Hawke ROUTE-MASTER™ Fieldbus System Chosen to Protect $61 Million Amersham Plant in Norway

Hawke International is pleased to announce that it has won a contract to provide intrinsically-safe fieldbus power supplies for a new plant in Norway for Amersham, a world leader in medical diagnostics and life sciences.

The $61 million Amersham Health plant will provide batch production of diagnostic imaging reagents that highlight organs, tissues and cells inside the human body for the early detection, diagnosis and management of disease.

The control package selected by Amersham is Emerson’s DeltaV™ system with PlantWeb® digital plant architecture and FOUNDATION Fieldbus™ communications technology. Hawke’s ROUTE-MASTER power supply system provides the fieldbus devices with intrinsically-safe and redundant power.

The plant in Lindesnes, Norway is scheduled to begin operation in January 2005.

“We have chosen the digital plant architecture with fieldbus approach after much discussion with Emerson,” said Roy Tråne, the Amersham Electronic Automation Manager for this project. “We expect a shorter and more effective start-up and the initial cost will be no higher than other approaches. We also anticipate benefits from the diagnostics available via fieldbus, which is well supported by the proven PlantWeb architecture that is designed from the bottom up to deliver the benefits of fieldbus and digital communications.”

“This project brings together many of the strengths of our PlantWeb technology and project management services that will enable Amersham to realize upfront project savings, followed by reduced maintenance costs over the life of the plant,” said John Berra, president of Emerson Process Management. “We are honoured to be chosen by Amersham for this very important project.”

“The provision of redundant and intrinsically-safe power for fieldbus devices is key to making fieldbus technology both safe and reliable, essential for the development of process industries in environmentally-sensitive areas,” said Mike O’Neill, Director of Hawke’s Fieldbus Division.

The Hawke ROUTE-MASTER system incorporates unique technology to drive over 4 times the conventional number of devices in the hazardous area, and this increase in segment capacity was a major factor in the selection of this solution. The other significant advantage from Hawke is the availability of device couplers, a complete and clever packaging of all wiring accessories necessary to implement fieldbus so that installation and commissioning is both fast and simple. At ISA2002, the Hawke ROUTE-MASTER System won the coveted “Best in Show” award from CEP, the house magazine of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

The PlantWeb architecture in the Amersham plant will include 21 DeltaV™ digital automation system operator stations, many on the plant floor, plus 11 processing stations and 3 engineering stations. Within the DeltaV system, the Emerson AMS predictive maintenance software will be key in the FDA validation process.