



TAC Awarded \$2.5 Million Contract to Design LONWORKS® Platform-Based Front End Solution for Dallas Independent Schools

The Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD), the 14th largest public school system in the nation, is installing a LON-based central monitoring and control system to manage mechanical systems at more than 220 schools. TAC, a world leader in building automation, security systems and energy solutions, secured the \$2.5 million design and build services contract to provide Dallas ISD with a Web-based, district-wide monitoring and control system. The contract is scheduled for completion in July 2007 and includes an extended 5-year service agreement.

This project follows in the wake of major school renovations and additions financed by a \$1.4 billion bond program for Dallas ISD. TAC contributed to this renovation with new building management system (BMS) installations at more than 70 schools. Previously, little emphasis was given to the BMS and the systems within the district varied greatly in age, functionality and manufacturer. At existing schools, renovation programs consisted of upgrading old, worn out mechanical equipment and when new schools were built, the BMS purchase decision was based on the best priced system available. In order to maintain the optimum comfort and security for students and staff as well as to control energy usage and costs, the school district needed a front-end for monitoring and viewing facilities remotely.

In order to provide the Dallas ISD with the ability to centrally monitor its schools, TAC designed a system using its Xenta™ 527 products. The solution integrates devices from seven LON® vendors and three legacy systems from manufacturers such as JCI, Distech, Circon, Invensys, Honeywell and Trane. The system will allow operators to monitor, control and trend all available points and will allow district employees to take a proactive approach to managing schools.

Information will be transmitted via the district network to the common front end. All schools will be accessible with a unique IP address and will be presented on

three 36-inch plasma screens. Each facility has its own user name and password, making it easy for simple operations, such as switching pumps and fans on and off, to be handled remotely from a single location.

“Each time the district had a hot/ cold call, personnel would physically drive to the school. Likewise, time scheduling was done the same way. In short, everything was done in a reactive mode,” said Jeffrey Drees, vice president, Systems Integration- Central, TAC. “Dallas ISD awarded TAC this contract based on our ongoing customer relationship, proven track record with operations and excellent solution. We are in the process of installing the system and successfully working through the challenges inherent in such a complex project, such as gaining access to the schools, gathering database information from our competitors and coordinating with the district’s IT department.”

“Having central monitoring and control of more than 200 campuses and facilities offers important benefits for the Dallas schools,” said P.C Chiu, director of HVAC for Dallas ISD. “These include enabling the district to proactively manage facilities, for example, by making schedule changes remotely; making intelligent energy management decisions and obtaining significant energy savings.”

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