



## MONITOR NEWS

Check out [www.monitor-tech.com/news\\_pr.shtml](http://www.monitor-tech.com/news_pr.shtml) for the full story.

>> Flexar® Guided Wave Radar Solves Level Measurement Problems With Flyash

>> Do not overlook the simple things when troubleshooting an installation that worked for years.

(see backside)

## INDUSTRY NEWS

>> [www.foodprocessing.com](http://www.foodprocessing.com)

>> New Powders and Bulk Solids Book Released

([http://www.powderandbulk.com/pb\\_services/newsletter/february\\_4\\_2008.htm](http://www.powderandbulk.com/pb_services/newsletter/february_4_2008.htm))

## TRIVIA

Win a Monitor tee-shirt, waterbottle or hat by E-mailing us at [monitor@monitortech.com](mailto:monitor@monitortech.com)

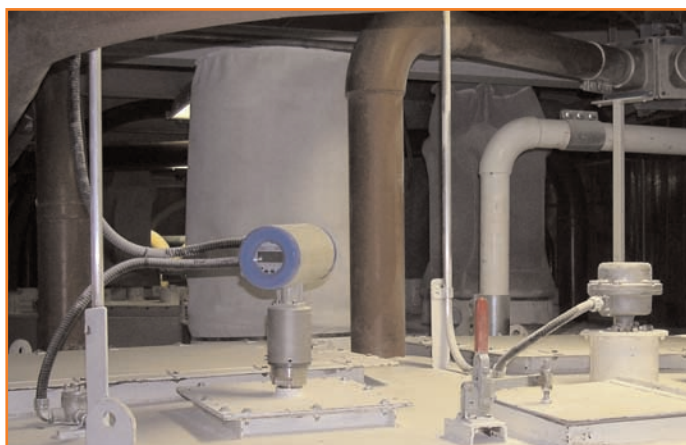
### 1st Quarter Q:

What was boxer Jack Dempsey's nickname, which was derived from the Colorado town in which he was born?



# Global Flour Processor Uses Flexar® Guided Wave Radar

A large global flour processor and food products company recently began using the Flexar® guided wave radar in a total of eighteen (18) silos and bins to manage their finished product inventory. Readings from these continuous level sensors is reported as being reliable and accurate, even during pneumatic filling, contrary to their previous measuring system. A previous non-performing ultrasonic system was replaced by the Flexar level sensors. Flexar guided wave radar level sensors were chosen as the best for pneumatically filled dust laden flour silos.



Eight (8) Flexar level sensors are installed in load-out silos that fill bulk trucks with processed and finished flour. These silos are 12ft in diameter and 35ft tall. The finished flour is pneumatically conveyed into these silos. During filling the internal environment of the silos is very dusty and turbulent. The finished flour in these silos is used for loading bulk transport trucks for distribution. In addition, ten (10) Flexar level sensors are installed in 40ft high bins that contain bran. This material is also sent by bulk transport to end users.

All of the Flexar level sensors are equipped with an RS485 digital communications output that is connected to a PC with a graphical user interface for inventory management purposes. Monitor's SiloTrack™ inventory management software is used by the facility to monitor and manage material inventories of both the finished flour and the bran. SiloTrack allows for multiple user viewing and data access via LAN and this is how the facility will be using the software that provides a flexible, graphical user interface, alarms, report generation and history analysis functions.

Guided wave radar is especially well suited to level measurement applications of dusty powder materials even when measuring during pneumatic filling. These flour applications exemplify this, as well as the large number of Flexar sensors installed in similar dusty applications measuring the level of cement powder, flyash, powdered slag, clays, and many other materials. Flexar guided wave radar utilizes TDR (time domain reflectometry) technology. Radar pulses are continuously transmitted down the sensor's probe and guided to the material surface where they are reflected back to the electronics along the wave guide. The time-of-flight of the pulses is measured and directly related to the distance to the material surface and its level.

For more information about Flexar guided wave radar continuous level measurement sensors and SiloTrack inventory management software please visit [www.monitortech.com](http://www.monitortech.com) or call us in the USA at 800-766-6486 or from anywhere at 630-365-9403. Also, visit our Flexar website at [www.flexar.info](http://www.flexar.info) and our Level Measurement blog at [www.monitortech.typepad.com](http://www.monitortech.typepad.com). ▼

# Tech Tip : Do not overlook the simple things when troubleshooting an installation that worked for years.

I have been in touch with a customer that installed our first generation SMU over 2.5 years ago. Read the partial email threads and see for yourself what steps constitute a typical diagnostic and troubleshooting procedure for a simple RS-485 network with multiple sensors. I will have a final comment at the end of this article, but this case history actually speaks for itself. Procedures outlined in this article generally apply to both SiloPatrol and Flexar with very minor exceptions, the most significant being that the Flexar line does not have a built in network termination resistor on the RS-485 module which changes one of the outlined procedures unless the installer added one during installation. These threads have been slightly edited for clarity and condensation of text. ▼



Greg,  
Our SiloTrack Server has been running great for 2.5 years, and then suddenly, Com errors appeared on all 4 SMU's.  
My questions:  
1. Is there a way that I can test communications on each SMU individually, to verify that their COMS are working independently of the SiloTrack Server, and network ?  
2. Is there a way that I can test the RS-485 board from SeaLevel to verify it is working?  
Thanks, Valued Customer

*Final Comments*  
Long story short -- a "Cold Solder Joint" was found in the DB9 cable going into the SeaLevel 7201 RS-485 card.

To read all of Greg and our customer's email threads on how to troubleshoot an installation and test your network setup. Please visit our blog at . . .  
[www.typepad.com/monitortech.com](http://www.typepad.com/monitortech.com)



Greg DeRudder

## Monitor's 2008 Top 20 Rep Ranking

BASED ON GROSS \$ VOLUME

(AS OF Feb 1; North America)

- 1 ▶ WD PATTERSON CO
- 2 ▶ SAHLY ANDERSON
- 3 ▶ LECORP
- 4 ▶ KENCOTRONICS
- 5 ▶ BALL SALES & ENG.
- 6 ▶ THE VAUGHN CO.
- 7 ▶ BULK MAT. ENG.
- 8 ▶ NELSON ENG.
- 9 ▶ COOK AND COOK
- 10 ▶ POWELL EQUIP.
- 11 ▶ MASS FLOW SOL.
- 12 ▶ FLO-DYNAMICS
- 13 ▶ MISSOURI FILTER
- 14 ▶ HI PRO EQUIP. INC
- 15 ▶ PME EQUIPMENT
- 16 ▶ INDUSTRIAL SALES
- 17 ▶ APPROTEC EQUIP.
- 18 ▶ AIRFLOW ENG.
- 19 ▶ ERICKSON CO. INC.
- 20 ▶ K & P SALES

INTERNATIONAL  
**Powder & Bulk Solids** MAY 6-8  
Chicago, IL  
**BOOTH 2035**

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### SecureCare<sup>SM</sup> PROFILE

**NAME:** Jennifer Thomas  
**TITLE:** Sales Associate  
**DEPT:** Sales  
**ANIV:** November 27, 2007



Interview 02/2008

**Q: Where are you from originally?**  
**A:** St. Charles, IL.

**Q: What is your favorite food?**  
**A:** Anything Italian

**Q: What customer item reminds you most of Monitor?**  
**A:** My two kids love cereal. Every time I pour a bowl for my kids it reminds me of Monitor Technologies LLC and all our wonderful customers.

**Q: What is the best aspect of working at Monitor?**  
**A:** The best part is the people. The staff at Monitor Technologies LLC are wonderful to work with. Monitor customers are just a delight to work with as well. I look forward to working with all of our customers!



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