

REMOTE DATA ACCESS (RDA)

RDA

WHAT IS RDA?

Remote data access allows designated personnel to access information collected by data loggers anywhere on the factory floor or in an office environment.

The information is stored internally or in the cloud and can be accessed from anywhere in the world, using any device with internet access, including smart phones, tablets or laptops. Logically, RDA could even extend to wearable devices like Google Glass in the future.

THE BENEFITS OF RDA

- Manufacturers are given the flexibility to maximise production efficiency by allowing the process manager to access key information at any time, from anywhere.
- Problems can be solved more quickly reducing downtime.
- Specific alarms can be set up to immediately alert personnel should levels pass a preset limit.
- Production engineers and process managers remain safe in the knowledge that should there be a problem, geographical distance isn't a boundary.
- Most importantly, RDA applications bring peace of mind; information such as flow, temperature, or pressure can be monitored at any time from anywhere in the world.

BUT WHAT ABOUT SECURITY?

Industrial systems and data that can be accessed from remote locations are already integral parts of industry. But this new found freedom is not without its risks.

Stringent security and training procedures need to be implemented to minimise the threat of security attacks or breaches. Any system with remote access needs to have a strict security protocol in place.

Security protocol should include:

- Features designed to only allow access to designated personnel
- Data encryption ensuring that unauthorised access is met with limited information
- Unique user IDs and passwords to manage access succinctly
- Password requests in order to visualise data, make any changes using product software or Ethernet, and send files through built-in FTP web servers.

By reinforcing these security measures through staff training and a firm company policy on RDA, any business can ensure it has all the benefits of the technology and none of the risks.

The cost of downtime in industry can be anywhere from a couple of hundred pounds to tens of thousands of pounds per hour.

Remote data access means if anything is out of place or goes wrong in the process, the right people are notified in an instant, so they can make informed decisions and take action.

Now doesn't that take a load off your mind?