Oil & Gas
Refining & Petrochemical

Wireless SCADA Provides Smooth Operation of Large Oil & Gas Refinery's Stacker/Reclaimer Areas

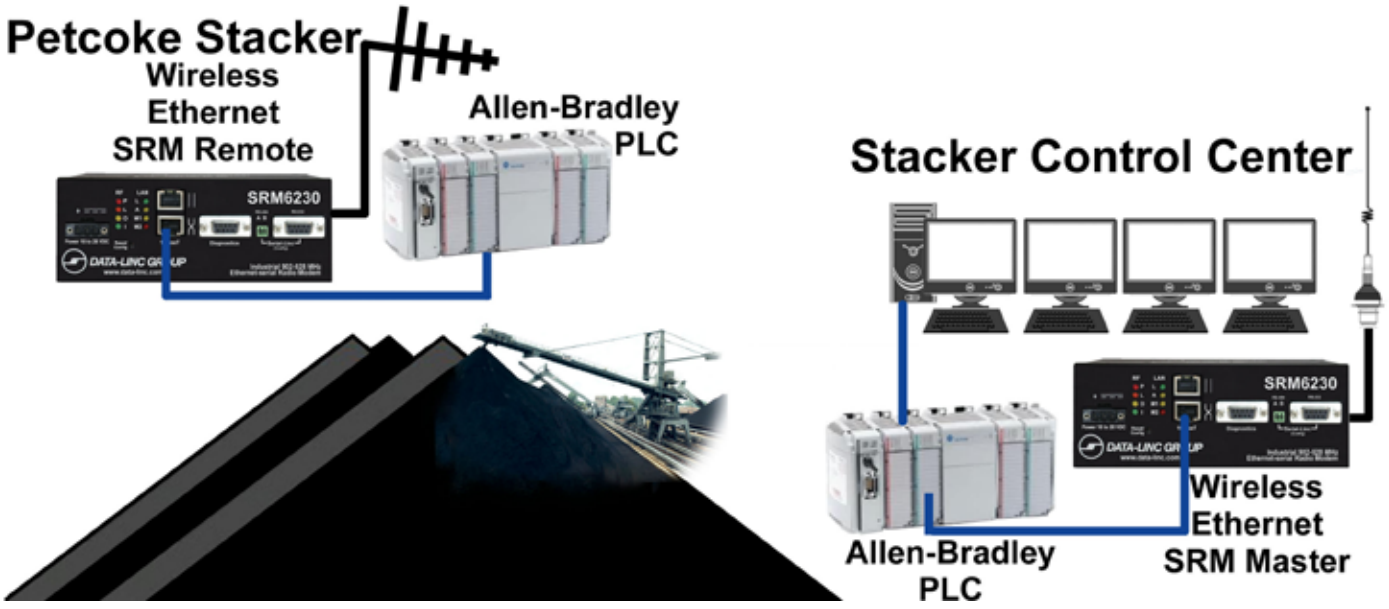
By

Vander Bernardi, Engenheiro de Vendas Técnicas

Karen Perlbachs, General Manager

Coke, a type of coal with high energy potential that is an oil byproduct, is piled in open air, silos or warehouses for storage after it leaves the refinery. The challenge is to monitor and control the process from a remote Control Room located in a separate building. Once the "stackers" have create the coke piles, the reclaimers move the coke from the storage pile onto a conveyer belt to be transferred to trucks, railcars, ships etc. that deliver it to its destination.

Workers at REPLAN (Refinery Paulínia), a major coke producer in Brazil, controlled the stacker and reclaimer machines that travel back and forth on rails dragging the cables along the ground causing them to wear out and break. The MTBF (mean time between failures) was short, causing costly downtime that required an investment in time and money to replace the cabling while production stopped. Converting the system to wireless was the best solution to maintain reliable control and supervision of the process. REPLAN selected Data-Linc's SRM industrial grade wireless Ethernet modem, saving cable and repair costs and increasing productivity.



Replacing umbilical cord cabling on the stacker and reclaimer machines significantly improved productivity and save cable replacement and labor costs.