



Benefits

- 4000 miles away Colorado/Alaska
- Perform turbine startup from office
- New service made possible with eWON remote access
- Quick “visual inspection” of the environment using video streams
- Deliver world class service anywhere on the planet

Customer: Windwatcher Systems
Country: Tuntutuliak, Alaska
Sector: Energy (wind turbines)
Solution: Cosy/4005 CD - Talk2M

Windwatcher uses eWON products to increase performance of Artic wind turbines from Colorado office

Welcome to Tuntutuliak, Alaska. In this rugged land of subzero chills and eternal winter darkness, the residents of Tuntutuliak place a high value on their electrical service. And, here in lies a story worth telling.

Remote power systems

Nearly 4,000 miles away, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, sits the home of Windwatcher Systems, a manufacturer of wind turbine controls. Tom Ellis, Windwatcher Systems President, has created a solution for turbine controls located in remote power systems. According to Ellis, “These remote villages have traditionally used diesel generators to produce their power. And, with the combination of the rising price of diesel and high transportation costs, this power runs about \$0.65 per kWh. The cost to the village is more than just high, it’s astronomical.”

Monitoring and remote control system

Tom’s organization produces a control system that not only matches the output of the wind turbine with the diesel generator, it controls factors not found in your typical wind farm application. “In the artic, the temperatures can drop to 30 and even 40 below zero. At those extremes in temperature, air is much denser than in normal situations. Because of this phenomenon turbines can over produce. With this factor in mind, the Windwatcher control system was designed to be scaled for these conditions.”, again per Mr. Ellis.

Here’s the crux of the story. Windwatcher Systems must have the ability to remotely monitor their systems in the field.

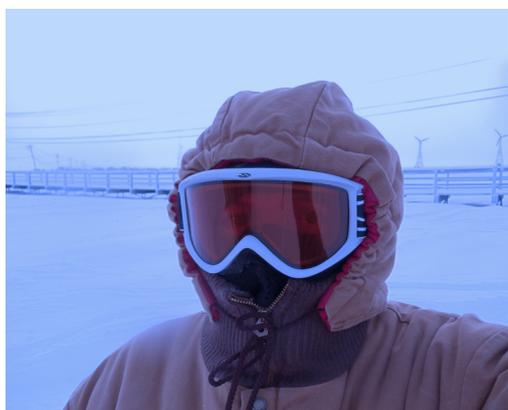
Reliable remote system to monitor

After searching the market for a reliable remote system to monitor and tweak their control systems, Windwatcher discovered the eWON device. Here are their words, “We looked into a number of systems for monitoring but we knew that we had come on something much different as we made some final tests. Our system was being assembled in a panel shop about 100 miles away and we decided to run a test rather than make the drive. We asked the shop to turn on power and we made the connection. The rest fell into place like magic.”

“Just last week, we were able to update and test seven systems in a single day; all from the comfort of our office” //



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Tom Ellis, Windwatcher Systems President.

Remote programming, trouble shooting and monitoring

The eWON system allows for remote programming, trouble shooting and monitoring like nothing else on the market. "The eWON system just takes the stress out of shipping our systems to the far corners of the globe. For example, just last week we were able to update and test seven systems in a single day; all from the comfort of our office. Nothing else on the market allows that kind of flexibility."

Data collection

eWON also allows collection of data to be resident on their device. This allows for monitoring even when the device is not online do to network outages. And, because the eWON system operates using Ethernet, other non-control devices can easily piggyback onto the architecture. Just imagine the power of not only control system monitoring but also connection to video streams for a quick "visual inspection" of the environment

The importance of the eWON system came through loud and clear when Windwatcher President Tom Ellis made one final statement.

"Without the eWON device our whole business model comes to a screeching halt. We couldn't do what we do without the remote monitoring provided by eWON. The eWON products open up a new paradigm where distance, travel, and lack of expertise in the remote villages is no longer a deal breaker. We can improve the quality of life for the residents of remote villages and deliver world class service anywhere on the planet. Simply put, the numbers just don't add up without eWON."

Finally, a quick check of the weather indicates the temperature in Tuntutuliak will be -32.

Head Office

22 Av. Robert Schuman
1400 Nivelles
Belgium
Tel: +32 67 895 800
info@ewon.biz

North American Office

2345 Murray Ave, suite #305
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
USA
Tel: +1-412-586-5901
info@ewon.us