Pipe Lines

A SCADA-focused Newsletter from Data Flow Systems

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Johns Island Water Company, SC

Our friends in Johns Island took the first steps to update their 25-year-old DFS system when they replaced their UHF communications with a more robust VHF system. DFS coordinated and acquired a VHF frequency and installed new radios and antennas throughout their utility service area. Colleen Schild, Engineer and Assistant Manager, said the transition went very smoothly, without a single off-line or alarm over the two-day startup period. Johns Island has also ordered a new Hyper SCADA Server (HSS) and an upgrade to our new HT4 platform, which will be implemented in 2021. Every year we see our utility customers choose the cost-effective route of updating their aging SCADA systems, opting out of the sky-high cost of replacing them. Our TACII systems were designed from the start—40 years ago—to ensure that new technology would always be downward compatible with our more mature systems.

Tech Tip

Healthy Batteries For A Secure Backup

Commercial power is frequently unreliable. Power failures, momentary outages and flickering power, power surges and erratic three-phase power are not uncommon occurrences and can wreak havoc with your SCADA system. Your system can withstand most of these eventualities as long as the system batteries are maintained and in proper working order. Unfortunately, the chore of battery maintenance is commonly overlooked.

In a power failure, a functioning battery that keeps an RTU in communication can provide enough time to prevent a sewage spill or it can save data that would otherwise be lost. The duration of uninterrupted power that a properly functioning battery can provide varies according to the size and function of the RTU, TCU, CTU or HSS. DFS engineers have calculated the expected duration of battery power under varying conditions and our sales personnel can help you choose the right replacement battery.

Battery function is vital but requires consistent attention and a regular maintenance program. Click this battery maintenance link to see detailed instructions on testing and maintaining your system batteries.

Happy Holidays From Everyone at Data Flow Systems

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Forget the big, up-front capital expenditure. Ask us about SAAS - SCADA as a Service.