

## **Sensus Introduces Remote Shutoff Device to help Gas Utilities Save Time and Improve Safety**

*First stand-alone device works with walk-by, drive-by or FlexNet fixed-base communication system*

**RALEIGH, N.C.** (May 23, 2011) – Each year, [gas utilities](#) dispatch thousands of orders to shut off residential service for safety, move outs or lack of payment. If service personnel can't access the meter, a second trip is required, further increasing operational costs. [Sensus](#), a utility infrastructure company providing solutions for the gas industry, is now offering the first stand-alone [Remote Gas Shutoff](#) (RGS) device.

Gas utilities can now safely discontinue service on the first call by accessing the RGS as a walk-by or drive-by system. Utilities that have deployed the Sensus [FlexNet™](#) fixed-base communications system can do so from an office location. The FlexNet system, which is based on open standards and private spectrum, transmits on two watts of power.

“When we set out to develop the Sensus RGS, our team spoke with gas utility engineers to determine what features and functionalities they would like to see in the product,” said Chris Wykle, director of gas marketing for Sensus. “The result is a versatile, programmable device that enables operations personnel to efficiently perform duties from gas meter shut off to safety monitoring.”

When access to a meter involves some type of risk—such as dangerous conditions, gas leaks, protective pets and upset customers—the value of remote shut off capabilities increases. Yet, remote service shutoff isn't all that the device can do. The RGS provides accurate pressure readings from individual locations without needing to shut off service.

Remote pressure monitoring at individual residential endpoints enables a utility to view service line pressure without having to take the meter down and set a gauge. For added safety, utilities may program high or low pressure alarms to automatically shut off service if predetermined thresholds are breached.

The device also offers tilt and tamper detection alarms to alert utilities to potential gas theft. Further, if the unit detects a vibration, such as seismic activity, the unit will automatically shut

down. With no exposed electronics, the product is designed to meet the highest intrinsic safety ratings and requirements for bubble tight shut off.

When service is turned off, the RGS unit gives the utility a valve status, indicating that closure has been successfully completed, and a 20-year battery life gives utilities confidence that the device is functioning properly. The RGS is available in both angle and straight-body configurations, is manufactured from cast iron and can be added to any type of residential meter set, regardless of the vendor.

### **About Sensus**

Sensus is a leading utility infrastructure company offering smart meters, communication systems, software and services for the electric, gas, and water industries. Sensus technology helps utilities drive operational efficiency and customer engagement with applications that include advanced meter reading, data acquisition, demand response, distribution automation, home area networking and outdoor lighting control. Customers worldwide trust the innovation, quality and reliability of Sensus solutions for the intelligent use and conservation of energy and water. Learn more at [www.sensus.com](http://www.sensus.com).

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