

Barton Instrument Systems  
Article -- TankScan W system  
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## **Barton's TankScan W gets high marks from Summit.**

### **Problem:**

Summit Industrial Products in Tyler, Texas, wanted to monitor the level of petroleum products in 26 bulk storage tanks ranging between 4000 and 7000 gallons each with future expansion plans for eight more. The tanks were in close proximity to each other with the fill and empty headers taking up much of the room around the tanks. The use of conduit would have been difficult. Additionally, access to the top of the tanks was very restricted.

Summit's requirements included data acquisition and transmission that ranged from on-site visual observation to RF and satellite communication. They wanted a system that required no hard wiring, was cost-effective, required minimum maintenance, and delivered on-demand, real-time data to the plant's foreman. They also required a system that would allow for future growth as well as being considerate of such critical media parameters as dielectric properties, fluid viscosity, density consistency, chemical compatibility, expansion coefficients, penetration accessibility and physical location.

### **Solution:**

As part of their evaluation, Summit reviewed bubblers, magnetic sight gauges, differential pressure, RF capacitance, ultrasonic and MIR (micro-impulse radar) technologies. They found that each system maintained a certain degree of accuracy, but application fit was crucial for their equipment installation and performance.

They selected Barton's wireless, bi-directional TankScan W system for a number of important reasons. The battery-powered installation was virtually maintenance-free and required no equipment removal or cleaning. There were no circuit breakers to trip or electrical utility failure to contend with. Battery replacement required only the removal of two screws located on the tank level monitor. And there was no problem in adding eight more tank monitors for the planned expansion.

"The actual installation of the Barton system took only two days, which included the installation of a Windows-based software, one controller and RF antenna and the MIR level monitors on each tank, said Tim Merrell, Summit's Purchasing Manager. "The system is truly amazing because of its level of accuracy, dependability, and user interface."

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