

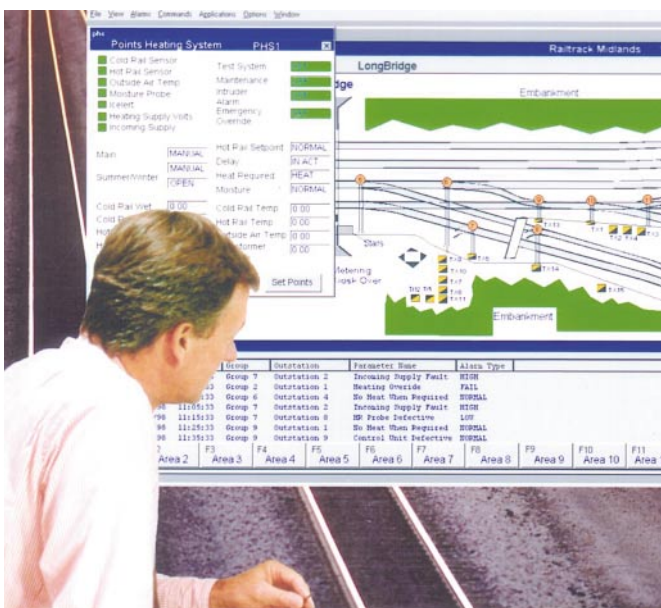
Industry: Rail

Products Used: Modular PLCs /// SCADA

Innovative open telemetry keeps track of points

Railtrack are using an innovative telemetry system from Boward Computer Services to monitor the points heating systems (PHS) and standby generators that keep the line operational in icy weather along the main rail line from Euston (London) to Birmingham.

At the central monitoring installation, Boward has employed industry standard Intel Pentium PC's running Microsoft Windows NT4.0 software. The system is backed up by further Mitsubishi PLC's configured to provide a high integrity alarm strategy.



The central computer system software is based on Mitsubishi's MX32 Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) package, and combined with Boward's open telemetry software gives a very 'user friendly' environment. The clean graphical displays provide schematic 'tree' diagrams of the network and include geographical maps of the railway's route.

Software components of the whole system have been designed to be sufficiently flexible and open to enable new enhancements to be incorporated without having to modify large amounts of code or the underlying infrastructure. The modular design of the interfaces to the SCADA package provides simple integration with any Microsoft based Active X (OLE) product. This facilitates future expansion and allows connection to Hub Supervisory, Master Supervisory or other non-related software systems.

The "openness" of the product (it follows Microsoft's Windows Open Software Applications (WOSA) standards in supporting both MAPI and ODBC) allows standard "off the shelf" communications technologies to be used, with maybe a network server added in the future to more fully utilise intranet / extranet technologies.

74 Mitsubishi Electric AnS series PLCs are distributed over the track length and report to a central monitoring computer located in Birmingham. This central PC then redistributes information and alarms to computer terminals located in 6 signal boxes along the rail line's route.

Application story first released March 1998 by Mitsubishi Electric UK