

FE230 ENABLES BATTERY-OPERATED DATA COMMUNICATION

No mains necessary

The trend towards remote data communication is in full flow. Our volume correctors fulfill all the requirements imposed upon devices to be used for such purposes. With ELSTER's EK230 and EK260 volume correctors it has long been possible to remotely read out billing data and load profiles.

The modems necessary to carry out these functions require a connection to a telephone network. If GSM radio modems are used, then there is no longer any need to use a landline but, nonetheless, the modem connection, no matter what type of modem, has until now still required a permanent power supply. If this is not available, there is the possibility of using solar technology to generate the power but this solution is time consuming and costly since so many components are involved (solar panel, storage battery, control unit, etc.). On top of that, the solar panel always has to be installed outside the station, which increases the danger of damage or even complete destruction. That, of course, leads to an interruption of the data transfer.

With the new FE230 function extension unit there is now the possibility of maintaining secure data communication in stations without a permanent power supply. The FE230 is battery powered, enables the data interface to be separated from the Ex zone and is fitted with an integrated GSM modem. The housing is inconspicuous and the antenna for the modem is built into the device, which reduces the risk of theft or damage to a minimum.

Since it is not necessary to read out data all the time, it is possible to use a call-up strategy which helps to minimize the energy consumption of the



Fig. 1: EK260 together with an FE230

FE230 and, thus, extend the battery life to 5 years or more. When using this call-up method, the clock inside the EK230 or EK260 volume corrector activates the modem in a presettable cyclical time window, e. g. one hour every week or every month, and the data is read out during this period of time. This time is quite sufficient in order to read out the data from the volume corrector using a data readout program (e. g. WinCOMS) and provides enough leeway for any repeat call-up processes if, for example, the network is overloaded and the connection is interrupted. When the readout process is complete, the modem switches itself off again.

So, as you can see, the FE230 closes the last gap in the remote data transfer network. If you have any problems concerning remote data readout for which you still have not found the solution, why not just give us a call? We look forward to helping you find the right solution.

RÜDIGER PFEIL, ELSTER GERMANY

pfeil@elster.com



Fig. 2: Gas station without mains supply