



## Process quality control platform for fuel

### Q\Platform

#### Introduction

‘Existing quality control methods for liquid transfer at tank terminals can be inefficient. Samples need to be sent to a laboratory which can cause delays and long lead times at the terminals. It is also questionable whether the samples are representative. As an alternative to the widely used open system, FuQon has launched the Q\Platform,’ says Justin van Dael, managing director and founder of FuQon. The Q\Platform is a quality control system that provides real-time and continuous results while guaranteeing the safety of the operator and the environment.’



Q\Cell

‘Until now, the quality control of fuels at terminals has been a tedious job and can cause serious delays for companies,’ says Justin van Dael. Quality checks during the pumping process are mainly conducted in the event of an incident or when incorrect transfer is suspected. An external party is used to take several fuel samples. The samples are then sent to a laboratory. It can take hours to get the quality results. In addition, the quality control currently used is not representative. Only the samples are checked. According to Justin van Dael, this simply gives a snapshot, rather than a complete picture of the quality of the entire batch. ‘The quality of the whole fuel batch determines the product value and is therefore important.’

#### Requirements and guidelines

John Joosten, marketing technologist at FuQon: ‘Most companies in the oil, gas and chemical industry feel an increasing social responsibility.’ They must comply with environmental directives and must know what the fuel stored at the terminal consists of. They have to take responsibility for their activities. A tank must be opened to take a sample. Opening a tank containing petrol, for example, presents health risks due to emissions. The requirements and guidelines to prevent such health risks are becoming increasingly strict. ‘However, these stricter requirements and guidelines sometimes make it difficult to take fuel samples,’ says John Joosten.

#### Information via light transmission

Q\Platform is the solution to monitor the quality of fuel continuously, quickly and safely. A small bypass is installed on the main pipe to ensure that quality is continuously monitored throughout the pumping process. A cell, known as the Q\Cell, is located in the bypass containing a light source on one side and a sensor on the other. Fuel flows through the Q\Cell. The sensor then measures the amount of light passing through the fuel. ‘The light transmission provides information about the chemical composition of the fuel,’ explains Justin van Dael. FuQon has a database containing all kinds of fuels. ‘It is a kind of photo album that is used to compare liquids,’ says John Joosten. The comparison shows the substances which comprise each liquid. Liquids can be classified in this way. A slight deviation shows whether a substance has been mixed.

## Control over quality and value

The Q\Platform continuously monitors the fuel quality. The Q\Cell enables you to constantly see what is passing through the main line. 'Each second is monitored, from the beginning to the end of a pumping operation,' says Justin van Dael. The Q\Cell provides an overview of the process. Any possible deviation during product transfer will be noted. Parties can then intervene immediately. The Q\Platform prevents accidents, incorrect transfer and waiting times for quality results. No more samples need to be taken. The Q\Platform saves costs and gives control over the product value. John Joosten: 'The Q\Cell is a closed system which means no tanks need to be opened. This makes the Q\Platform safe and environmentally friendly'.



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