

Frequently Asked Questions
Steam Asset Management Webinar
January 21, 2009

For more information, please contact
Armstrong Smart Services Group at 269-273-1415

Q: Is Dr. Trap USB-driven?

A: Yes the Dr. Trap unit plugs into a USB port to transfer data from the handheld to the PC.

Q: Is Dr. Trap Intrinsically Safe?

A: Dr Trap is not intrinsically safe but is low voltage, runs on 2 AA batteries. The SteamEye transmitters are intrinsically safe.

Q: Does Steam Eye measure conductivity or temperature?

A: There are two ways SteamEye monitors traps; conductivity and ultrasonic. Both units monitor temperature.

Q: With SteamStar calculating emissions, do we enter the type of boiler fuel we use?

A: Yes. There are several boiler types and fuels available for selection.

Q: What is the approximate cost of a single SteamEye installation?

A: That depends on how many points you want to monitor, and layout of the facility. An example of a typical 20 to 50--trap installation will cost \$1000 to \$1500 per point. Obviously this will change with higher or lower number. The layout of the facility will also have a large effect on this.

Q: What is the range of SteamEye without having to use a repeater?

A: SteamEye transmitters can transmit about 1500 feet, line of site. Depending on the materials of obstructions we typically see 300-500 feet without a repeater.

Q: Can you please discuss the benefits of ultrasonic testing over temperature testing?

A: Ultrasonic testing is "listening" to the sound signature of a leaking steam trap. Temperature testing can tell you if the steam trap is plugged and cold, but it is not 100% foolproof for leaking, or for the amount of leaking.

Q: Do any of these capabilities work with compressed air solutions?

A: SteamStar is designed to calculate steam losses but the SteamEye devices will work on compressed air.

Q: How much training does a new user require for the Dr. Trap?

A: Using Dr. Trap takes very little training. Interfacing the device with SteamStar does take a little training but can be done in a WebEx training session (1 on 1).

Q: What is the difference between manual and semi-instantaneous monitoring?

A: By semi-instantaneous we mean data transfer. By using the Dr Trap unit it allows someone with less training to perform the survey. It also eliminates the need to carry around a clipboard and duplicate data entry. Manual testing is the use of a stethoscope device, and hand-written log sheets.

Q: How do you power the SteamEye?

A: It is powered at the transmitter by a Duracell 123 lithium battery, the Gateway is 120 vac.

Q: What functions does the Dr. Trap perform?

A: The Dr. Trap will automatically test and hold information on up to 1000 traps. Dr. Trap then allows you to download test information into SteamStar to get steam loss calculations.

Q: What's the per point cost for the RF monitoring system?

A: The size of a system is going to drive the price per point, if the system is small and localized without a large number of repeaters it will be less per point. Conversely, a large system, over a large area, with a large number of repeaters, may be more per point.

Q: Where do you put the SteamEye on a relief valve monitoring application?

A: It is mounted on the outlet of the valve.

Q: Where can I find information on what a steam trap does and how it works?

A: We have a lot of information on our Web site (www.armstronginternational.com). You can also contact your local Armstrong representative for information about steam trap operation.

Q: How would you test for wet steam?

A: A steam calorimeter will check for the enthalpy.

Q: We use infrared cameras to check our steam traps. Are they as accurate at checking steam traps as your equipment? If not how are they different?

A: Infrared cameras are good for the manual inspection, to see if the inlet is hot and the outlet cool. However, unlike Dr. Trap or manual methods, infrared cameras do not detect leaks. Additionally, infrared cameras do not give you 24/7 monitoring as SteamEye does.

Q: How does trap management integrate with ERP systems?

A: SteamStar can be directly linked into ERP systems, linking the work order process to the material requisition and purchasing process.

Q: Does Armstrong have a hard-wired system?

A: Armstrong does not have a wired system, as we've found it to be too expensive to install. Wireless is convenient and does not require conduit to be run.

Q: Does Armstrong offer any classes or seminars on steam traps?

A: Yes. Armstrong International offers several educational opportunities, both via Armstrong University on our Web site (www.armstronginternational.com/armstrong-university), and at demonstration facilities around the world. For more information, please call 269-273-1415.

Q: How long does the SteamEye battery last?

A: 3-5 years depending on environment.

Q: Does Armstrong have experience in clean steam applications?

A: Yes, we offer steam traps for clean steam applications.

Q: What size facility would benefit the most from S.A.M.?

A: Any size facility can benefit. If you want to save energy and operate a reliable system, S.A.M. is for you.

Q: What is the difference between a leaky trap and a trap that has blown through? In other words, are there degrees of trap failure?

A: A leaking trap is a trap that is beginning to fail. This is usually the discretion of the person performing the survey. SteamStar does calculate a lesser loss for traps identified as leaking versus blow through.

Q: Your company did a steam trap survey for us a couple of years ago. How often would you recommend doing this?

A: We would recommend that a survey be performed once per year at a minimum.

Q: Corporate security will not allow me to upload data from a device to SteamStar out on the Internet. Can Dr. Trap be used as a standalone?

A: Yes, Dr Trap can be used as a standalone system. However, SteamStar is a more robust application. We've had other instances where IT issues were a concern. Please have your IT department contact Armstrong Smart Services Group for more information.
