
MapTools BV

Test and Measurement Industry Boosts Efficiencies with Remote Data Acquisition Using Sierra Wireless® AirLink® Gateways - A Sierra Wireless Remote Monitoring Solution



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A Sierra Wireless Remote Monitoring Solution

CUSTOMER CRITICAL CHALLENGE

- Data acquisition for test and measurement initiatives in a variety of industries
- Required reliable connectivity to remotely acquire data from field devices in multiple locations

SOLUTION

- AirLink® intelligent gateway provides persistent high-speed connectivity, remote two-way data transmission, and a rugged design for use in harsh industrial environments

BENEFITS

- Reliable connectivity for acquisition of test and measurement data
- Remote management of devices from anywhere, at anytime
- Elimination of travel time and resource expense required for manual data extraction, saving time and money

Business Challenge

MapTools has a long track record in test and measurement, providing data acquisition solutions to installers in industries such as energy, waste management, mining, pharmaceutical, and automation. One of the biggest challenges faced by these industries is efficiently acquiring test data from a series of devices located in multiple, disparate locations. MapTools was looking to establish remote control and management capabilities for their data acquisition and test and measurement solutions in order to eliminate the time and resources required to travel to each individual device, such as an electric meter, in order to download recorded test and measurement data.

Sierra Wireless AirLink Solution

MapTools began testing remote management devices using cellular broadband to provide long-range connectivity to download and analyze test and measurement data in real time. MapTools trialed both a Sierra Wireless AirLink gateway and a connectivity device from another prominent manufacturer before deciding on the AirLink gateway. The MapTools solution consists of the gateway paired with a locally sourced ComportServer to provide remote acquisition of data from the Fluke 430 and 1700 series Power Quality Analyzers.

“The results we received from the AirLink device were superior,” said Michiel Nijssen, president of MapTools. “We went with the Sierra Wireless product because of the good quality, reliability, and great customer support.”

Designed for industrial applications, the AirLink gateways are the ideal data connectivity device for MapTools because the rugged design assures reliable performance in any environment. The embedded module also offers several advantages, including increased security and more comprehensive integration with remote device management tools, over a gateway with a USB stick

used for connectivity. In addition, a vast library of embedded protocols enables advanced coordination with other pieces of equipment in any solution.

Results

“A half-day of travel can cost a company about 400 EUR (\$560 USD) in resources,” explained Nijsen. “If a company saves two or three trips a month, they will have recouped their investment.”

Now instead of measuring data on location, customers can install energy meters with an integrated gateway and wirelessly retrieve data remotely from that meter anytime. In addition, remote data acquisition greatly improves speed-of-delivery of data required for test and measurement initiatives, allowing more efficient and timely analysis and conclusion. Finally, the remote data acquisition capabilities offered by the AirLink gateway have enabled MapTools to offer a complete solution to its reseller community.

“Because of our successful results with the Sierra Wireless AirLink gateway, we are able to add an additional revenue stream by expanding our Fluke reseller channel worldwide,” concluded Nijsen.