MONTPELLIER MEDITERRANEAN AIRPORT REVOLUTIONISES LEAK MONITORING WITH ELSTER RADIO METERING SOLUTION

"Reliable meter communication provides accurate consumption values, and enables us to identify abnormal behaviours in our network for swift and precise remedial action."

Michael Marest, Asset and IT manager, Montpellier Mediterranean Airport
The water network at Montpellier Mediterranean Airport in the south of France had been suffering costly water leaks across its large and complex site. In order to identify and fix these leaks, collecting meter data manually every day had been a tedious, daunting, but necessary task. Without it there would be costly bills or potentially negative impacts on airport infrastructure due to leaks. Clearly a more efficient system needed to be found. This is where Elster came in.

Identifying an approach that works
Montpellier Mediterranean Airport engaged the Elster team so that they could implement their reliable radio technology which monitors water consumption remotely and accurately. The project brief from the airport was to ensure reliable data collection over many years with sustainable technology and a dashboard to provide visible alerts of defined parameters.

The airport comprises a diverse range of open land, office buildings and maintenance areas, some of which have restricted access. Elster did a thorough field study of the airport and revealed that the best method was to implement a fixed private network which would offer a stable and fast method for meter reading. Elster installed a gateway in the technical offices of the airport and the fixed network was set up to enable data collection of all meters, even the most remote and difficult to read.

Based on Elster’s long standing experience of collecting data in difficult conditions – from indoor situations to immersed concrete water pits – Elster recommended using the Waveflow radio module adapted to each meter-specific situation.

Where a leak is suspected between two metering sites, the two-way mode made it possible to get more detailed data-logging on demand to enable the precise analysis of consumption patterns.

Effective radio metering
Since Elster implemented the new radio metering solution, the water flow is now being accurately measured and provides trigger alerts in the event of an abnormal consumption. This means that the airport team have been able to identify leaks rapidly and locate them more easily. In addition, planning maintenance intervention has been made easier because there is now the capacity to quickly and easily assess the severity of the situation. “The Elster Smart Meters and dashboard replaced the manual readings we had to implement to monitor our network,” says Michael Marest, who has operational responsibility for the airport. “It also allows us to limit our leak search to a restricted area whereas our previous process of random search was time-consuming and prone to errors.” In addition to leakage measurement, Smart Meters enable the airport’s technicians to spend more time on value added work.

An important part of the airport’s future
Air traffic for the airport is projected to increase from 1.6 million passengers in 2015 to more than 2.5 million passengers in 2025. At the same time, the airport footprint will grow to 25 hectares in 2025 with the extension of its current business park, emphasising even more the need for leak-free water resource management. As the airport grows, along with the air traffic and business park, more data loggers will be installed to ensure that water services remain effective and sustainable.

Elster have also installed temperature monitoring devices to more closely monitor the airport customer experience. These sensors are compatible with Elster Smart Meter technology, paving the way to the Internet of Things (IoT).

Stability, reliability and efficiency
The Montpellier Mediterranean Airport has now benefited from having a stable and sustainable water resource management system that is easy to monitor and reliable to maintain. Thanks to Elster’s radio metering solution, water leaks are now easy to spot and fix, and the new system has made the airport able to scale up for future growth.

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