

## Gaz de France Improves Platform Control with FOUNDATION Fieldbus



“With Honeywell’s FOUNDATION Fieldbus technology Gaz de France now has greater manufacturing flexibility and productivity. We have been able to achieve this through better access to process information enabled by fieldbus diagnostics and performance analysis data. The ability to predict different diagnostics also helps increase platform uptime and performance by detecting or predicting deteriorating performance and failure conditions before they cause any problems.”

Hans Kwee, Instrumentation, Gaz de France

### Benefits

Gaz de France faced the challenge of improving process control on its various offshore platforms. A major part of the challenge required upgrading technology from traditional pneumatic controls and discrete wiring. The company turned to Honeywell for its FOUNDATION Fieldbus solution, an all-digital, serial two-way communications system that serves as the base-level network for the offshore platform production environment.

With Honeywell’s FOUNDATION Fieldbus, Gaz de France has the intention to achieve the following benefits:

- Savings in total installation costs
- Decreased maintenance costs
- Enabled remote monitoring and maintenance
- Reduced operating costs through a reduction in the number of unexpected helicopter trips to platforms
- Improved asset reliability and management
- Improved analysis of field data
- Faster platform startup
- On-time project delivery



Gaz de France uses Honeywell’s FOUNDATION Fieldbus technology for remote offshore platform control and increased uptime.

### Background

Gaz de France is a major European energy company with a workforce of more than 53,000. The company produces, transports, distributes and sells gas and services to 13.8 million customers (individuals, companies, local authorities). With 28 offshore platforms in the English Channel and North Sea, Gaz de France is Europe’s number one distributor of natural gas, and one of the world’s top five providers of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

### Challenges

Gaz de France wanted to enable easier maintenance of field instruments and identify early detection and notification of potential problems with Fieldbus devices. By doing so the company would eliminate unplanned downtime and reduce

maintenance time and labor costs at its +/- 28 offshore platforms. The company made the decision to move from conventional controls to FOUNDATION Fieldbus devices on a number of its new offshore platforms.

"We knew that FOUNDATION Fieldbus could offer distinct advantages over traditional analog and discrete wiring or even other digital buses at lower total installed cost and lower ongoing costs," said Hans Katers, Mining Installation Head, Gaz de France. "The key challenge was establishing the FOUNDATION Fieldbus technology on offshore platforms so they could all be controlled remotely."

### Solution

After careful consideration and evaluation, Gaz de France selected Honeywell for its expertise in FOUNDATION Fieldbus. It also considered Honeywell's value as a vendor for control systems - Gaz de France had recently implemented of Honeywell's Experion® Process Knowledge System (PKS) with success.

To date, six out of Gaz de France's 28 platforms have Honeywell's FOUNDATION Fieldbus technology installed for two-way communication and remote control. Gaz de France has employed a variety of FOUNDATION-compliant transmitters.

"Honeywell basically guaranteed the interoperability of its system and they didn't disappoint," continued Katers. "The Honeywell FOUNDATION Fieldbus system was able to integrate with Honeywell transmitters as well as other third-party transmitters."

In addition to the remote platforms, Gaz de France's on-site gas plant also operates with Honeywell FOUNDATION Fieldbus

### More Information

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technology integrated with Experion.

Continued Kwee, "The integration of our Experion system with FOUNDATION Fieldbus technology has gone well, and we are very pleased with the bi-directional communications among field devices to the control system. It definitely provides us with a significant advantage."

With previous traditional analog and discrete devices, operations staff had no way to tell if these devices were operating correctly or if the process information they sent was valid. As a consequence, technicians would spend more time verifying device operation. But with FOUNDATION Fieldbus devices, the users can tell if devices are operating correctly and if the information they're sending is good, bad or uncertain. This eliminates the need for most routine checks and helps detect failure conditions before they cause a major process problem.

Concluded Kwee, "The ability to perform predictive maintenance scheduling, enabled by better process diagnostics, performance analysis data and operational statistics will provide a huge advantage for the users. The bottom line is significant savings in the number of unexpected helicopter rides out to the platforms when something goes wrong."

Because of the success of Honeywell's FOUNDATION Fieldbus technology, Gaz de France plans to install the solution on two new platforms in 2007.