

Ohio's City of Gahanna Taps FlexNet for Water Management System

More than 4,000 endpoints already deployed

Raleigh, NC (December 2, 2009) – A new water management system installed in July by the City of Gahanna's utility operations is reporting real-time, accurate reads and saving customers thousands of dollars in lost water. In the short time since deployment, the system has already detected over 40 leaks in 4,000 homes currently covered by the system. When fully implemented, the water management system will benefit 12,000 homes.

"We are extremely pleased with the system so far, as well as the ease of installation," says Terry Emery, Service Director of the City of Gahanna.

Gahanna utility officials have been upgrading from the Sensus TouchRead® system to the Sensus FlexNet™ product, an RF (radio frequency) wireless fixed base system that transmits information via an exclusive primary use, FCC-licensed frequency, broadcasting up to two watts of power. The combination of power and licensed spectrum provides greater range with minimal infrastructure, resulting in lower operating costs.

Only two Tower Gateway Base Stations (TGBs) were needed to collect water usage data from the utility's 12.5 square mile service territory. In a move that maximizes the existing technology infrastructure, Gahanna installed the **FlexNet** TGBs on the same site as the city's existing WiFi network. This approach enabled the utility to use the WiFi backbone to transmit data from the TGB back to the utility office. To date, both TGB's are up and running and more than 4,000 endpoints are already deployed.

"Our goal is to provide better customer service, be more conservation-driven and get as close to zero unaccounted for water levels as soon as possible. So far, that is all happening," says Emery.

Emery also says that the **FlexNet** solution is helping to change the organization's mindset from reactive to proactive. Gahanna water utility personnel can now account for the exact amount of water coming into the system from 13 different points and compare it to the amount of water sold to the utility by the City of Columbus. As a result, the utility can now more accurately budget and manage the water system and move from quarterly to monthly billing, all without reducing its staff.

"We anticipate achieving a healthy return on our investment because of the cost savings inherent to operating on a FlexNet system," Emery added.

With the success of the **FlexNet** solution, utility officials are now integrating additional devices beyond the meter.

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The company is installing Permalog+® acoustic monitoring units—another feature associated with the **FlexNet** solution— which detect vibrations caused by leaks in water pipes along the distribution lines. Permalog+® equipment monitors leak noise through pipes during the night, when ambient noise is at its lowest. If a leak is detected, the unit reports the information and directs personnel to the pinpointed location, well before the leak surfaces and damages property. The system is effective in curbing revenue loss due to leaks, promoting water conservation, and enhancing customer service.

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About Sensus

Sensus is a time-tested technology and communications company providing data collection and metering solutions for water, gas and electric utilities around the world. Sensus is a transforming force for the utilities of tomorrow through its ability to help customers optimize resources, as well as to meet conservation and customer service objectives. Sensus customers rely on the Company for expert, reliable service in order to meet challenges and exceed goals. For more information, visit www.sensus.com.

About FlexNet™

FlexNet provides the utility industry's most reliable and flexible two-way AMI fixed network. Utility customers benefit from the dependable, mission-critical performance of a dedicated, primary-use, FCC licensed and protected communications network combined with ANSI compliant metering, IP-based wide area communications, open standards home area networking, advanced smart grid products, and IP-based information systems. Sensus delivers timely and accurate AMI communications through crystal-clear and massively redundant RF data paths with double the RF power of competing systems. This empowers utilities to communicate with a complete range of endpoint devices including smart water, gas and electric meters, intelligent home devices, and distribution automation equipment in any mix of rural and urban terrain. Forward-thinking utilities confidently choose FlexNet to provide a single-technology solution that reduces cost, mitigates technology risk, enables pricing flexibility and demand response, and improves operational efficiency.

TouchRead® is a registered trademark and FlexNet™ is a trademark of Sensus USA Inc.

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