

SIEMENS



BRIDGE CITY
CITY HALL
260 RACHAL AVE.

City of Bridge City, Texas

Siemens helps City increase water revenue while reducing water meter reading costs

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In Orange County, Texas, the City of Bridge City is surrounded on three sides by water; offers many outdoor activities for its residents, including fishing, animal habitats, and water sports; and easy access to nearby industrial, medical, educational, and government job opportunities. Because of all the City has to offer, it has become home to more than 8,000 residents.

In 2011, the City recognized its need for providing excellent customer service to residents while remaining good stewards of taxpayers' resources. In partnership with Siemens Industry, Inc., the City of Bridge City is engaging in a Performance Contract to implement water meter infrastructure upgrades.

Client Objectives

The City of Bridge City needed to:

- Address water meter infrastructure needs and improve the accuracy of water meter billings
- Reduce operating costs associated with water meter readings and billings
- Be good stewards of the taxpayers' resources
- Provide excellent services to its citizens

City officials knew that these objectives were critical, but that they needed to be achieved without having a negative impact on the City's budget or operations. The City was looking to partner with a company they could trust, one that could manage the entire process and had a proven track record with similar projects.

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Bridge City to ensure consistent, fair water billings to customers with new Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) system

Siemens Solution

After a concept review and city council approval, the City of Bridge City has engaged Siemens in a 15-year Performance Contract (PC) under Texas Local Government Code 302. PC is a procurement methodology that allows the city to use various sources of funds including energy and operational savings as well as increased revenue to fund facility improvements. PC also allows the City to benefit from guaranteed energy and operational savings through a relationship with a dedicated energy services partner.

Siemens performed an in-depth study of the City's water meter infrastructure during the summer of 2012. This study found that the City would benefit from upgrading its existing water meter system to a fixed-base automatic meter reading (AMR) system, including replacing the City's more than 4100 water meters with new, radio-capable meters.

The AMR system will allow Bridge City to eliminate manual water meter reading costs and labor hours while improving the accuracy of meter readings, ensuring consistent and fair billings for all citizens. The new AMR system will also provide Bridge City and its citizens with valuable data regarding usage. This data can help identify potential leaks early on, preventing citizens from paying for water they don't actually use.

Client Results

When the new AMR system has been fully implemented, Siemens estimates the City of Bridge City will increase water revenues by nearly \$500,000 over the term of the agreement. Approximately \$700,000 in operational and labor savings are also anticipated.

Together, Siemens and the City of Bridge City are improving operational effectiveness and customer service while maintaining the taxpayers' resources. City staff will be able to show its citizens how much water they use, when they use that water, and provide ways citizens can conserve water. Through the use of AMR, citizens can feel comfortable that the meters are read daily and they pay only for the water they use—no more, no less.



Siemens Industry, Inc.
Building Technologies Division
1000 Deerfield Parkway
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

(847) 215-1000

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