Monitoring at night

DACS: A home-grown solution for pump station monitoring without the cost of a PLC

BY MICHAEL LEVANS

SAN FRANCISCO — During his 15 years in the pump-station business, Pump Repair Service’s John Dexter never had a clue as to the status of a station while it hummed away unattended at night.

"Electricity is expensive and water costs money," said Dexter. "If you can find out what a pump station is doing you can tailor your irrigation system to be more efficient."

If a station’s vital information — flow, upstream and downstream pressure, etc. — can be harnessed using existing equipment to monitor status and alert a superintendent to a problem without buying a PLC, thought Dexter, then maybe pumping efficiency and cost savings could be achieved.

Enter the Data Acquisition and Control System (DACS), a home-grown project...

RohMid, Rohm & Haas get the nod

By Michæl Levans

Parsippany, N.J. — It’s been nearly two years of waiting, but RohMid, the much ballyhooed joint venture between Rohm & Haas Co. and American Cyanamid Co. to develop and market Mach 2 (see related story to right), a turf insecticide, has named Fred Belledin and Chris Shadday to its board of directors.

Belledin currently serves as sales manager for Rohm and Haas agricultural chemical products in North America, while Shadday was recently named turf and ornamental product manager for North America.

Cyanamid moves Gajewski up

Parsippany, N.J. — American Cyanamid Co. has named Ed Gajewski business director of marketing services for its Specialty Products Department.

Cyanamid’s Specialty Products includes the herbicide and insecticide manufacturer’s Forestry, Industrial Vegetation Products, Consumer, Pest Control, Turf and Ornamental groups.

Chr. Hansen expands tech. services

Milwaukee — Microbial manufacturer Chr. Hansen Biosystems has appointed William Kautz, DVM, as director of technical services and product development and James Nocek, Ph.D., as research and technical services manager. Kautz will oversee university research and field trials, product development and technical staff, while Nocek will work closely with personnel at Hansen’s Milwaukee headquarters.

RAINBIRD UPGRADE FINISHED AT BALTSUROL

A combination of Rain Bird’s full-and part-circle Eagle 700, 750 and 900 series rotors were recently added during an upgrade of Baltusrol’s irrigation system. One of the goals of the upgrade was to allow the roughs to be watered separately from the rest of the course.

Operated by a Nimbus central control, Baltusrol’s system includes a network of 137 MSC satellites, the Freedom System, a StormWatch System and a Rain Bird weather station.

Toro/ Hardie: Just a little bit closer

Bloomington, Minn. — Taking another step in its integration with the James Hardie Irrigation Group, The Toro Company has announced a new facility strategy for its irrigation operations.

Administrative and distribution functions currently at the Toro Hardie Irrigation facility in Laguna Niguel, Calif. — Hardie’s headquarters — will move to Toro’s Riverside, Calif., irrigation headquarters. The company currently has 99 employees at Laguna Niguel — all but 15 were offered positions in Riverside. The company said the move to Riverside should be complete by the end of November.

In related news, Toro said it will “exchange manufacturing expertise” between the Riverside site and its Toro Hardie El Paso, Texas, manufacturing plant. All Toro irrigation valves that are now produced in El Paso, as well as all Toro irrigation spray production, will take place at Riverside. The company said the shift is not expected to affect the number of jobs at each location.

“Those moves...will let each facility specialize in the production technology that they do best,” said Rick Parod, vice president and general manager of Toro’s U.S. irrigation business. “We’re pleased that the integration is progressing smoothly and that we can achieve synergies with a minimum of disruption and job loss.”

In other Toro news, the company has...
**Scotts breaks new ground**

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — The Scotts Company has started construction of its $9.1 million, 450,000-square-foot warehouse project designed to hold an average monthly inventory equaling $15 million.

The company said the new warehouse, which will be adjacent to the company's headquarters, will be devoted to storing cent to the company's headquarters. The warehouse will be located at the company's Marion, Ohio, warehouse to professional products, allowing Scotts to dedicate its Marion, Ohio, warehouse to professional products.

Opening is slated for early fall. According to Robert Inman, Scotts vice president of distribution, "This new warehouse will consolidate much of our central Ohio inventories in one location, which will allow us to be more efficient. This will, in turn, improve our ability to service our customers."

Features include storage capacity in excess of 60 million pounds of finished product, loading dock doors for 45 trucks as well as parking for more than 200 trailers. It will be connected to an existing 250,000-square-foot warehouse — the same site where the company houses its primary manufacturing facilities.

**AgriBioTech buys Burlingham**

LAS VEGAS—AgriBioTech has completed the acquisition of Forest Grove, Ore.-based E.F. Burlingham & Sons, an 85-year-old turfgrass seed company.

According to Dr. John Thomas, AgriBioTech's chief executive officer, the move helps the company in its vertical integration by adding additional research, production and distribution capabilities, and supplements AgriBioTech's international sales. The move gives the company access to proprietary turf varieties from Burlingham; however, Burlingham will continue to market its proprietary turf products through its traditional channels.

For Burlingham, the deal should grease its established research wheel. "Even though we have good research established, this should help us expand a good deal," said Zenon Lis, Burlingham's spokesperson.

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Now, golf course superintendents can change the course of turfgrass disease control with HERITAGE, a completely new fungicide with a novel mode of action.

HERITAGE will give your golf course round-the-clock protection against devastating diseases. With its powerful combination of preventative and curative activity and its high level of effectiveness against 18 of the toughest turf diseases, HERITAGE will make an outstanding difference in the quality and health of your turfgrass.

The active ingredient in HERITAGE is based on naturally occurring fungicides, called strobilurins, which are found in certain mushrooms.

HERITAGE has a novel mode of action which is different than any other fungicide now on the market.

It has both preventative and curative activity and is absorbed into the leaf blades and stems as well as taken up by the roots. This ensures that your golf course is protected from the devastating effects of turfgrass diseases.

HERITAGE is the only fungicide available that controls both brown patch and Pythium, as well as take-all patch, summer patch, anthracnose and snow mold—an unprecedented advantage for the turf professional's disease program. HERITAGE is also effective against certain fungicide-resistant pathogens, making it an extremely useful tool in resistance management strategies.