

Barrow-on-Soar Screen House Measurement 20 Times Better!

Pulsar Measurement has supplied Lafarge's Barrow-on-Soar railhead with twenty points of non-contacting ultrasonic level measurement, reliably, accurately, and cost-effectively measuring stone level in a difficult, dusty environment.

Lafarge produces a range of granite roadstone from dust to 63mm at its Mountsorrel quarry, conveying the aggregate either as single sizes or a blend via a long conveyor into a bank of ten 300 tonne capacity silos, each of which is ten meters deep. Each silo is filled from a central shuttle conveyor discharging to each side, so each can have twin peaks of material, and each discharges to a separate belt conveyor, so can be considered as two separate measurement points. Lafarge needed to control the fitting of the silos automatically and at the same time maintain stock control, so approached Pulsar for a solution. An abrasive material like granite would wear away a contacting

sensor very quickly, so Pulsar's non-contacting ultrasonic technology was ideal in that respect. The on-site SCADA system was to handle the display of levels and control of the silo loading, so there was no need for a local display of level, just a reliable signal through Profibus.

Pulsar's solution was to offer their Blackbox component ultrasonic system, which has been designed for exactly this scenario. The Blackbox is compact and easy to install. Lafarge chose the 'Blackbox Display' model with local display and an integral keyboard. Other versions are also available with no display or controls on the device itself, reducing costs.

A useful time-saver at Lafarge was the ability to 'clone' several units using the same programming parameters. As the silos are all a similar size, they could all be preprogrammed before installation, which reduced process downtime. The 20 Blackbox units, two for each silo, were mounted in a control cabinet and each connected to a Pulsar dB15 Transducer mounted on an aiming kit so that it could be directed towards the silo draw-off point. The Blackbox units were then multiplexed through a Profibus connection to the site SCADA system.



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Colin Squires, Lafarge Instrumentation Engineer

As Colin Squires, Lafarge instrumentation engineer, said: 'We have been very happy with the Pulsar equipment. Installation was very straightforward and we are gaining real efficiency savings because we now have reliable and accurate information about the state of the silos.'

More Information

Blackbox: https://pulsarmeasurement.com/Blackbox.html

dB Transducer Series: https://pulsarmeasurement.com/db-transducer.html

Featured Products







Blackbox Controller



dB15 Transducer

Delivering the Measure of Possibility

Pulsar Measurement offers worldwide professional support for all of our products, and our network of global partners all offer full support and training. Our facilities in Malvern, UK and Largo, USA are home to technical support teams who are always available to answer your call or attend your site when required. Our global presence, with direct offices in the UK, USA, Canada, and Malaysia, allows us to create close relationships with our customers and provide service, support, training, and information throughout the lifetime of your product.

For more information, please visit our website:

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