



Simpler hydrocarbon gas detection

Detection and monitoring of hydrocarbon gas concentrations has become more effective with new gas detector technology

Industrial operations in Africa can detect and monitor hydrocarbon gas concentrations more effectively by adopting technologies such as the Ultima OPIR-5 open path IR gas detector, made available in local African markets through MSA, which specialises in the development, manufacture and supply of sophisticated products that protect people's health and safety.

MSA Africa marketing manager for gas detection products Robbie Taitz has described the Ultima OPIR-5 detector's use for the continuous monitoring of combustible hydrocarbon gas concentrations.

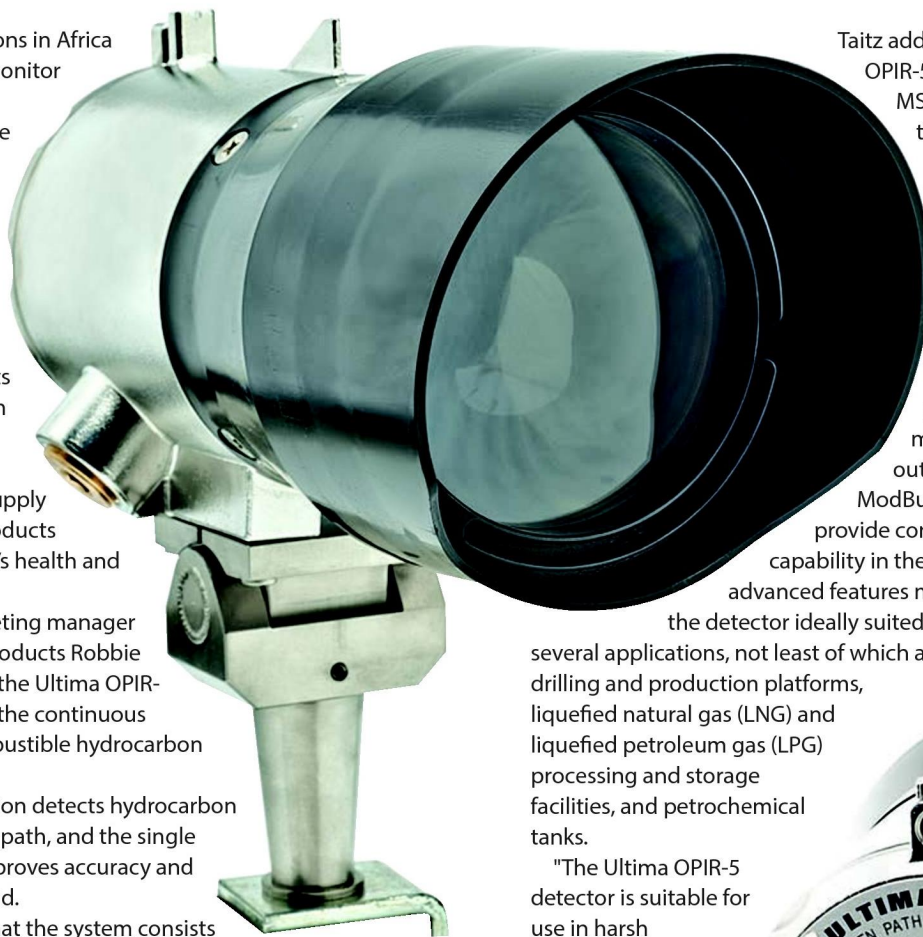
"Infrared absorption detects hydrocarbon gases over an open path, and the single detection beam improves accuracy and reduces drift," he said.

Taitz explained that the system consists of an IR source and receiver which monitors for methane, with the option of monitoring for propane, too.

"The sensitivity of the MSA Ultima OPIR-5 detector can be checked by placing a test gas film in front of the receiver, while the dual detection range provides the sensitivity to pick up both small and large gas leaks," he noted.

Considering calibration

Another important aspect to take into account is that the MSA Ultima OPIR-5 detector is easily aligned using the digital display and adjustable mounting arms, and does not require the use of any bulky setup equipment, such as digital volt meters and handheld alignment aids.



The MSA detector is ideally suited to several applications in the oil & gas industry

Taitz adds that calibration of the Ultima OPIR-5 Detector takes place at the MSA factory, thereby eliminating the need for further calibration.

"What's more, the detector requires little maintenance apart from a periodic visual inspection, test gas film check, and cleaning of the windows to ensure dependable performance."

The MSA Ultima OPIR-5 gas detector also boasts multiple communication outputs, including: HART, ModBus and AMS Support - which provide complete status and control capability in the control room. These advanced features make

the detector ideally suited to several applications, not least of which are: drilling and production platforms, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) processing and storage facilities, and petrochemical tanks.

"The Ultima OPIR-5 detector is suitable for use in harsh environments, and its automatic gain control compensates for dirty optics, rain and fog. It comes standard with a two year warranty, and includes test gas films, a mounting arm, mounting base, scope and attenuation plate, which provides the user with a maximum return on investment," Taitz concluded. ■

MSA's Ultima OPIR-5

