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The Monitor

GENERAL MONITORS

Your total solution provider for gas and flame detection

New IR5500 Open Path Gas Detector Redefines Industry Standard

With a breakthrough feature set that redefines the industry standard for open path gas detection in petrochemical and other industrial plants, our new advanced IR5500 open path gas detector provides superior accuracy, response, reliability, versatility and comes ready-to-go with an impressive package of approvals.

- The first and only open path detector to meet agency performance requirements on both the LEL•meter and ppm•meter scales.
- The first detector with split range scales for ppm•meter and LEL•meter monitoring.
- The first detector to be certified for operation at -55°C.
- Among the first major open path detectors certified to FM approvals, EN, and IECEx performance standards.

Outdoor combustible gas leaks pose a significant danger at petrochemical facilities, as well as in electric utility, wastewater treatment, and other hazardous operation plants. Leak sources typically include pipelines, valves, tanks, burners, compressors, separators, flare systems, aeration ponds, and other equipment. The distributed nature of equipment within large facilities often makes traditional point-monitoring combustible gas detectors either ineffective or cost prohibitive.

The IR5500 Open Path Gas Detector provides continuous monitoring of combustible gas concentrations. The system consists of an IR source and receiver, which continuously monitors for methane in both the 0 to 5,000 ppm•meter and 0 to 5 LEL•meter range. 0 to 2,000 ppm•meter and 0 to 1 LEL•meter scales are also available for monitoring propane. The IR5500 provides two 4 to 20 mA analog signals proportional to each of the above ranges, in addition to a digital display and relay contacts.

The IR5500's advanced infrared sensor technology features a single beam detection design, which improves accuracy and reduces drift. The design of

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Happy Holidays from General Monitors

We would like to wish you the safest and happiest of holiday seasons. We look forward to working together to make 2011 safe and prosperous.

General Monitors Acquired by MSA

We are pleased to announce that General Monitors was recently acquired by MSA. Together, we will combine technologies and best practices to better serve you with the world's best available gas and flame detection solutions.

- **Read more about the acquisition**

CSB Urges Plant Winterization to Prevent Accidents

In an effort to help companies prevent major chemical and refinery process accidents, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board has released a video safety message that emphasizes the need for plants to adopt winterization programs.

"As temperatures continue to drop," said USCSB Chairman John Bresland said, "It's important for process plants to be prepared for the unique safety challenges of subfreezing weather."

If plants fail to winterize effectively, serious consequences can result. In February 2007, a water-containing pipe at a refinery near Dumas, TX, froze and cracked, releasing high-pressure liquid propane and resulting in

the sensor includes continuous self-check monitoring for fail to safe operation. Automatic gain control compensates for dirty optics, rain, and fog. The result is precision accuracy with exceptional reliability in harsh environments and improved false alarm rejection.

Unlike most open path detectors, the IR5500 features a built-in display, which simplifies installation and maintenance while reducing the total cost of ownership. The IR5500 requires no tools for alignment at any range and can be aligned without a scope at 100 meters or more. At installation, technicians simply utilize the IR5500's integral display and adjustable mounting arms, which also eliminates the typical bulky setup equipment (e.g. digital volt meters, handheld alignment aids) commonly required with other detectors.

Sensor data and status information from the IR5500 can be transmitted up to 9,000 feet to any industrial analog to digital (A/D) converter for use in multipoint computer-based monitoring. Event logging is provided for faults, maintenance, warning, and alarm events. The IR5500 is available with HART and Modbus, providing complete status and control capability in the control room.

The IR5500's sensitivity can be checked by placing a test gas film in front of the receiver. The IR5500 is calibrated at the factory and needs no further calibration. It also requires little maintenance other than a periodic visual inspection, test gas film check, and cleaning of the windows to ensure dependable performance.

Links of interest

IR5500 Open Path Gas Detector

a fire that burned three workers and caused more than $50 million in property damage.

In January 2001, two workers burned to death at a large Indiana steel mill after they were sprayed with flammable gas condensate, which ignited. The accident occurred after ice had cracked and damaged a valve in the mill's coke oven gas distribution system.

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