

## South Dakota Company Launches Satellite-based Rural Water Management System with Automatic Meter Reading

**W**hile many rural water systems are moving to automated meter reading, a South Dakota Company has taken the technology to a new and unique level. The system is a complete Web and satellite-based water management system that gives rural water utilities access to daily meter reads from most major brands of Meters, anywhere, with a view to the sky.

Informational Data Technologies, LLC (IDT), a new company providing satellite based management systems for rural utilities, has announced the launch of the Harmony Water Management System. Harmony works with most major meter brands to provide daily automatic meter reading (AMR) over a satellite network, eliminating the expense and time of field, drive-by, or fixed-radio meter reading.

A presentation on the technology was given at the 2012 Kansas Rural Water Association conference. Several water systems met at the KRWA office in early June for detailed discussions about the technology.

“Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) has become the accepted standard among water utilities. Yet there has never been a feasible way for rural water utilities to employ AMR because rural water meter sites are often spread far apart, in areas with no cellular or wired connectivity, and with limited or no power availability,” says Angelo Polsinelli, Executive Vice-President of IDT. “We have recognized these challenges, and the Harmony satellite-based AMR overcomes them, to provide a complete water management system for rural water utilities.”

The Harmony Water Management System consists of two primary parts connected through satellite

communications: Harmony Satellite Field Units and Harmony Cloud, a web application. Harmony Satellite Field Units are autonomous, internally-powered meter reading devices, with a guaranteed 3,650 daily meter reads, giving an estimated 10-year battery life. Field units work with a growing variety of major brands of meters. Because they send data over satellite, no additional infrastructure is needed: no land, towers, line of sight to a vehicle, fuel usage, base station, or truck maintenance is required. It also offers two-way communication.

Meter data is accessed and controlled through the Harmony Cloud Water Management System. Because Harmony Cloud is a web-based application, it is available through a standard Internet browser and there is no special software to install. Backup and security for data are handled offsite, and using the software is as simple as using many common web pages. Billing data can be automatically imported to utilities’ existing systems using standard data methods. A web module offers complete billing functions, simplifying end-to-end customer relationships. Additional specifications for Harmony Cloud include:

- Full 2-way communication with the remote readers;
- Daily loss detection through comparison of produced and sold amounts;
- Reports and views by service area/zone;
- Built-in structure allows for service area/zone comparisons;
- Ability to change reading frequency;
- Potential for other remotely operated functions.

For more information, visit [www.idt.us.com](http://www.idt.us.com).



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