Husky Energy

Summary
- Upstream Service group required high speed access to remote offices with secure and reliable VPN Capabilities
- SCADA division required modem with basic connectivity for PLC/RTU interface
- Both groups required a modem management solution for large scale deployment

Oil & Gas SCADA and Upstream Services

Husky is one of Canada’s largest energy companies in the Oil & Gas sector. Active in the exploration and production of heavy oil, light crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids, Husky is experiencing rapid growth in all business units.

The Issue(s)

Husky Energy required two solutions for two different groups. The Upstream Services group required a high speed VPN capable cellular device that could provide secure and reliable network access for their remote offices. This was paramount to ensure productivity and to provide workers with complete access to company resources.

The SCADA group had a more basic requirement in terms of speed, but also needed a robust and reliable product, with large stock availability to interface with remote PLCs, RTUs and other automation and monitoring equipment. A solution with flexible local interfaces such as RS232, RS485 and Ethernet, was critical.

As with most Energy companies, installations are typically located in remote areas and extreme environmental conditions where sending personnel to the site would be cost and time intensive, meaning reliability is extremely important. Due to the sheer volume of locations included in the project it was also important to have a mechanism to monitor and manage all cellular devices remotely.

The Solution(s)

Microhard Systems Inc specializes in developing and manufacturing rugged wireless solutions that excel in demanding conditions. With several M2M cellular devices designed specifically with harsh, industrial environments in mind, the IPn4G Cellular 4G LTE Ethernet/Serial Gateway was ideal for the Upstream Services group. Utilizing the latest in LTE technology, the IPn4G provides an amazingly fast, secure, and robust Gateway-to-Gateway VPN connection to network remote offices allowing field personnel unprecedented access to corporate resources.

Providing a more basic, but robust cellular connection, the IPn3G Cellular Ethernet/Serial/USB Gateway was the perfect solution for the SCADA group. The IPn3G is a mature product with proven, field tested reliability, large install base, and stock availability made field installations seamless.

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The industrial grade RS232/485 Serial interface and the 10/100 Ethernet interface made connecting a large variety of SCADA devices possible, without the need for additional adapters, converters or complex wiring. With the use of simple port forwarding capabilities, and/or integrated serial to IP conversion, critical SCADA data & measurements could be brought back to the head office.

Results

Microhard Systems was able to provide a rugged, reliable, innovative solution that met or exceeded all requirements of the project. Responsive technical support and assistance allowed both Husky groups to quickly and easily integrate the Microhard Devices into their network.

The current installation progress as of January 2014 is well over 200 units with a total project scope of around 1000 units planned for the coming year.