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Field testing paves the way for WirelessHART

A field test at BASF in Ludwigshafen, Germany has demonstrated that WirelessHART delivers outstanding performances in practice.

In January 2009, NAMUR published its recommendation NE 124 “Requirements for Wireless Automation“ whose purpose is to stipulate minimum requirements for standards and technologies of wireless automation to ensure investment payoff and sustainable application in process engineering. One of the recommendation’s central demands is for vendors to provide standardized solutions to ensure a maximum level of interoperability and interchangeability regardless of manufacturer.

In the late summer of 2009, NAMUR and the HART Communication Foundation (HCF) conducted a field test at BASF in Ludwigshafen with active support from Pepperl+Fuchs. During the field test, the interoperability of WirelessHART devices from a variety of manufacturers was put to the test. The results were more than conclusive as the WirelessHART technology performed flawlessly and the devices showed full compatibility with one another without exception. There is now nothing standing in the way of the market launch of WirelessHART.

All non-critical measured values that have no influence on the process can be transferred easily via the WirelessHART radio network. WirelessHART is easy to install and enables system operators to acquire information that they can use to their advantage:

- to monitor system components
- as a planning tool for preventive maintenance
- for process optimization

WirelessHART provides system operators with a tool that helps save time as well as costs.

The radio network organizes, optimizes and repairs itself without requiring intervention from the user. WirelessHART devices are installed and operated in the same way as conventional field devices. The technical know-how required to set up, operate and maintain the system is kept to a minimum as a result.

The WirelessHART gateway collects the different measured values and sends them to the control system via different interfaces.

WirelessHART is an important supplement to your existing communication infrastructure.

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Fig. 1: The Pepperl+Fuchs WirelessHART devices delivered a perfect performance during field testing.