



Tech notes

June 2005



Pre-engineered Package Lift Stations for Wastewater and Stormwater

Product Information & Updates • Installation & Technical Tips

THIS EDITION OF TECH NOTES

features several case studies that take a close look at why lift station managers are moving from the PLC (programmable logic controller) to application-specific products such as MultiTrode's MT2PC and MT3PC family of pump controllers. The MultiTrode controller, a component of the pre-engineered package lift station offered by Romtec Utilities, comes off-the-shelf ready to do the job in a municipal pump station environment. Because they are already programmed, the controllers offer ease of operation as well as standardization across the lift station network.

"The MultiTrode advantage: case studies"

Troy, North Carolina

There was good news and bad news for the Troy, N.C., public works department after a recent lightning strike. The good news was that the level-sensing probes in the affected lift station were not harmed. The bad news? The pump controller was toast.

A few years back, that would have meant patching together a replacement bubbler system, a process that could have taken days and would have required a complete fix down the line.

What happened instead was this: Public Works Director Gray Walls and his crew snapped the damaged MultiTrode MonitorPro unit off the din rail, snapped a back-up unit on, plugged it in and were good to go. "We were back up in 10 minutes – it was the easiest lightning repair job I've had in my life," Walls says.

The simplicity of the system is just one reason Troy replaced the electronic controller-bubbler systems in its pump station with MultiTrode controllers. The

others? Flexibility of the system and ease of use.

"MultiTrode is not into being a system integrator – they just want to sell equipment, and that's the right approach in my mind, a system that just works without the pain" Walls says.

Royal Palm Beach, Florida

The Village of Palm Beach, Fla., operates 52 lift stations in all corners of

the 12-square-mile municipality. Nearly all of them are run under the MultiTrode MT2PC plus MonitorPro system, after an earlier experiment with PLCs.

"The PLC just did not work for us," says Dan Scantland, project coordinator for the village's Utilities Department. "It only had about six points of monitoring and was extremely limited."



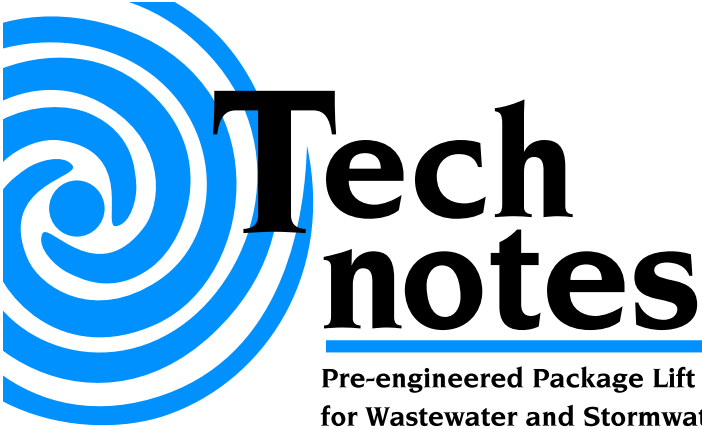
Tim Curns, ITT Flygt Field Technician, reviews the detailed control panel drawings of a Romtec Utilities panel equipped with MultiTrode's MonitorPro.

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Romtec Utilities is a dedicated integrator of submersible pumps and lift station equipment manufactured by ITT Flygt.



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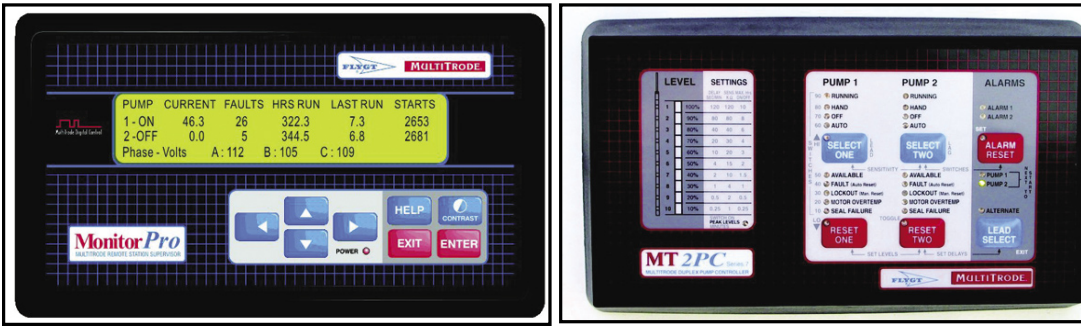
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Pre-engineered Package Lift Stations
for Wastewater and Stormwater



MultiTrode’s application-specific MT2PC and MT3PC family of pump controllers come programmed to work in a lift station environment. The controllers adapt to virtually any lift station environment, from basic systems with onsite control to full-featured systems with sophisticated SCADA functionality.

The other problem with the PLC, Scantland points out, was its tendency to alarm unnecessarily. “It would alarm you with any miscommunication. The alarm schedule was just redundant and it seemed like it was constantly alarming.”

The main advantage of the MultiTrode system, Scantland says, is that – unlike the PLC – it’s almost limitless in what you can do. “Whatever you can think of that you want it to do, you pretty much can make it do that,” he says. “It’s very easy to add any kind of electrical monitoring device - - anything digital with a digital input.”

One of the big things the system does for the village is monitor the electrical status of the

entire city. With a lift station in every corner of the municipality, the public works department is the first to know when there is an outage.

“With the MonitorPro, which has a battery backup, you have a real-time assessment of the electrical status of the city,” Scantland says. “We have lots of thunderstorms and this gives us a real-time assessment of our status, which we can share with the Public Works and the roads and bridges people before there’s an accident.”

“We practically know ahead of time.”

Mason, Ohio

The City of Mason operates nine lift stations. Until recently, the lift stations were operated under a combination of PLCs and a simple float

system. Eighteen months ago, the city’s public works department converted lift station management to MultiTrode’s application-specific, pre-programmed controller. Why?

“Proprietary reasons, mostly,” explains Ed Smith, public utilities foreman for the City of Mason. “The PLCs used proprietary software, and we were always having to call in outside sourcing, which was expensive and inconvenient.

“MultiTrode’s MonitorPro is so simple a trained monkey could do it – it’s extremely user-friendly.”

For Smith, another big advantage is eliminating the need to bring a laptop out to the lift station. “With the MonitorPro, I can use the monitor-integrated buttons on the

front,” he says.

And an unexpected benefit is the accessibility of the SCADA system from Smith’s home. “I didn’t expect to be able to access the system from my house,” he says. “Instead of calling the guys out, I can go on the Internet and find out what is the problem.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The complete pre-engineered package submersible lift stations available from Romtec Utilities feature components from the industry’s leading manufacturers, including ITT Flygt and MultiTrode, Inc. The MT2PC and MT3PC controllers adapt to virtually any lift station environment, from basic systems with onsite control to full-featured systems with sophisticated SCADA functionality. For more information, call Romtec Utilities at 541-496-3541 or visit our website at www.romtecutilities.com.