

Unidata Newsline

Unidata Newsline No. 4, August 2006

The changing face of Unidata

Like many other organisations, Unidata is going through some changes. Since the last newsletter went out three staff have decided to move on. Steve Blott left in early February to take up a position with a thermal imaging company in Perth, Mathew Wall left to joining the mining industry, and the operations manager, Nick Efthyvolous, left at the end of April to join a signal and systems company. These changes, along with preparation of a new business plan, have given Unidata the opportunity to reassess its management and sales requirements in Perth. Nick was particularly instrumental in rebuilding Unidata, and it is now time to look at developing new opportunities and growing the company. To help with this development, the decision has been made to appoint a general manager in Perth instead of managing the company from NIWA in New Zealand. I will step back to a managing director role on the board. The new general manager, Matt Saunders, was appointed in April and started at the end of May. We have also appointed a new sales coordinator, Andrea Anderson.

What does this mean for our customers? More hands-on management will provide greater focus on leadership and management and decision-making capability in Perth. The new general manager will lead the development of sales and improve relationships with customers. Along with the new sales coordinator he will be contacting all key distributors, resellers, and customers over the next few months to reinforce where Unidata is going and get feedback on where we can improve.

As you will see in this newsletter, the new upgraded core products are now ready for release. We are working hard to have the generic platform for Neon, the new system that replaces Crossramp and integrates data collection, transfer, processing, and reporting, ready for release later this year. We will then be working with key industries to develop interfaces that provide for industry needs such as water and gas metering, agricultural applications (e.g., linking meteorology to on-farm issues/needs) and environmental monitoring for regional councils. Packages will be developed in close partnerships with industry to ensure we are delivering what clients need.

Mark James, Managing Director

Introducing Matt Saunders, Unidata's new General Manager in Perth

Matt comes to Unidata with a wealth of experience, having spent over 20 years as general manager/CEO of small technology development companies. He has significant international sales, management, research and development, and consulting experience through various positions with Hewlett Packard, Comsys Australia and Comsys International, QPSX Communications (part of Telstra Corporation), Fugro, and more recently Curtin University in Western Australia. He has owned and run similar sized companies to Unidata and knows the data logging, data acquisition, and telecommunication industry very well.



Andrea Anderson, Sales Coordinator

Andrea comes to Unidata with sales experience at Ecotech and Enviro Rent and should hit the ground running. Andrea has solid technical skills and knowledge of the environmental monitoring business, having recently completed a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) at Murdoch University, which she passed with distinction. Her qualifications in environmental science should be well regarded by the technical people she will deal with, and we hope she can continue to provide the high quality of service that Unidata has been proud of over many years.



Streamline Measurement Ltd

Formed in 2001 by two ex-Unidata managers, Streamline Measurement Ltd is an independent British company with expertise in the design, integration, and installation of data logging systems for environment monitoring. With over 25 years' experience in using and servicing Unidata equipment between them, they are well known in the UK as the company to come to for Starlog sales and support. Most projects are in the water industry, monitoring water levels, flows, and quality, with the emphasis being on correct system design and testing before delivery.

Products and systems are supplied by Streamline Measurement mainly for the research and resource monitoring organisations under the auspices of NERC (Natural Environment Research Council), but also to UK water companies and consultants. The company has also been working as Unidata resellers for France to look after sales and especially service support.

Starflows in Irish turloughs

One of our recent projects was to supply, install, and commission five Starflows in Northern Ireland. As part of a research project for the Environment & Heritage Service, the Limestone Research Group, University of Huddersfield, is studying the hydrology of three turloughs in Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, to determine whether they are threatened by human activities. Turloughs, from the Gaelic tuar lough (dry lake), are enclosed depressions found in limestone areas that may be dry or flooded according to season or prevailing weather. There are only four known turloughs in the UK and they are all Special Areas of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. Five Starflow Ultrasonic Doppler Flow Loggers were installed by Streamline in two streams that flow into the turloughs and three streams that flow from springs that drain the turloughs. The Starflows log the stream flows and enable water balances to be computed. The customer collects the data during monthly visits.

The University of Huddersfield has also started monitoring a turlough in Wales, using level-only logging to monitor similar information as part of the same overall project.



Product updates

The electronics of all our data loggers now use surface mount technology which makes the logger supportable for many years to come, and allows for more efficient and tighter quality control of production.

Prologger Model 7001B



The Prologger sets new standards in accuracy and input range. It is packaged in the robust enclosure familiar to STARLOG users, with twice the accuracy, eight times the resolution, and sixteen times the dynamic range.

It is the ideal upgrade from its predecessor the 7000 Macro Logger.

All Prologger analogue and digital inputs are processed with sixteen bit resolution.



Starlogger Model 6004D

Unidata's workhorse Starlogger range has been upgraded to enhance capability and performance.

The Starlogger memory has been increased from 128k-512k and SDI-12 capability has been added to the low-end 'Red' Starlogger. Additional transient protection has been added to the HSIO and RS-232 signal lines on both the 'Red' and 'Blue' loggers.

The 6004D is compatible with and replaces the 6004C logger. This logger is available ex-stock.



Starflow Model 6526D

The Starflow has been subjected to harsh operating conditions in stream, channel, and closed pipe flow measurements for many years.

Historically, the pressure sensor has been the weakest point of the Starflow instrument. The diaphragm in the pressure sensor has been upgraded to stainless steel and the housing strengthened. The 6526D Starflow will be released in the fourth quarter of 2006.

Precision Water Level/Encoder Water Level Instrument Model 6541B

The 6541A Precision Water Level Instrument has been superseded by the 6541B Water Level Instrument. The new instrument supports SDI-12, dual HSIO interfaces, and an optional on-board 4-20 mA current loop output.

The resulting instrument offers cost-effective, precision water-level monitoring with very low power consumption.

An upgrade pack has also been developed for retrofitting into existing installations of 10+ year old Model 6509 or Model 6531 water level instruments. Both the 6541B and the 6509 upgrade packages are now available.



NRT terminals

The next generation of Crossramp, Unidata's IP-enabled data logging and delivery system is being developed under the product name 'Neon', and is due to be launched later this year.



This new product will have all the benefits of the Crossramp terminal, and will introduce several new features, including bi-directional communications. The field data terminal NRT (Neon Remote Terminal) has also been enhanced and will shortly support CDMA in addition to the existing GPRS communications. The Satellite NRT provides a solution where CDMA or GSM/GPRS networks are inaccessible.

This combination makes for a very exciting product range, as Unidata moves into the future, providing innovative data acquisition technologies to the user.

Please contact Unidata for more information on Neon or your Unidata representative for information on any other items featured above.



Updated product catalogue

We will soon be releasing our new updated product catalogue with these new products, and we will provide a PDF copy of the catalogue to all distributors and resellers for easy distribution to clients.



Contact us

Unidata Pty Ltd
40 Ladner Street
O'Connor, 6163
Western Australia
Tel: +61 8 9331 8600
Fax: +61 8 9331 8611
sales@unidata.com.au
www.unidata.com.au

Distributors and Resellers

Measurement Engineering Australia Pty Ltd
41 Vine Street
Magill, 5072
South Australia
Tel: +61 8 8332 9044
Fax: +61 8 8332 9577
Email: sales@mea.com.au
www.mea.com.au

National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd
NIWA Instrument Systems
10 Kyle Street, Riccarton,
Christchurch 8011, New Zealand
Tel: +64 3 343 7890
Fax: +64 3 343 7891
Email: g.elley@niwa.co.nz
www.niwa.co.nz/rc/instrumentsystems

Jason Liu
Australian Water Management
29 Virginia Avenue,
Baulkham Hills, 2153
New South Wales
Tel: +61 2 9639 1526
Fax: +61 2 9686 6597
Mobile in Australia: 0416 127 030
Mobile in China: 13951359539
Email: OZWaterman@unidata.com.au

Marlene Toothill
Etr-Unidata Ltd
Unit 6, Riverside Park
Sheaf Gardens
Sheffield S2 4BB
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 0 845 053 0909
Fax: +44 0 845 054 5079
Email: info@unidata-europe.co.uk
www.unidata-europe.co.uk

Unidata America
17408 Boones Ferry Road
Lake Oswego
Oregon, OR 97035
United States of America
Tel: 503-697-3570
Fax: 503-697-3571
Email: info@unidataamerica.com
www.unidataamerica.com

ENCOSYS CO., LTD.
RM232, 8 Dong, Industrial complex 555-9
Hogae-dong, dongan-ku, Anyang City,
Kyungki-do, South Korea
Tel: +82 31 479 1702
Fax: +82 31 479 1704
Email: encosys@unitel.co.kr
www.encosys.co.kr

SURECHEM MARKETING SDN BHD
NO 35-2 JLN. Radin Anum 2
Bandar Baru Seri Pedalling
Kuala Lumpur 57000
West Malaysia
Tel: +60 3 90586626
Fax: +60 3 90587368
Email: scmktg@po.jaring.my
www.surechem.com.my



We welcome Shailron Technology India to the growing family of distributors and resellers. If you have a project in India, their sales and service engineers are ready to assist.

Shailron Technology have a staff of eighteen with broad experience in environmental monitoring. Their contact details are:

SHAILRONTECHNOLOGY PVT. LTD.
E-21 SURYA KUNJ NEAR C.R.P.F.
NEW DELHI – 110 072
Tel: +91 011 2801 0280
Fax: +91 011 2531 5699
Email: info@shailrontechnology.com
www.@shailrontechnology.com

For any enquiries on Unidata products in this region, please contact Shatrughan Kumar and his team of sales engineers.