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METERSHARE PRODUCTION DATA SHARING

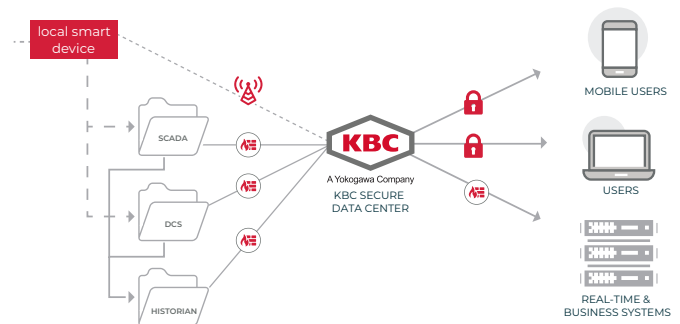
The production data-sharing cloud service for reconciling pipeline nominations

Crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas, and industrial gases supplied by pipeline are often bought on a nomination basis, and are subject to harsh financial penalties for any outstanding imbalance. In response to this, the KBC MeterShare™ service enables pipeline operators to provide timely access to real-time operating data for their customers to reconcile actual off-take against nomination at any time.

Without the MeterShare service, pipeline customers cannot manage imbalances frequently or have to rely on duplicate meters. This option is costly to install and maintain and does not always reconcile with the pipeline operator's own meters.

Our MeterShare service enables the pipeline operator to securely post pipeline meter station data in real-time to a central database at our data center. Authorized customers can then access the data through a set of secure web pages, and may even have the data sent directly to a database on their own network, depending on their preference and access rights.

Companies using the MeterShare service can easily manage imbalances in real-time and, with analysis of their own ability to make/buy power, determine optimum pipeline off-take. This capability minimizes penalties for the pipeline customer and maximizes stability of operation for the pipeline operator.



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Meter station data collection

Even when the pipeline customer has his own duplicate meter, it remains desirable for the customer to access real-time data from the operator's determining meter. This data is typically available from one of many sources. For example, a small pipeline operator may collect data from the pipeline via an RTU (Remote Telemetry Unit) with direct web access. A middle-sized operator may have a number of RTUs connected to a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system at a nearby separation plant, to view current values and recent history on their corporate network. A large operator may connect RTUs to a DCS (Distributed Control System) and store data in a real-time historian database for viewing and analysis.

Allowing the customer to access the pipeline operator's own systems directly exposes a huge security vulnerability. In addition, a lack of standardization in the industry means that customers would then have to interact with systems and data formats that do not match their own in order to consolidate the data. With over 350 standard interfaces available, the MeterShare service can collect data from all systems regardless of type.

Secure data communication

Most pipeline operators restrict 3rd party access to their own internal database systems for obvious security reasons. In order to share data with their customers, they therefore approve a single secure path out through their firewall to KBC and then each customer receives data from a mirrored database outside the firewall. With secure connections to over 300 major corporations, the MeterShare service greatly reduces security vulnerability and prevents unintended or malicious overloading of the source database and network by outsiders.

Benefits

Pipeline customer

- Optimal gas off-take vs actual determining meter, not a duplicate
- Faster response time to changes in customer operations
- Reduced penalties for outstanding imbalances

Pipeline operator

- Reduced security vulnerability with single data pipeline to all customers
- Reduced customer support costs
- Avoidance of investment in in-house systems

Secure data storage

Once the customer posts data to the central database at the KBC data center, it is stored in its original resolution for access, even years later. The MeterShare service can convert data from one company's standard to another. This eliminates the impact of frequency changes in engineering units and data collection. KBC makes these changes without altering the original data. In addition, the MeterShare service minimizes any disruption in data availability by using the data buffering capabilities of field systems where possible. With data update rates ranging from 1 to 1,000,000 values/minute, the MeterShare service has flexibility, scalability, and reliability to suit all needs.

Secure user access

User access to the pipeline operator's data is by one of two methods. It is either by secure web display accessed from their web browser or direct data transfer to the customer's own database. For web access, KBC provides each user a secure ID and password and user can login from any internet-connected device. Access privileges control the user's ability to view displays and download history data for analysis. In the direct data transfer case, the MeterShare service exports pipeline data to a real-time or relational database on the partner's network, using standard interfaces and appropriate communications channels according to the partner's own IT standards. Users from over 300 major corporations accept the MeterShare service as the de facto standard for 3rd party access to real-time systems in the pipeline industry.

User-configurable electronic alerting

The MeterShare service includes the ability to automatically alert personnel in production changes versus specified targets or limits. Alerts are set on a per user basis and users can receive via email, cell phone, pager, etc. Electronic alerting means operating staff can be aware of changes in production and take action to maintain optimal and profitable operations 24 hours a day.

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