

Hetronic Provides Solution for Highly Explosive Area

Routine painting and coating of military aircraft can be dangerous business, so when Tinker Air Force Base (AFB) officials in Oklahoma City investigated remote control solutions, Hetronic came out on top!

As one of the largest Air Force Bases in the US, Tinker manages a wide range of aircraft, engines, missiles, software and accessories, including AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft.

“Explosive fumes are the number one concern at Tinker,” said Hetronic USA explosion proof systems expert Leslie Kendrick, “so we designed a safe and reliable system especially for their needs,” he said. The entire remote is Explosion Proof, Class I, Div. I Categorized and FM certified.

“The system configuration used in Tinker’s paint and repair hangers basically controls an array of specialty overhead cranes and associated hoists, lift baskets and paint nozzles,” Kendrick explained, adding that the entire system uses 9 platforms located in 2 huge bays.

Two operators in radio communication control the system. One operator controls the lift basket using an explosion proof Hetronic Nova-L-K, while the other acts as a spotter to alert the operator should the lift basket come close enough to the fuselage to potentially damage the aircraft.

Initially, the spotter could only communicate danger verbally using the 2-way radio, but “now, after 2 accidents,” Kendrick explained, the spotter is equipped with a Hetronic Mini transmitter.

The Mini transmitter allows the spotter to instantly override and shutdown any lift basket movement. As a further precaution, Kendrick explained, “when the emergency stop on the Mini is engaged, the Nova-L-K will not operate until the spotter resets the Mini transmitter.”

For more information regarding Hetronic explosion proof systems, contact Leslie Kendrick. See his contact information at lower right.



E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft



Explosion proof receiver and transmitter



Paint booth crane in Tinker Air Force Base Hanger

Explosion proof
Nova-L-K transmitter
and Mini transmitter
(from left to right)



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