VideoProbe website allows customers to build a virtual system

GE Sensing & Inspection Technologies has announced a new, customized microsite for its Everest XLG3 VideoProbe, providing exclusive information and tools for GE's XLG3 system. The site can be accessed at www.xlg3.com.
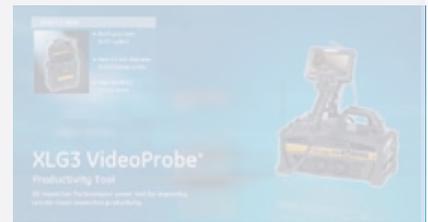
Notable is the "Build Your Own XLG3" and "Virtual Demo" feature, which provides customers with an interface to configure a custom system. All XLG3 parts, features and software are available to add to the package, providing a complete virtual, 360-degree demonstration.

"The XLG3 microsite is a great way for customers to get a feel for the system and its different features before seeing a live demonstration," said Ed Hubben, Global Product Manager for GE Sensing & Inspection Technologies' Everest XLG3. "Everything a customer needs to know about the XLG3 resides on this site."

GE's Everest XLG3 system is a video borescope that offers a new way of enhancing inspection productivity. Advanced features include improved image quality, QuickChange™ probes that quickly reconfigure probe diameter and length, real-time data management and network connectivity for collaboration during live inspections. Key applications for the XLG3 include aviation and power turbine inspections, large tank and vessel inspections, airframe inspections and large pipe and header inspections.

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A lifeboat for a lab 'drowning in data'

The City of Tshwane's Rietvlei Laboratory has been revolutionized by its new lab management system: saving time, enjoying better control and improving service. This is according to a recent report. The laboratory tests and monitors drinking water in the area, with the purification plant producing 40 megalitres of potable water each day. Until recently, however, the little lab was "drowning in data", explained Lab Manager, Leanne Coetzee. "We were using Excel and capturing data by hand, growing overloaded and becoming concerned about human error. So we decided to find a way to manage our data and gain control," she said.

The Rietvlei Lab was apprehensive about cost, as research suggested systems of R1-million or more. Leanne added: "Other labs who'd bought big systems had paid a fortune, and told us afterwards that they didn't use half of them: they were complicated and required a lot of 'extras'. So when we shopped around, we knew what we didn't want."

The lab had three criteria: affordability, in light of its size and resources; the ability to integrate its existing system into the new system; and access to above-average backup. It

Aerial view of the Rietvlei area

looked to the older, bigger Daspoort Laboratory – a wastewater lab – for guidance.

Daspoort was using a lab management system (LIMS) called LabInfo, created by Technology Systems Integration (TSI), and Leanne met with TSI. "Within a few days," she stated, "TSI understood what we do, what we need and how to customize its LabInfo system for us, for instance, so we could integrate our lab instruments with the system."

LabInfo contains a highly modular instrument integration framework, making it easy to interface with any instrument. Bi-directional instrument integration lets the system generate task lists for lab instruments and then read the results when they become available. System users can define allowed limits for their results or have LabInfo calculate them based on historical data. This is exactly what the Rietvlei Lab required.

In addition, Rietvlei wanted storage on a secure server, full-backup with no hitches and access to a real support structure. "With LabInfo backups are simple and can be done securely over the Internet, the support turnaround time is excellent, there's a solid fault-reporting system, and we can even attach the files we're having problems with, for speedy advice on fixing them."

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