

Industry: Water

Products Used: Modular PLCs /// Networks /// Telemetry

# PLCs reduce costs in the water industry

Environmental performance is now a major factor in a Water company's operations. Water Companies need to look for new ways to reduce costs and improve efficiency in order to release capital for reinvestment. By signing an agreement with Mitsubishi Electric, and making Mitsubishi the approved supplier of PLC equipment over the next two years, Wessex Water aim to reduce their automation costs by 15%.



Wessex Water takes away over 800 million litres of waste water from 2.5 million people every day. A network of 14,700 km of sewers and 1,178 pumping stations transport the sewage to 351 treatment works. Waste water flows from housing estates, factories and small towns to collect in underground sumps. From here, it is transported to the treatment plant via unmanned pumping stations. Wessex Water plan to install a PLC in each pumping station to control and monitor the pumpsets. It will link to a regional telemetry system (RTS) which will then send data to a central control room in Bristol.

*Application story first released May 1997 by Mitsubishi Electric UK*

The seven largest Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) manufacturers were invited by Wessex Water's Engineering Services Division to tender for the supply of the PLC equipment over the next two years. According to David Barritt, Principal Engineer at Wessex Waters Engineering Services, "Having a single source of PLC systems, training and support will reduce the total cost of ownership of control systems considerably".

Wessex Water chose the package offered by Mitsubishi Electric. "Mitsubishi offered the best deal in terms of cost, performance and support. From an engineering point of view, Mitsubishi's range best matched our requirements." comments David Barritt.

PLC systems will be used on new environmental projects, such as waste water treatment plants, water supply plants, pumping stations and water quality monitoring throughout the Wessex region.

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David Barritt  
Wessex Water

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Wessex Water's agreement with Mitsubishi Electric will reduce capital and running costs significantly. The money saved will allow Wessex Water to maintain its environmental performance and continue to improve the service provided to its customers.