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Market: Limestone Mining and Refining

CUSTOMER

Genstar Stone Products, Hunt Valley, Maryland, mines and refines limestone products for use in paints, plastics, rubber, PVC piping and other products.

PROBLEM

Genstar's facility in Cockeysville, Maryland, wanted a weight indicator in order to make adjustments when mixing a calcium carbonate slurry kept in a 9,000 gallon tank. The plant had tried many other technologies to monitor the slurry, which is 72% suspended solids and has the consistency of milk. "We had tried a lot of weight indicators and level indicators, and they all had shortcomings," says Frank Heede, maintenance supervisor. Most of the instruments were put inside the tank, "so cables got tangled up, or the paddles would bend, or the motors got screwed up from getting mixed in the slurry."

APPLICATION

Heede decided to try Kistler-Morse's Bolt-On Microcell Sensors, putting them on each of the tank's legs. "They were easy to put in, they didn't take long at all,"

Heede says, "I'd guess that it took less than three hours to mount the strain gages. It took us longer to run the wires from the sensors to where we wanted the signal to display."

BENEFIT

The Bolt-On Microcell Sensors "tell me how much slurry is in the tank," Heede says, "With nothing for them to get caught on, they don't break down and they're virtually maintenance free."

CONCLUSION

Heede says he likes Kistler-Morse's products because he never has to think about them. "I just set 'em and forget 'em. I think the strain gage is a great idea, the way they go on easy. I'd recommend it to anybody if they put it in a proper application."