



■ (Left) The Satellite Monitoring Unit (SMU) illustrated above includes a SatAlarm Interface Device (SID), satellite modem, terminal blocks and a backup lithium battery. (Right) This pole-mounted unit is equipped with American Millennium Corporation Inc.'s (AMCi's) integrated solar panel power supply.



## ECONOMICAL SATELLITE MONITORING UNIT

### AMCi SMU Offers Upgrade Path as Analog Cellular Service Disappears

According to Steve Watwood, president and chairman of American Millennium Corporation Inc. (AMCi), equipment operators who have depended on analog cellular phone service for their remote machine monitoring needs will soon find themselves without service as providers finally drop all support for analog technology, a process that began January 1, 2007. He said that AMCi has developed a solution to that development in the form of an economical Satellite Monitoring Unit (SMU) that can be installed quickly and offers a number of advantages over the earlier technology.

An SMU can be self-powered with lithium batteries or rechargeable batteries and a solar panel, or both. It can also draw from 12 or 24 Vdc or 110 Vac site power. However the unit is powered, lithium batteries can be added for backup in the event of power site failure.

The SMU can be used in a wide range of applications such as compressor monitoring (alarms and operational data), gas flow monitoring, generator monitoring, irrigation and other pump systems and much more. It's even possible to monitor several pieces of equipment at a single site, the company said.

In its standard form, the basic features of the unit include four digital ports that can be configured as inputs or outputs, one 8-bit analog input and an RS232 serial port. In addition, a built-in GPS unit can be used to detect and record location, speed and heading for mobile equipment. The unit also allows two-way communica-

tions, allowing it to be polled for current site conditions or remote reprogramming.

When augmented with AMCi's optional SatAlarm Interface Device (SID), the SMU can communicate with intelligent field devices and controllers that use serial protocols such as MODBUS. It can also monitor and control additional analog and digital ports, including pulse output devices.

Finally, the SMU can be made even more convenient and useful when linked with AMCi's SatAlarm-Server, according to Watwood. SatAlarm-Server is a software product that enables users and administrators to interact with and manage individual and fleets of remote assets through a web browser from anywhere with Internet access.

With it, users can generate and print reports, export data files, utilize full mapping features, determine last known status, poll for data and location and establish unlimited electronic alarm notifications. That access is secure within a password-protected website.

SatAlarm-Server is a robust system that manages all the data flow and presentation between the SatAlarm products in the field and end users wherever they may be. SatAlarm-Server is hosted on AMCi-owned servers located at a secure Tier-1 co-location facility in downtown Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., monitored and staffed 24 hours a day. A second, fully functional backup system is installed on AMCi's servers at its Golden, Colorado, headquarters. ■

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