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Netherlands firm sees 'huge opportunity'

...with remote monitoring in T&T energy market

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NETHERLANDS-BASED Internet of Things (IoT) company Hiber, which provides remote monitoring solutions in the energy sector, has expanded its services to Trinidad and Tobago with the introduction of its HiberHilo tool for Heritage Petroleum Company Ltd.

Hiber believes that remote IoT solutions can significantly impact the journey toward a cleaner and better environment by providing the necessary data for a faster, cleaner, and more sustainable energy transition.

The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to the use of devices equipped with sensors, processing capabilities, software, and other technologies that connect and exchange data with other devices.

Giving an overview of the company, global sales and marketing manager Bjorn van der Maarel stated that Hiber was founded with the mission of making remote data accessible, affordable, and actionable.

'We started with satellite IoT connectivity and quickly expanded into a full end-to-end monitoring solution for industries like oil and gas. Our focus has always been on breaking down barriers to digital transformation by offering innovative, plug-and-play technology that works anywhere in the world, regardless of network conditions. Today, Hiber works with 25-plus energy companies to help them digitise their operations.'

In an interview with *Sunday Express Business,* he explained that HiberHilo is an advanced remote well monitoring solution that combines IoT-enabled sensors with flexible connectivity options, such as satellite, cellular, or local networks, to provide real-time visibility over remote assets.

'HiberHilo is currently being used by Heritage Petroleum in T& T, where it is connected to assets both onshore and offshore. The system provides real-time data on well conditions, allowing operators to make faster, data-driven decisions, while reducing the trips needed to check on their onshore and offshore wells,' he said.

Van der Maarel said the HiberHilo was developed to address a critical challenge in the energy industry: the need for cost-effective, reliable monitoring of remote oil and gas wells.

'Traditionally, operators relied on manual site visits, which are expensive, time-consuming, and sometimes unsafe. HiberHilo enables companies to monitor their wells remotely to reduce the environmental risk associated with oil and gas operations, improve efficiency, safety, and to save on operating costs,' he said.

Van der Maarel added that the HiberHilo was designed and built by Hiber, with engineers developing a complete end-to-end monitoring system. This system includes Lo RaWAN (low-power, wide-area network) IoT sensors, gateways, communication services, and a cloud-based dashboard for data display. He said the result is a robust, easy-to-install system that withstands harsh environments while delivering accurate, real-time data. 'We worked closely with oil and gas operators-including major international energy companies, national oil companies, and independent operators-to ensure HiberHilo meets industry needs, from installation to data delivery,' said van der Maarel.

He said Hiber ensures the smooth operation of HiberHilo through its high-precision sensors, which measure key well parameters like pressure and temperature with extreme accuracy, ensuring operators receive the right data at the right time. The system also features a smart connectivity selection, which automatically chooses the best available communication method-whether satellite, cellular, or local network-to ensure continuous data transmission.

Additionally, the hardware is built to withstand tough conditions, and the platform is secure and cloud-based, he said.

'With this combination of rugged design, intelligent connectivity, and high-accuracy data, HiberHilo provides operators with a reliable and scalable solution they can depend on. Our mission is to help companies transition into a smarter, more sustainable future, and Trinidad is a key part of that journey,' he said.

'Innovation always come with challenges' Asked about the challenges faced when introducing HiberHilo to the market, he stressed that innovation always comes with challenges.

'One of the biggest hurdles was ensuring reliable connectivity for wells in different environments-some with cellular coverage, others in complete dead zones. Another challenge was designing a cost-effective solution that could be adopted at scale without requiring extensive infrastructure changes,' he said.

'We also received strong feedback from our clients, who confirmed that HiberHilo delivers on its promise of cost-effective, reliable technology. By working closely with operators, we refined the system to be easy to install, highly scalable, and capable of integrating with existing operations without requiring major infrastructure upgrades,' said van der Maarel.

Regarding the cost of the tool, he said HiberHilo offers a cost-effective alternative to traditional SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) systems and costly manual monitoring.

'The exact cost depends on the number of wells and the type of connectivity used, but our subscription-based model makes it flexible and scalable. Most importantly, the return on investment is significant, as companies save on operational expenses, reduce downtime, and optimise well performance,' he said.

Van der Maarel touched on the benefits of the tool and said these include operational efficiency and optimised production,
cost savings, and safety and sustainability.

'Companies can monitor wells 24/7, reducing the need for manual inspections and improving response times to issues. Because our customers receive reliable and frequent data, protecting their well integrity and using the data patterns to optimise their production. Meanwhile, by preventing equipment failures and better-coordinating maintenance schedules, companies save money on repairs and lost production. Additionally, remote monitoring reduces the need for workers to travel to remote sites, lowering risks while improving environmental compliance,' he explained.

He added that, in contrast to traditional processes that require extensive infrastructure, high installation costs, and strong network availability-making them impractical for many remote oil and gas operationsmanual monitoring is time-consuming, costly, and introduces safety risks.

Van der Maarel said HiberHilo removes these barriers by offering a plug-and-play, cost-effective, and scalable alternative that works anywhere.

'It doesn't require complex installations or major infrastructure investments. Instead, it provides an end-to-end solution where companies get everything they need-including sensors, communication, and a cloud-based dashboard-all in one simple setup,' he said.

'Unlike traditional solutions that rely solely on fixed infrastructure, HiberHilo chooses the best connectivity option per business case-whether satellite, cellular, or a local network-ensuring reliable data transmission from any location. The result? Lower costs, real-time insights, and better operational control with minimal maintenance,' he said.

He said that one of the biggest advantages of HiberHilo is its fast and hassle-free installation, unlike traditional systems that can take weeks or months to deploy, HiberHilo can be installed and operational in just a few hours.

'There's no need for extensive IT support or expensive infrastructure. The system is designed for easy deployment, making it accessible to both large-scale energy companies and independent operators looking to digitise their assets quickly and affordably,' he boasted.

Asked about the future of Hiber and T& T's relationship, van der Maarel said, 'We see a huge opportunity in bringing the same value to other operators in T& T, as we do currently for our other clients here and around the world. Trinidad has its challenges regarding connectivity in the field, and wells that are spread out and difficult to access. This is exactly what Hiber was built to solve.'