

## MANAGEMENT Personnel

that according to industry analysts, the MAG approach reduces the cost of ownership for mobile applications by as much as 30% to 50%.

“It allows the system administrator to do powerful things,” says Milnark. “We can see each group and click down to a single user – memory status, battery power, even monitor and remote control the mobile device over wireless. It’s good for training, support and troubleshooting – instead of shipping the mobile in, we can work with them to solve a problem.”

Another powerful PC application is Tandberg’s FieldView, a high-resolution mobile video system that enables remote workers to collaborate and troubleshoot field issues with centrally-located experts. As examples, onsite technicians can visually share and illustrate line equipment malfunctions visually with remote experts, and oil platform workers can walk through repair procedures with a vendor onshore.

The FieldView device looks like a traditional camera and operates like a traditional video endpoint, but has two-way VoIP and one-way video. The software can control the device remotely, enabling experts to focus and even zoom in to share and discuss detailed video images. Still images can be annotated in real time, and live video can be shared with multiple office locations, enabling full team discussions.

### Good vibrations



Figure 4. Windows XP and Web connectivity give users of this tablet-based vibration analysis system real-time access to extensive knowledge and support.

“FieldView’s handheld portability makes it possible to highlight detailed products, processes and machinery that

## The Original Blue Pipe for Compressed Air



**legris**  
transair

Energy Efficient  
Modular Design  
Simple Installation  
Lower Install Cost  
Push-to-Connect  
Completely Reusable  
No Corrosion  
Available in 1/2" - 4"



7205 E. Hampton Ave. Mesa, AZ 85209 Phone: 480-830-7764 www.transair-usa.com

## MANAGEMENT Personnel

otherwise would be hard to share visually," says John Paul Williams, global business development manager, manufacturing, for Tandberg ([www.tandberg.net](http://www.tandberg.net)). "Companies don't have to remain at a standstill while they wait for a specialist to come and investigate the problem physically. Operations keep running."

### Today's all-in-one

Responding to demands by its more advanced vibration analysis technicians, DLI Engineering integrated many of today's capabilities into its DCX mobile system (Figure 4). The system uses a hardened tablet computer made by DRS, with DLI's data acquisition card and a triaxial sensor. It runs high-level software – Windows XP and a full desktop version of vibration analysis and diagnostic software, as opposed to approaches where data is acquired and later downloaded into a desktop workstation for analysis.

"Customers want all the history and tools on the floor, and appreciate the XP system so they can load other things onto it as well, such as e-mail," says Dean Lofall, director of products and systems engineering at DLI ([www.dliengineering.com](http://www.dliengineering.com)).

With wireless, they're integrated with peers around the company. They can send alarms to others' attention, and interface with Scheduling to get problems fixed. They have more freedom and power to communicate in real time.

Wireless technology can be integrated with software so results go into the CMMS. "And if they're testing and see something or hear a noise, they can check the CMMS history and scheduled work," says Lofall. "The DCX can access the CMMS while constructing or performing tests, and you can streamline changes to future work orders and update equipment histories in real time."

Web connectivity gives access to DLI's knowledge base. "We have resources available through the Web that they otherwise wouldn't have

– references, etc. – so if they see something they don't understand, they can identify it," Lofall says. "They also can access our online technical support. With GoToMeeting service, if the DCX is connected to the Web, our tech support guys can get right on their desktops and help them out while the guy watches them.

"We knew it would be convenient, but we didn't realize it would turn out as wonderful as it is. It's a great opportunity for the field technicians to get the support they need."

### Avert the crisis

Increasing availability of wireless networks in industrial plants; proliferation of PC, wireless and Web capabilities; and falling costs of ever more sophisticated mobile technology are brewing up an antidote for the growing skilled worker shortage attributed to retiring baby-boomers, high-tech

manufacturing systems and aging infrastructures. Mobile's ability to instruct, guide and empower workers might be just what we need to close the gap, mitigating the shortage of highly-trained and experienced technicians with wireless tools that can show-and-tell operators each step of the best way to perform their task. ☐

### More resources at [www.PlantServices.com](http://www.PlantServices.com)/thismonth

Going mobile: Power tools for culture change  
Improvements in CMMS data entry  
Build your own industrial Tricorder  
Portable control meets maintenance  
Wireless finds its calling in maintenance  
Wireless: Ready or not

For more, search [www.PlantServices.com](http://www.PlantServices.com) using the keywords mobile, computer, handheld and wireless.

## THREE DEFINING STRENGTHS ONE EXCEPTIONAL COMPANY

Engineering and ingenuity from around the globe. 150 years of experience. And a new partnership with Fu Sheng, a precision manufacturer of some of the world's most respected brands. Experience what the power of our new partnership can do for you.

VISIT [WWW.DISCOVERCURTIS.COM](http://WWW.DISCOVERCURTIS.COM)

DISCOVER  
**CURTIS**  
AIR COMPRESSORS

©2007 Curtis-Toledo, Inc.