Case Study

The KEY to Unattended Fueling

Gasboy International

Gasboy International, a division of Gilbarco, has been in business for over 180 years. Gasboy continues to push the boundaries of innovation, while remaining the world’s largest manufacturer of fuel management systems and fleet dispensers from hand-operated pumps to high-volume super fuelers. Gasboy offers an unparalleled capability to meet the fuel dispensing and control requirements of customers worldwide.

Challenge

Gasboy needed to provide its customers with a way to track vehicle usage so that accurate fuel and mileage costs can be assigned to every department and/or driver. Controlling access to fuel dispensed from their unattended private gas pumps is also a serious challenge for the fleet managers who need to prevent fuel theft. Gasboy needed a portable-memory system that was easy-to-use as well as:

• Rugged and reliable to stand up to the harsh fueling environment
• Fully-engineered to reduce R&D costs and time-to-market
• Long-term supported to avoid expensive re-design and implementation costs
• Unique and acceptable in the market
Solution
Gasboy selected a Datakey portable memory system for their electronic key management system. Gasboy’s “Fleetkey” is a custom marked Datakey serial memory key. Fleet operators who install these pumps issue a Gasboy Fleetkey encoded with identification data to each fleet vehicle and/or driver. This data must be electronically read and verified by the pump before it will dispense any fuel. In some cases, the key also contains information that specifies the quantity of fuel that may be dispensed, as well as other pump control information. The key can also be used to collect management information regarding vehicle use and maintenance. This information can be used to assign proper fuel and mileage charges to each department, etc. The identification data stored electronically in a key cannot be seen, so it remains confidential at all times. Since the key is typically carried on a key chain it’s always handy when a driver needs it and is not likely to be lost or forgotten. Another main advantage of using a Datakey serial memory key in this application is the product’s extreme ruggedness, which enables the keys to survive and perform reliably in fueling environments where they are exposed to dirt, grease and grime. These rugged keys even survive when driven over by a truck.

Fully Engineered
The Fleetkey inserts into a mating KC4210 key receptacle designed into the fueling station. The Datakey key receptacle is a high-cycle life interface that offers tactile confirmation when a key is inserted and turned. There is also a Last-on, First-off (LOFO) contact that may be used to protect the host bus by ensuring the key has made secure contact with the receptacle before any signals are transmitted.

They chose Datakey
Gasboy chose a Datakey solution because of the brand’s long history of providing rugged products that can withstand the harsh fueling environment. The familiar form factor of the key helps to increase users’ comfort level, shortening any user adjustment period. The unique look and markings of the key have also helped to increase awareness of the systems and of the “Gasboy keys”. Additionally, ATEK’s 35+ years of experience in serial memory devices and their fully-engineered solutions can decrease any OEM’s R&D costs and time-to-market, as they have for Gasboy for well over a decade.