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COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS COASTAL DIVES INTO WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Seattle, WA: How can you bring water quality data to the web -- from a remote site, hourly, in an area that is difficult to get to and does not have sunlight availability? Give that problem to most people and they would say, "Can't be done!" But give that problem to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) and they will find a way!

Using a ZENO[®] 3200 data logger from Coastal Environmental Systems, a fuel cell, a water quality sonde, and an IPAQ palm-top computer, TNRCC put together a system that is powered from hydrogen gas and connected directly with the Internet via its own IP address/connection.



Coastal's ZENO[®]-3200

The ZENO[®] 3200 connects to a water quality sonde via the SDI-12 serial protocol and monitors the condition of the Brazos River (an area of concern in Texas). The ZENO[®] controls the sonde (a collection of sensors measuring water temperature, conductivity/salinity, chlorophyll - A, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and pH). The ZENO[®] tells the sonde when to sample and then collects, processes and formats the data. Each hour a call is made via satellite to the IPAQ, which is connected to the ZENO[®]. The IPAQ connects to the satellite transceiver and also works as an IP node for the ZENO[®] 3200. Data is collected from the ZENO[®] and displayed directly on the TNRCC Internet site. You can visit the website to see data in near real-time or historical data for the site. The address is: http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/monops/select_water_daily?basin12.gif

Coastal is currently working on a product called Toucan, which will take the place of the IPAQ as the communications controller and IP node. The IPAQ works fine, but is not designed for long term, remote use where temperatures and weather conditions can vary to extremes.

For More Information, please contact Patrick Kelly, Coastal's VP of Sales & Marketing at: pkelly@coastalenvironmental.com, or (206) 682-6048.