe München is broadening its international network of events to include a new tradeshow in India for the environmental technology sector.

The first IFAT INDIA will take place Oct. 24 to 26, 2013, at the Bombay Convention & Exhibition Center in Mumbai. Messe München and its subsidiary MMI India are expecting the premiere of this Indian offshoot to attract around 100 exhibitors and 6,000 visitors and to utilize 6,000 sq meters of exhibition space.

U.S.-Brazil Joint Initiative on Urban Sustainability Launches Online Tool



The U.S.-Brazil Joint Initiative on Urban Sustainability launched

a new online tool that highlights key links between policies, funding and on-the-ground projects that can help drive urban sustainability investment around the world. The Web platform features expertise from a range of public and private sector leaders.

Singapore International Water Week a Success



Singapore International Water Week, which took place at the Sands Expo and Convention Center in Marina Bay Sands, attracted 18,554 participants from 104 countries and regions, and welcomed a record 750 participating companies.

Announcements about billions of dollars worth of projects awarded, tenders, investments, and research and development memorandums of understanding were made at the event.

Networking News

- Aeration Industries appointed Brian Cohen, previously the chief operating officer, as president.
- Calgon Carbon Corp. appointed Randall Dearth as the company's new president and CEO.
- GE and memsys clearwater Pte. Ltd. will partner to develop membrane distillation technology for fuels from hydraulic fracturing. *WWD*

CPUC Approves Removal of San Clemente Dam



The California Public Utilities Commission has approved California

American Water's request to permanently remove the aging San Clemente Dam from the Carmel River on the Monterey Peninsula.

The project is unique in its approach because rather than removing the sediment—which would fill 250,000 truckloads—the accumulated sediment will be left in place and located between two new, stabilized, natural earthen structures. The Carmel River will be rerouted half a mile to bypass the sediment.

MWRD Treatment Facilities Receive NACWA Honor



For more than two decades, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

For daily news updates visit www.wwdmag.com