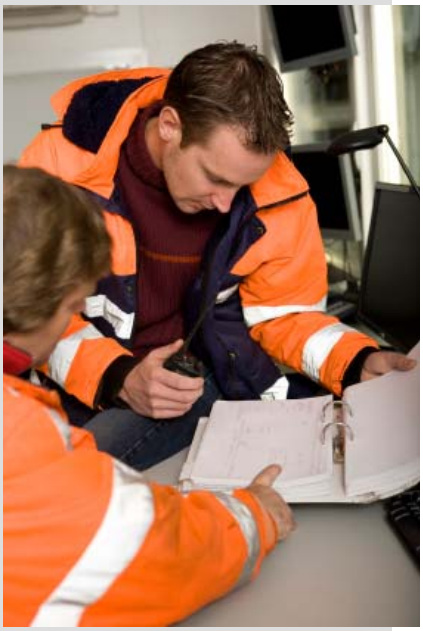
The OMNI Transmitter

OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

- INSTRUMENT INSTALLATION
- TECHNICIAN SERVICES
- UL PANEL FABRICATION

INSTRUMENTATION ENGINEERS AND CONTRACTORS

Inside This Issue:



Project Process Control: Your Recipe for Success

By: Mike Kornas

Before we delve into the specifics of project process control, I want to point out that your choice of instrumentation contractors can spell the difference between a successful project and one fraught with problems. It is vital for you to know that your process and controls are the most important part of your project. When controls don't work properly, real problems can arise at the most inopportune times and send a project to a screeching halt, which we've often seen when we have been called to step in and fix projects beset by problems that would have been foreseen by more attentive and qualified contractors. And, of course, when process and controls are flawed from the get-go, building functionality will be negatively affected in the long term.

To ensure smooth sailing on your process control project:

1. **Prequalify your instrument contractors and system integrators.** Find out what projects they have completed recently, and make the call to the clients to find out how they did. Ask about their strengths and weakness, and how they performed throughout the project, start to finish. That phone call can be worth so much!

2. **Provide your bidders with your list** of project details that are of critical importance to you and find out how much money will be dedicated toward each these particulars. This can indicate the seriousness of your bidders and how mindful they are to your primary project concerns, such as instrument check, certifying networks, loop check, calibrations, startup assistance, etc.

3. **Involve the bidders in document review and value engineering.** Ask questions, and thoroughly evaluate the value of their input. Again, you can learn a lot about who has put serious thought into your project, and who is merely putting in a price.

4. Once you have a quality contractor on board, **perform a full review of drawings and specs** to avoid potential problems and leverage opportunity wherever possible. Experience should be valued, captured and implemented. Unless you're in the business of fixing problems, you don't know they exist. *cont. pg. 2*

OMNI INSTRUMENTATION SERVICES, INC.

Omni
316 Dalziel Road
Linden, NJ 07036
PH - 908-523-0800
FX - 908-523-0801
www.omniinst.com

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5. **Make sure** you purchase, receive, thoroughly inspect, bench calibrate, document and properly turn over all instruments in a timely manner. You don't want to find out you have the wrong instrument at startup and a replacement is 6-8 weeks away. Ouch.

6. **Get your contractor involved** with coordinating locations of controls, indicating transmitters, control panels, and everything users and maintenance workers will operate and maintain. This makes a happy client and user in the end.

7. **Loop check and calibration** should be well planned between the instrument contractor and system integrator. They should work as a team, with a mutual and agreed-upon goal. When problems arise that need fixing, one team can drop back and fix problems while the other team forges ahead.

8. Finally, you should **thoroughly involve** your instrument contractor with the commissioning process. Their hands-on experience and knowledge can speed up commissioning and resolve technical issues on a variety of aspects of the project. You might want to perform the first field calibration, as well. This can bring you to and through validation smoothly and successfully, rather than doing a last-minute scramble in the end.

The OMNI Safety Corner

Omni Instrumentation boasts one of the best safety records in our industry, with 8+ years of no recordable incidents.

Omni has participated in numerous OSHA VPP projects, and we are ISNetworld approved.

OMNI TECH TALK: Selecting The Right Temperature Transmitter

Temperature sensing and measurement is the most widely-measured process variable in industry. Manufacturers have created countless unique application-specific temperature transmitter options to fill every need. With the wide variety of transmitters available, users must pinpoint their needs for their particular application.

Omni has a world of field experience in a myriad of applications and can help in the complicated process of choosing the best temperature transmitter. Call Mike Kornas at 732-522-6378.

Also, read "Tips on Choosing a Temperature Transmitter".

OMNI & MOLLY BEAR

On July 24, Omni V.P. Craig Drabyk competed in his first triathlon to help support the Molly Bear Foundation. Named in loving memory of Molly Elizabeth Brown, this organization provides supplemental financial support to families of children with Trisomy 18, a genetic chromosomal defect. There are varying degrees of developmental and medical issues associated with T18, but many are potentially life threatening. While many children born with T18 will not survive these early challenges, more and more babies are beating the odds, living longer lives, and bringing joy to their families.

Please visit **www.mollybear.org** for more information.

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FROM THE PANEL SHOP:

Panel Environments: Choose Wisely (or Spend Plenty)

Explosion-proof. Washdown. Clean environments, harsh chemical environments. Stainless vs. other. The list goes on and on. There are so many choices for so many environments. But before you make any choices, you have to ask and answer a variety of important questions that can potentially either save, or add, tens of thousands of dollars to your bottom line.

Can I place my control panels in a general purpose or non-hazardous environment? Do I need to have VFDs with stainless enclosures? Can the control panel be located where it can be easily accessed for maintenance, as opposed to in an area where gowning up or opening panels to an XP environment is required? Can we run the HMIs with a pneumatic purge and vortex cooler, rather than XP? You also need to find out what your vendors are providing. Do they know the project well, or do they have a spec and P&ID to build from? These questions must be considered as well.

It is well worth your time to question and review each panel's purpose, location and maintenance needs. Too often, what is on the drawing may be purchased and installed without a second thought as to what is best for the application. Develop a partnership with the user as to what they really need locally and what can be remote. You may be surprised by the simplicity that can replace complexity when you drive the details home.

If you need expert help in panel design, fabrication, location and maintenance, Omni can help. Please call our panel shop expert, Chris Czubowitz, at 908-523-0800.