

Remote Jet Fuel Inventory Monitoring



Tradewind is a trusted fixed-base operator delivering comprehensive aircraft fueling, storage, and maintenance services. Located at Tradewind Airport in Amarillo, Texas (KTDW), Tradewind FBO offers convenient 24/7 self-serve fueling and reliable support to keep operations running smoothly.



Applications:
Fuel Inventory
Management

Market:
Aviation

Tradewind's primary objective is to reduce overhead costs while maintaining a safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible ground operation. Like many fixed-base operators, Tradewind historically relied on manual tank gauging; climbing to the top of a 12,000-gallon tank and using a 10-foot dipstick to check fuel levels daily. This process not only introduced safety risks but also consumed valuable time.

"We would climb to the top of the tank and use a long stick to measure the tank level just to make sure we would not run out of fuel," said Jon, Aviation Director.

If measurements were missed or delayed, the risk of running out of fuel increased, leading to potential flight delays and operational disruptions. The manual process placed unnecessary strain on staff while diverting attention from higher-value tasks.

Key priorities for Tradewind include eliminating inefficient manual processes, improving real-time visibility into fuel inventory, and ensuring a consistent and dependable jet fuel supply.



Solution

In 2024, Tradewind FBO installed the TankScan submersible pressure sensor on the 12,000-gallon jet-A tank at Tradewind Airport in Amarillo, Texas. The remote monitoring system leverages existing wireless cellular infrastructure and a cloud software application to eliminate large startup and setup costs associated with typical wired systems. The install requires screwing the sensor into a 2" port on the top of tank. The cloud application is setup remotely and offers unlimited users, historical trending, and email/text notifications.

“The installation was easy, super easy,” said Jon.

The tank levels are viewed from the operator’s cell phone or from a PC at a remote office. The system is cost effective due to its use of existing infrastructures through cellular connectivity, internet browser, email, and text messages. The users are provided with accurate readings to devices they already own, understand and support.



Results

Tradewind FBO has realized significant benefits from implementing TankScan, including:

- Reduced labor and operational overhead by eliminating the need for manual tank checks
- Enhanced reliability of ground operations through real-time visibility into jet fuel inventory
- Increased confidence with automated alerts that help minimize environmental risk
- Improved safety by removing the need for personnel to climb tanks for measurements

“The convenience of getting automated email alerts when the tank gets low is a huge help. Our fuel supplier always knows when we will need a refill,” said Jon.

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