

PRESS RELEASE

The King's Lynn Consortium of Internal drainage Boards main office is in King's Lynn in Norfolk and provides administrative and engineering services to their 16 member IDB's. The Consortium is one of the largest in the UK and looks after a total area of some 100,000 hectares, with 3,500 kilometres of main drain served by 43 pumping stations, and other outfall sites within it's control.

Ben Hornigold the chief engineer is a firm believer in new technology to aid his engineering dept, enabling them to respond to situations more quickly and allowing more informed decisions to be taken. With this in mind Oriel Systems were asked to provide a feasibility study and proposals on how best to achieve a cohesive telemetry strategy, that would provide both the current monitoring, control, reporting and alarm notification the Consortium needed with the ability to extend and expand the system as the Board's requirements change and technology evolves.

The first phase of the project included monitoring and control to a number of the key installations in the Gaywood, West of Ouse and Wingland areas of the Consortium. Because of the salt-water environment and high silt content, this was an area where other manufacturers equipment had failed repeatedly in the past. Oriel System's have installed AWAX Intelligent Telemetry Outstations, based around a 33MHz Intel processor chip, the most powerful and technologically advanced outstation available, with up to 18 hours autonomy in mains fail situations. AWAX solar powered outstations were installed at sites where mains power is not available. Oriel Systems provides the Consortiums engineers with live data from these locations, displayed at the Consortiums offices in a pictorial format. Alarms are notified by on-screen messages and audible alarm messages which are dialled out directly to engineers mobile phones, proving that reliability and 24-hour operation do not present any difficulties, even in aggressive environments.

The second phase of the project included the remaining major sites in the Western side of the Consortium's area, which included direct control of Rotork and Limitorque winch gear, for remote back penstock control and, on-line rainfall monitoring together with many additional remote sites being added to the system. Current extensions to the system include led display panel covering the entire 160,000 acres of the drainage boards area of responsibility.

The planned third phase will include a high speed ISDN digital link to a new sub-master station base in the eastern side of the Board's area. This unmanned site with a radio mast will provide full radio coverage over the entire eastern area of the Board's jurisdiction and enable full live data access without the usual transmission delays and reliability problems normally associated with long distance public telephone network based systems and experienced with other manufacturers equipment.

The entire system was installed by Oriel Systems in partnership with the King's Lynn Consortium of IDB's and is managed, supported and maintained by Oriel System engineers from their local East Anglia office.

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