



The Rise of Remote Monitoring

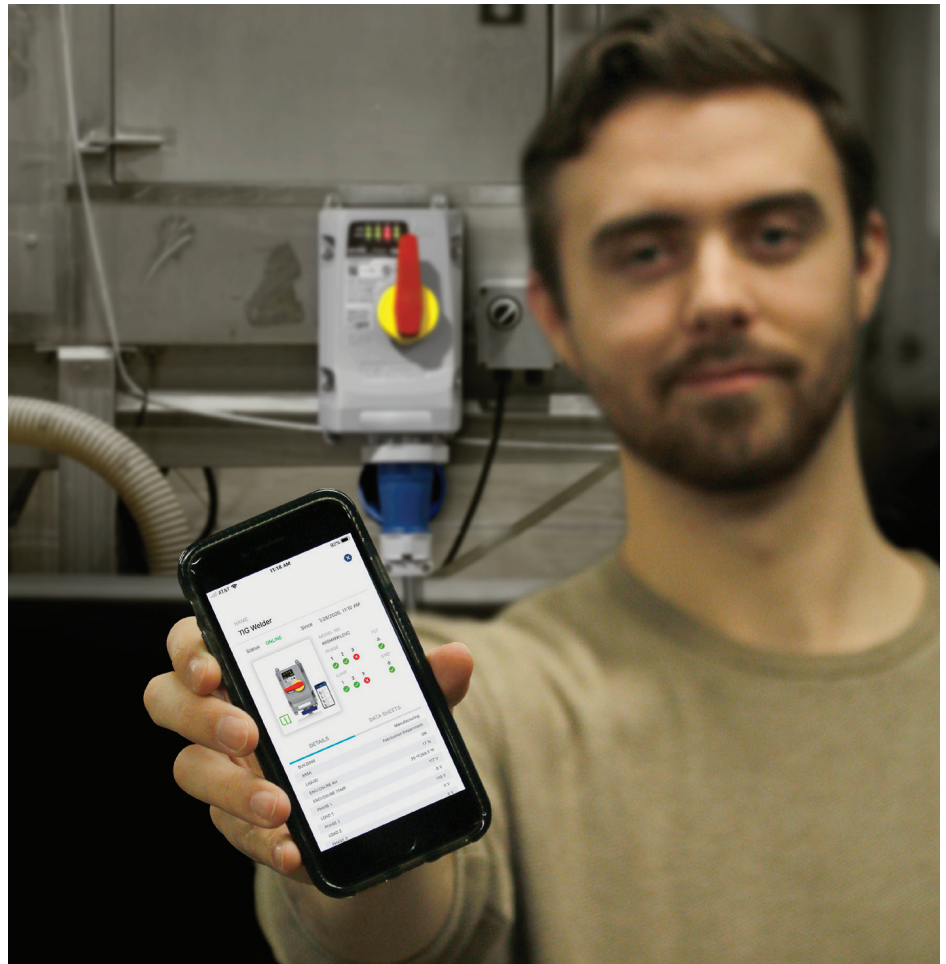
COVID-19's impact on the manufacturing industry has led to an increase in demand for remote monitoring, utilizing platforms such as Leviton's Inform™ Technology.

If you had told me a year ago that today I would be working from my couch, writing an article on the impact of a global pandemic on the manufacturing industry, I would have called you crazy. But here I am. Manufacturers, employees, and supply chains have been tremendously impacted by COVID-19. Demand increased so much for certain products that inventory was completely depleted, while other products were (literally) dumped to the side.

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Supply chains have been disrupted as restrictions on imports and exports began. Heeding the advice of public health organizations and local governments, companies have implemented restrictions on employee travel and visitations. The most crucial changes have been within the facilities, as additional practices and procedures have been put in place to protect employees, including social distancing measures and protective barriers between workers, reducing the number of staff per shift, and limiting the number of outside visitors.

As restrictions increase, manufacturing facilities need a way to monitor operations from a distance. The need for remote operations and maintenance has never been more critical. Luckily, the options for cloud-based software and Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) technology continue to rise. Leviton electrical devices with Inform Technology allow manufacturing facilities to reap the benefits of remote monitoring as well as local monitoring.



By integrating IIoT technology, Inform enables Leviton Pin & Sleeve Mechanical Interlocks – electrical wiring devices critical to manufacturing operations – to provide real-time data and notifications to the end-user via the Inform mobile and desktop app, improving safety, efficiency and productivity. Using sensors embedded in Leviton devices, the end-user is immediately notified if there are abnormal operating conditions or a device failure. This platform identifies disturbances that can impact machine performance and minimize unplanned downtime.

So, what does this mean? By integrating remote IIoT technology, Jane Doe of Jane Doe's Food Processing Company can view the status of her Mechanical Interlocks from the other side of the facility

or even from the comfort and safety of her home. Through the Inform software, Jane Doe can remotely check data including enclosure temperature, enclosure humidity, liquid accumulation, line- and load-side voltage value, ground continuity, and more. Of the many outcomes of COVID-19 on the industry, the biggest impact may very well be for the flexibility afforded by remote operations and predictive maintenance. COVID-19 or not, the industrial manufacturing industry is experiencing a digital and technological transformation. With a shift towards more technology-based solutions, this should not be viewed as a short-term fix, rather a long-term investment that will forever change the way facilities operate.

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