



## FLIR T425 equipped with MeterLink speeds up thermal inspections at Medite Europe Ltd.

**Medite Europe Ltd is the leading European brand of medium density fibreboard, a construction material that is more commonly known as MDF. It is manufactured by Medite Europe Ltd at its production plant in Clonmel, Ireland, where FLIR thermal imaging is an important part of its predictive maintenance programme.**

The Medite Europe Ltd product range is extensive. It includes seven families of MDF products and many variants, with over 400 possible specifications. All are manufactured at the company's 410,000 m<sup>3</sup>, per year Clonmel factory which prides itself on its high productivity. A key element of this is ensuring that any electrical or mechanical fault is spotted and repaired before it becomes a production-disrupting failure. The detection task is of course, a prime application for infrared measuring technology.

### ADDING CONNECTIVITY TO INFRARED SOLUTIONS

The regular infrared maintenance surveys conducted by thermographic consultant, Bob Berry have helped to ensure the factory's smooth running for more than 10 years. Recently however, Bob Berry has been able to add even greater value to his thermographic inspections at Medite Europe Ltd thanks to a brand new introduction by FLIR, the world leader in thermal imaging. This is a Bluetooth® wireless solution between the IR camera and a measuring instrument development called Meterlink™. It allows measurement data from meters to be embedded in an infrared image. In other words, it brings greater accuracy and intelligence to the infrared inspection.

The correlation between temperature and electrical load is well established and for many years thermographers have included load ratings where relevant. Bob Berry

*FLIR T425 comes standard with the FLIR MeterLink feature.*



*Medite production plant in Clonmel, Ireland.*

explains: "The most common way of doing this is to take readings using a clamp meter, write them down on paper and add them to the report some time later."

Bob Berry at Thermal Vision, is a certified Level 3 thermographer and, in common with other consultants, he performs more than a hundred inspections per year. This creates a lot of data and it is all too easy for readings from different instruments to be lost or mixed up. "The more time it takes me to assimilate the information, the longer the report generation process becomes," Bob Berry adds. "And that means I have less time to spend in the field which is where I need to be to earn a living."

**INSTRUMENTS TALK TO CAMERA**

For Bob Berry, the new FLIR Meterlink™ facility from FLIR is a real boon. It is available on a variety of FLIR infrared cameras including the FLIR T425 mid-range model used at this inspection. It is ideal for a wide range of electro-mechanical inspection tasks that are common at larger industrial plants such as Medite Europe Ltd.

"The menu system of the FLIR T425 camera is intuitive and easy to use and it has many analysis tools that can be set up according to the needs of the job," Bob Berry says. "Its Meterlink™ feature allows the camera to receive data automatically from an Extech EX845 clamp meter and this is a function that is easier to use than I expected. Its effectiveness is obvious, both in the field inspection and at the post report processing stage."

**EASY TO USE**

Bob Berry confesses that the straightforwardness of Meterlink™ means he is much more likely to take time to stop and use the clamp meter than when he is taking independent readings and making paper notes. He explains: "The clamp meter is simply fitted to the first phase and the infrared image frozen complete with



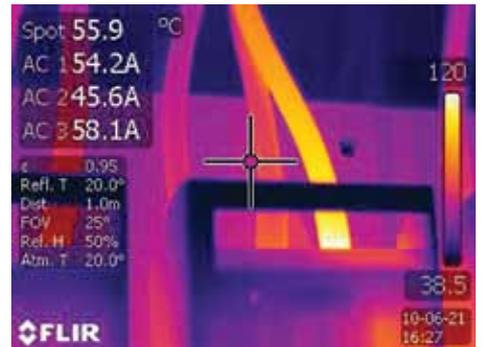
Inspection of electrical cables reveals the existence of electrical anomalies, by looking at cables adjacent to plexi covered fuses. Thanks to MeterLink, the values read by the clamp meter are displayed on the thermal image.

embedded current reading. The camera then prompts you to add more current readings, one at a time, each being stored in the appropriate image."

On this basis three phases require three readings. No notes need to be taken and there's no danger of the readings being attributed to the wrong job or lost. It may require slight changes to the inspection routine but, in Bob Berry's opinion, this is not at all inconvenient and indeed no bad thing. "In fact it makes you really focus on what you are doing."

**NO MIX-UP**

The saved measurements are fully accessible in the FLIR analysis and reporting software Reporter 8.5 and easily added in the results tables. This means, for the first time, thermographers can be certain that the current reading tally fully with the thermal image. It eliminates all possibility of any mix-up. Additionally the



title and location of individual faults can be saved directly in the image as voice or text comments and annotations.

"This combination of a FLIR infrared camera and Extech clamp meter completely rules out the possibility of confusing the location, the equipment or load data from individual faults," Bob Berry concludes. "With more work being done in the field it also reduces associated office time and frees me up to spend more time onsite with customers."

For Bob Berry's customers, such as Medite Europe Ltd, these benefits are equally valuable. The company has the assurance that its infrared inspection survey is being conducted more thoroughly, accurately and intelligently so that maintenance resources can be more effectively targeted.



FLIR T-Series

EX845 1000A AC/DC Clamp Meter



Thanks to MeterLink, values that are read by an Extech clamp meter are transmitted to a FLIR Systems thermal imaging camera. The values read by the clamp meter can be seen on the thermal image. MeterLink improves diagnostics, saves, eliminates data errors, and adds more value to inspection reports.

For more information, visit [www.flir.com/thg](http://www.flir.com/thg) or contact:

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