



STAHLIN NON-METALLIC ENCLOSURES

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Stahlin Non-Metallic Enclosure reliably protects unattended on-line monitoring unit

THE SITUATION

EnviroTech Instruments designs, develops and manufactures automated analytical instrumentation, samplers, data acquisition and telemetry systems. They also offer mechanical, electronic, software and system design services to develop new solutions or tailor existing equipment to better suit the job.



THE CHALLENGE

The Aqua Sentinel is an automatic analyzer designed for unattended on-line monitoring of nutrients and other chemicals in water treatment, process control, effluent discharge, intake metering and aqua culture applications. This unit is AC powered and provides data via internet, ethernet, serial and analog interfaces to a central data management or control system. Other applications for the Aqua Sentinel include wet-lab supply monitoring and shipboard surface mapping. Control and switching for external pumps, valves and alarms are integral to the Aqua Sentinel system.

Because the Aqua Sentinel is typically placed in environments characterized by extreme conditions, the critical controls and instrumentation must be properly protected to ensure proper functioning and to maintain optimum reliability in the transfer of critical data from field-to-analysis lab. To safeguard these essential instruments EnviroTech relies on an enclosure to house the system and to do its job, keeping everything free from damage.

Initially an aluminum enclosure was specified to house the Aqua Sentinel system believing it would meet their needs. After several months in the field the aluminum enclosures became heavily impacted by the environmental conditions in which they were placed. Specifically, their finish appeared to be failing --- an indication that the substrate was vulnerable to compromise. Also, metallic enclosures are subject to denting which can easily cause the gasketed sealing to fail. Once that happens, it is only a matter of time before damage within the enclosure takes place.

THE SOLUTION TO THE CHALLENGE

Stainless steel enclosures presented an option to aluminum, but their higher cost was something EnviroTech was unwilling to

pass along to their customers. Interestingly, one of those customers had been using a non-metallic enclosure from Stahlin for another controls system they were protecting in extreme conditions. Their positive recommendation of reliable protective service led EnviroTech to ultimately select Stahlin's J Series line of nonmetallic enclosures to house their Aqua Sentinel system.

The Stahlin J Series product line was developed as an industrial enclosure for harsh, aggressive environments. Originally designed as an electrical junction box for the oil refining and petrochemical industries, the J Series has evolved over the years into a versatile industrial enclosure with varied applications for use from high-end electronics to extreme corrosive applications both indoors and out.

Rugged design combined with tough, durable materials, for extreme reliability in tough environments are key attributes of this series.



THE RESULT

Extensive field exposure for Stahlin's non-metallic enclosures have demonstrated their ability to maintain a watertight seal, thereby reliably protecting our enclosed controls and instrumentation from potential damage by corrosion, moisture, dust and other debris. In addition, the original enclosure finish and aesthetic appearance remains consistent even with extended exposure to elements and UV radiation.

Mark Rawlinson
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