

Minus80 Monitoring Case Study

Wireless temperature monitoring fills gap for growing company

Case Study Subject:



Tonbo Biosciences, San Diego, California

Founded in 2011 by a team of immunologists, researchers and industry leaders, Tonbo Biosciences was conceived of a simple principle: giving back to the research community by providing high performance, value oriented products of the highest quality, and aligning ourselves through disciplined and innovative science with our customers, will allow us to create a unique value-oriented and technology-driven company.

No monitoring infrastructure—No problem

Tonbo Biosciences is a young, innovative company located in San Diego. Tonbo's facility does not have an existing integrated building management system or equipment monitoring system. Typically these types of systems are utilized to monitor equipment alarms or transmit & record temperature data.

Some Tonbo products are kept in a +4°C cold room. Without an existing networked building management system or an installed equipment monitoring infrastructure, continuously monitoring and recording the cold room temperature was not practical. While a chart recorder with alarm would serve the purpose, it doesn't provide input specificity such as door position (open or closed) or ambient temperature. Having this additional data available at the time of alarm provides the responder information to troubleshoot the alarm cause immediately thus adding value.

Tonbo wanted to monitor and record product cold room temperature. Tonbo was approached by FM&O Advisors, Inc. about initiating a trial of the Minus80 Monitoring system & service. FM&O had been looking for value added technology platforms to bring to the San Diego market and had recently developed a working relationship with Minus80.

Minus80 Monitoring's temperature measurement & reporting system utilizes a wireless transmitter installed at the measurement site (i.e. refrigerator, freezer, incubator, cold room, environmental chamber, etc.) The Minus80 system measures internal/box temperature, ambient temperature, ambient humidity, and door position (open/closed). Data is communicated wirelessly to a network interface module (which is connected to the client's LAN via an RJ45 connection) and then is transmitted through the cloud to the Minus80 Monitoring center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

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Using technology to fill an information gap

Tonbo agreed to try out the Minus80 platform through a no obligation 30 day trial. FM&O installed sensors at the cold room (in room thermistor and door contact) and connected the network interface to Tonbo's LAN under the guidance of Tonbo's IT team. The installation included training on the Minus80 Web User Interface. Through the User Interface, Minus80 clients directly access the monitoring units of their equipment. At the User Interface, clients are able to adjust alarm set points, acknowledge alarms, and review historical data—the controlled environment temperature, door open/close events, ambient temperature, and ambient humidity.

During the trial installation Tonbo accessed the User Interface to review data and become acquainted with the system. At the completion of the trial period, Tonbo elected to not only keep the cold room monitoring in place but to add additional equipment to the monitoring system.

Robert Triulzi, Tonbo Bioscience's Vice President of Research and Development noted: "Minus80 Monitoring's temperature monitoring system not only enables easy and convenient monitoring, it also provides reporting on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. Alarm set-points are easily assigned and alarm notifications are completely configurable. This combination of ease of use, flexibility, and power, is unmatched in the temperature monitoring market."



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