




Regulvar, now a certified supplier of the CSDM



For several years, the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM) had a single supplier for their centralized management and control system. Given that the school board plans the deployment and modernization work for its inventory of over 200 buildings, in March 2010, it invited suppliers to submit a proposal outlining their building automation products and services.

Did you know?

Regulvar is a member of the Smart Net-Zero Energy Buildings Research Network headed by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

With the support of engineering company Bouthillette Parizeau (BPA), the CSDM issued a series of requirements regarding the suppliers and their products, including the stipulation that the BACnet communication protocol be used and that the software program and controllers be BTL-certified (BACnet Test Laboratory).

Six companies participated in the initial stage of the selection process, which involved presenting a document divided into two sections: a company assessment (size and experience) and a product assessment (capacity of the controllers and network architecture).

To continue to the second stage, a supplier needed to obtain a minimum of 70% for each criterion in each section. Three companies moved on to the second stage: Johnson Controls, Siemens and Regulvar.

During that stage, the three candidates had to demonstrate the performance of their products and their ability to meet the technical requirements by participating in a multi-manufacturer dynamic benchmark test, which involved making their systems work together in a network. Therefore, each company had to demonstrate that it was able to integrate the other two manufacturers' devices into its own control system both simply and effectively, and prove that its software program could do the same.

The finalists were given three days to prepare their control equipment and install their software program on the CSDM server. After a one-week evaluation of the benchmark test, during which specialists from the CSDM and BPA carried out several verifications, it was confirmed that the three suppliers had succeeded.

The benchmark test confirmed many things, including that the three suppliers' software programs could carry out management operations such as visualizing, controlling and modifying control points on the different manufacturers' controllers in a completely transparent manner. The types of points that were successfully integrated are listed below:

- Analog and binary inputs
- Analog and binary outputs
- Analog and binary variables
- Alarms
- Schedules and calendars
- History

In the future, Regulvar, Johnson Controls and Siemens will be the only building automation companies authorized to bid on projects undertaken by the CSDM, Quebec's largest school board—and that is very good news indeed.

Source • **Luc Boily**
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UPCOMING TRAINING

ORCAVIEW 3.33

DIGITAL CONTROLLERS INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

The main objective is to familiarize participants with the ORCAview software and with Delta digital controllers.

Laval (French): September 13•14

Ottawa (French): September 13•14

Ottawa (English): October 18•19

ORCAVIEW 3.33

DIGITAL CONTROLLERS ADVANCED LEVEL

The purpose of this training is to understand the advanced software functions.

Laval (French): September 15•16

Ottawa (French): September 15•16

Ottawa (English): October 20•21

GCL + PROGRAMMING

(GENERAL CONTROL LANGUAGE)

The objective of this training is to understand the programming of Delta digital controllers.

Laval (French): September 21•22•23

Ottawa (French): September 28•29•30

Ottawa (English): October 25•26•27

CREATION OF GRAPHIC INTERFACE

WITH ILLUSTRATOR

The objective of this training is to create graphic interfaces with the ORCAview 3.33 Illustrator module software.

Laval (French): September 29•30

Ottawa (French): October 6•7

Ottawa (English): Selon les inscriptions

For more information,
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Storage heaters

Controlling peak electricity demand



Storage heaters operate based on the principle of thermal storage: they store thermal energy in the form of heat during times when energy use and costs are lower and then release the heat when required. Due to this feature, the heaters represent a clear advantage for clients who are billed based on real power demand given that they reduce peak demand and help clients manage their electricity use more efficiently. It is worth mentioning that with the money saved on electricity use, clients generally obtain a return on investment in under five years.

How these devices work is quite simple. Resistance-based heating elements heat a block of refractory bricks between 150 and 500°C and insulating material helps conserve the heat produced for over eight hours, depending on the outside temperature. The heat is then diffused in a room through radiation and the silent ventilation of warm air.

To optimize the effectiveness of these devices and avoid wasting energy, they can be used in conjunction with direct digital control systems and programmed to operate based on weather forecasts. They are therefore perfect for areas where major temperature variations are common and heating costs are high, for example lobbies. What's more, unlike water radiators, these devices represent ideal solutions in spaces where there is a risk of freezing.

Finally, given that they can be easily integrated into existing installations and require no maintenance, Regulvar's storage heaters can be used in many different projects.

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