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PRESS RELEASE

New Ultrasonic Gas Leak Detector for Failsafe Operation and Instant Leak Detection

Since the Piper Alpha incident in the mid-eighties, there has been a continuos increasing focus on gas leak detection on installations in the oil and gas industry all over the world – and safety has no doubt increased decisively. However, the final step is still to be taken.

To support the increasing demand for safety, the fixed hydrocarbon gas leak detection systems have undergone a minor revolution during the last decades. Traditional gas leak detection technology has evolved from catalytic point sensing to IR point sensing to the open path detection that makes gas leak detection possible over greater distances. With the ultrasonic gas leak detection system that was first marketed in the later nineties, the industry learned about a whole new way of detecting leaking gasses. This technology using the ultrasound emitted by all hydrocarbon gas leaks to instantly detect gas leaks has become an important part of many gas leak detection systems throughout the world.

Nonetheless, the current technologies have had certain limitations: With the traditional technologies – point and open path gas detection – the gas leaks may still go undetected due to changing wind directions and the quick dispersion of the gas cloud. With the current ultrasonic gas leak detection system, regular testing of the microphone unit is necessary in order to live up to platform safety standards.

To meet these shortcomings, the manufacturer of ultrasonic gas leak detection systems, Gassonic, has just released next generation of ultrasonic gas leak detection **The Gassonic Observer** for sale. To ensure failsafe operation the new detector, which is patent pending, has a built-in acoustical self-test to verify that the microphone is functioning optimally. The Gassonic Observer is easily connected to the central DCS system through the 4-20 mA analogue output.

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It is addressable through the RS485 serial digital communication interface which makes it possible to set up and adjust the detectors from the distance and thus possibly lowering maintenance costs significantly. The detectors are designed in solid stainless steel and they are ATEX and UL/ULC certified for installation in hazardous environments.

The Gassonic Observer was developed on the basis of Gassonic's long field experience and intensive dialogue with its customers. For more information on the detector and the manufacturer, visit the company website www.gassonic.com or contact your local agent.

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