Wireless HMI
Micon saw a need for a wireless HMI. President Roman Rammler explains: “In compressor controls, for example, a wireless HMI is very desirable. Engineers want to be able to respond to equipment conditions and operating information quickly. Carrying an HMI allows them to respond to alarms and diagnostic information at all times.”

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Each display category has its own menus for navigating around the system using the PDA’s Next, Prev, and Go To buttons. A menu bar appears at the top of each screen. The display architecture is flexible, yet clean in appearance and interacts with every application the same way. All windows are consistent and operations have been simplified so that an untrained person can easily navigate among the various displays.

Although the PDA screen is small, it can produce remarkably clear and easy to read graphics. And while the small screen cannot hold as much information as a large PC, the powerful WebStudio software allows the PDA to perform virtually every function that an operator at a PC can do. Also, WebStudio can send data in XML format over the network, making it much easier to interface to other software and higher-level enterprise packages.

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In addition to its proven unit controller concept based on U-200 universal controllers, Micon has a unique operator interface based on a Casio PDA and WebStudio Unit Control Solutions.

Over the years, Micon has continued to keep its control systems up to date with the latest computer and networking technologies. The newest version, the A/S OPEN-W system, is a suite of integrated hardware and software that handles everything from single units to plant wide control systems.

MICON Systems, based in Houston, Texas, has been building process control systems for nearly 30 years based on the Unit Control concept. In 1972, it introduced the first micro-processor-based controller to the process control industry. The company has thrived in the face of competition from giant distributed control system vendors because it has concentrated on developing niches where it excels, such as compressor controls, energy management, and boiler control. It has also evolved from just a hardware supplier into a complete automation systems company.

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Instruments, InduSoft, or any other OPC-compatible HMI/SCADA software. The commercial software can access data stored in the U-200 databases via OPC, change setpoints, and perform standard HMI system functions such as monitoring, alarming and process historian. However, the responsibility for controlling, maintaining and keeping the data base safe stays with the U-200 units, not on the disk drives of PCs.

Each U-200 maintains its own local data base in hardened RAM and Flash memory, and can communicate with a central controller or HMIs via networks. This gives each distributed unit controller complete autonomy and exceptional reliability, while letting it communicate with central PC-based control systems.

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The A/S system allows end users to configure control systems of different sizes, logically segregate them in different parts of a plant, and connect all the various systems over a data highway (normally a redundant Ethernet media) or via a wide area network (WAN).

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MICON SYSTEMS

Wireless PDA Lets Operators Access Equipment Condition Information with a Handheld HMI/SCADA Unit

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