

## Oldest Monitor Contest Winner

In the December 2005 issue of ORBIT (2005 Vol. 25 No. 3) we asked our readers to submit photos of the oldest Bently Nevada™ monitor still in use. The winner was Mr. Bill LaRowe, a Sr. Technical Support Engineer with Atlas Copco. Although Atlas Copco supplies our most current monitoring systems with their new machines, they still have several Bently Nevada™ 1700 and 5000 series self-contained, panel-mounted monitors dating back to the early 1970s that see occasional test bench use. In Bill's words, "We actually still sometimes use the monitors, but mainly only to power Proximitors® transducers or verify shaft runouts. With the BNC connector on the 5000 series we can connect easily to a spectrum analyzer in test situations. Admittedly they are not used much any longer, but they do still function well."

The prize? A \$1500 training voucher was sent to Atlas Copco, redeemable for any Bently Nevada™ training course offered by GE Energy.

Frankly, we were relieved to know that the "oldest" monitor was being used for something other than

continuous machinery monitoring and protection purposes. While we take tremendous pride in the quality of our products, we don't advise using technology that is 30+ years old for actively monitoring your machinery.

If you are relying upon older technology from us for machinery monitoring applications, we strongly encourage you to consider upgrading for at least three reasons:

1. Electronics age, drift, and wear out over time. Relying on these older systems to actively protect or monitor machines can result in false or missed trips.
2. These older systems do not provide the connectivity to modern software systems allowing more in-depth condition monitoring.
3. These older systems do not provide the connectivity to plant control and automation systems, effectively isolating plant operators from valuable machinery condition data and statuses.

