

Leading Advancements in Panel Meter Technology

Using Versatile Control Options to Cost-Effectively Save Space

GET AHEAD OF A CHANGING WORLD

Our world is changing. As the automation market progresses, products will also need to change. Understanding the scope of the change and positioning products for use in tomorrow's market can be a challenge. What will that market look like? What will be needed?

One thing is for certain: no matter what industry you are in, the future will require you to keep performing better, respond to issues faster, and do it all while driving down costs.

You may be wondering “how can a simple panel meter help me with this?” It can—when the panel meter offers more than just simplicity.





LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND

In the past, panel meters served as a local display for machine operators. They took input from sensors, such as speed or temperature, and provided information that is actionable. Unfortunately, a great many still only do this. The market has been basically stagnant for 25 years, with panel meters solely operating as visualization tools—simply displays. They are generally “stranded assets,” meaning they are leaving their data on the factory floor.

These days, technology is developing at a faster rate than ever before, and we are seeing the demand for connectivity and data collection rise at a rate that dwarfs anything in the past. Additionally, companies are seeking more work from fewer employees, so improving efficiency is a very desirable asset. Serviceability will also play a role, as the products offer more advanced features. However, they will need to be simple to install, use, and service—changing needs that Red Lion has solved with our new panel meters. These are more than just meters, they will allow you to create a “smart” workspace, connecting even older technology together in a way that’s so simple it might surprise you.



IMMEDIACY MEANS EFFICIENCY

Having easy access to immediate data for efficient processes is no longer just a want, it’s practically a requirement. In order for your company to compete, you must improve reaction times to issues and demonstrate an increasingly productive work environment.





For example, the PM-50 represents a new generation of panel meter. This starts with the display itself: instead of a numerical display, it's a graphical representation of information, such as on the dashboard of your car. You can see more than just information, but what the information means, and react to it quicker. Think about your gas gauge—one glance and you know whether you'll need to head to the gas station. It comes with multiple display options, providing operators with more data about each process, assisting in driving efficiency. The display can even change colors based on various needs so that workers can react accordingly, for example, a red panel indicating that immediate attention is required.

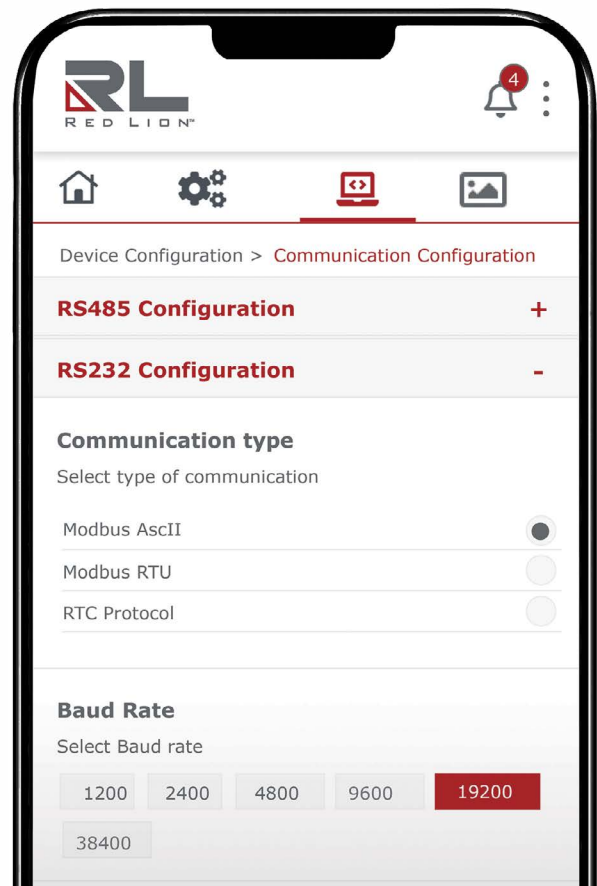
SET YOURSELF UP TO WIN

Panel meters should be evolving just like other automation devices, providing a clear and easy installation and upgrade path. As we mentioned earlier, this hasn't really been the case—until now. With the PM-50, this starts at the installation of the device itself, as it was built to easily fit into where your old panel meter was. It offers multiple setup options, depending on your preference and comfort level with different applications: choose from a Setup Wizard on the meter, set up via the Red Lion app, or set up manually on the panel itself.

Once you're up and running, the interface should remind you of devices you've used in the past, such as smartphones or iPads. Its intuitive nature and built-in Wi-Fi makes it easy to get data from the device to your smart device using the Red Lion app. It also offers wired connectivity via Ethernet and Modbus. In addition, it offers wireless communication via Wi-Fi, meaning you won't have to run additional wires to connect devices. This will allow you to create a "data infrastructure" within your workspace.



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About Red Lion

Red Lion is focused on being THE Industrial Data Company™. We empower industrial organizations around the world to unlock the value of data by developing and manufacturing innovative products and solutions to access, connect and visualize their information. Red Lion's global manufacturing and support facilities serve customers in factory automation, alternative energy, oil and gas, power and utilities, transportation, water and wastewater industry segments. We provide scalable solutions for cloud connectivity, edge intelligence and asset management, industrial Ethernet switches and industry leading panel meters and operator panels, to make it easy for companies to gain real-time data visibility that drives productivity.

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ADVANCE YOUR WORKSPACE. SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE.

Just because a panel meter is advanced does not mean it should be more difficult to use than the simpler panel meters of the past. Panel meter advancements should save you time on both installation and use. For example, the PM-50 actually makes it easier for an employee to run multiple machines at one time by directing the employee to the machine that has the greatest need. Should a problem arise, a message or alarm is sent to the employee via the app on their smart device. OEM customers can even configure units using SD cards, saving on time and labor. Of course, if you'd like to use it as a simple panel meter, all you need to do is turn off the connectivity and you'll still enjoy the benefits of the graphical, easy to read display.

ADD VALUE. SUBTRACT HASSLE.

Panel meters are already a valuable part of your data infrastructure. By making them "smarter," they can add more value than ever. Their ease of use, data capabilities, and intuitive display allows for more efficient processes, improved uptime, and lower operational costs. In other words, a smart panel should save you time and money.

As the world changes, it's important to review your needs and select products that can take you into tomorrow with minimum issues. It's important to provide a data access point to help machine operators and plant operations stay current in a world that's more connected each day.