

Industry: Water

Products Used: FX PLCs /// Modular PLCs /// Networks

Overhauled telemetry equipment now uses Mitsubishi PLCs

Phase 1 of a major £5 million regional telemetry equipment renewal project being undertaken by Wessex Water, came on stream earlier this year with an installation at Keyrisham, near Bristol.



The new system utilises standard hardware and open operating systems to allow the equipment to be upgraded using non-specialist personnel, as the system develops over the years. This project is expected to save Wessex Water about £750,000 a year, and is made possible by using a cost-effective combination of small telemetry outstations, low-cost Mitsubishi Electric PLCs and standard PCs running Windows NT.

Wessex has had an extensive operational telemetry system for over fifteen years, longer than most of the other water companies, so it had become due for a major overhaul. Wessex Water's telemetry system gathers data from 1800 remote sites and presents it all to the regional control room in Bristol on colour graphics displays. Over 80,000 pieces of information are involved covering flows, pressures, reservoir levels, alarms, pump condition, high levels in sumps, and water quality

Mitsubishi Electric signed a framework agreement with Wessex last year to supply PLCs such as the A and FX series for this and other projects. According to David Barritt, Principal Engineer in Wessex Water Engineering Services the selection of Mitsubishi was made because the PLCs are "very cost-effective and ideal for the job. They have proved easy to interface with other serial devices, including Telemetry outstations. Wessex has avoided very high specification equipment with dual redundant communications and dual processors and instead opted for simple, cost-effective solutions."

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David Barritt
Wessex Water

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He continues "On the biggest sites, such as Weston super Mare, telemetry will be acting as a gateway into the whole system, and will connect onto Mitsubishi A1S PLCs which are connected together with a fibre-optic MELSECNET network"

Application story first released July 1998 by Mitsubishi Electric UK