

Measurement Technology NW designs and manufactures sophisticated testing and measurement instrumentation systems for a variety of commercial, research, and government clients worldwide.

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Your source for advanced winch line control and monitoring systems

Project Profile #5 – NOAA's Pacific Marine Center



Larry Loewen, Chief of Field Service, Branch B, Electronic Engineering Division for NOAA's Pacific Marine Center, handles equipment reviews, installations, and technical support for the 8 research vessels that make up NOAA's West Coast fleet. Faced with increasingly tight government budgets, he and his team quickly learned that in a lean organization, good equipment is critical. "All our ships run with a single on-board technician who works on and is responsible for everything electronic," explained Larry, "and unreliable equipment is their worst nightmare." Unfortunately, NOAA's old winch monitoring systems fell into that category.

"We had built the monitors ourselves many years ago when a search of commercially available products failed to turn up anything that met our requirements. While they worked, they didn't always work well. Troubleshooting usually meant disassembly, and when we finally reached our pain threshold and revisited the commercial market, Measurement Technology NW was there with the LCI-90."



The LCI-90 is an advanced winch line control display that accepts analog signals from force transducers and count signals from either a pair of proximity sensors or quadrature encoder. Force transducers can be any number of devices including load pins installed on overboarding sheaves, tension links or instrumented clevis pins. External sensor signals are converted into engineering units and displayed locally (via the LCI display), and, if desired, broadcasted to remote monitoring devices via an RS-485 serial communication link. All LCI-90 programming functions required to set or change units, alarm limits, silence external alarms, wrap angle corrections and reset

payout readings are available through the five front panel pushbuttons. Even raw diagnostic information is available in this manner to the winch operator - there is no need to access the rear of the display.

Impressively rugged and reliable, the Measurement Technology NW LCI displays installed on NOAA's Pacific Marine Center research fleet travel from the poles to the equator in some of the harshest environments on earth. Their heavy-duty 316 stainless steel front panels and sealed membrane pushbuttons, bright, high-contrast electroluminescent displays, and intuitive English language menus provide unmatched strength, visibility, and ease of use - something NOAA has come to appreciate.



“The LCI-90’s are a huge improvement over what we had,” confirmed Larry. “They’re very rugged, take lots of abuse, and work great with minimal maintenance. I think the display itself is the best in the business, with terrific visibility in all conditions - day or night. Installation was super easy, and their calibration menus are a breeze. I would certainly recommend the LCI-90. There is nothing else on the market that compares, and we are very happy to finally have a winch instrumentation system we don’t have to worry about.”

Measurement Technology NW produces a wide range of precision winch line control products, including the LCI-90 and LCI-100 series, WinchDAC, and more. To learn how you can get rid of the maintenance headaches and hidden costs of old equipment, call us at 206-634-1308, send an email inquiry to lici@mtnw-usa.com, or check us out at www.mtnw-usa.com.

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