



Exxon Personnel Tagging System

The Exxon Chemical plant in England recently installed a Control-By-Light fiber-optic communication network. The application was in a high reliability personnel-tagging system. Existing fibers were used, and CBL's commercial grade fiber optic equipment was selected for its fault tolerant properties, high bandwidth and easy interfacing to the tagging system vendor's hardware.

Factors in the choice of using fibers were the freedom from electromagnetic interference and lightning surges, and the ability to use redundant pre-existing fibers. The fiber run is about 2 kilometers. The Control-By-Light components feature bi-directional transmission, which gives built-in ring redundancy. The system also features signal level monitoring on every link. The ring architecture makes future expansion simple and economical.

The interface is to a LonWorks link at each node. The system designer, Morley Electronics of North Shields, England, built these interfaces.

Since commissioning, the CBL system has performed flawlessly, and the built-in error counters in the vendor's software have recorded zero errors that are attributable to the fiber network.



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