

## 4COM Remote Site Management System



### Overview

Designed specifically for managing fuel distribution networks, 4COM Remote Site Management System introduces a level of accountability which is crucial in this business. For use in corporate oil industry Head Offices and smaller home-base networks, 4COM provides comprehensive wet-stock control and analysis of remote sites in networks of any size, which utilise the Postec Communications Controller (PCC).

Using interactive and automated forecourt data collection, 4COM further leverages the power of the PCC, providing extensive numerical and graphical analysis on a range of oil industry related forecourt applications, consolidated across your network of sites.

4COM provides fuel distribution network managers with the key information they require to make decisive, informed business decisions that best maximise opportunities in a timely manner. 4COM makes this possible as the conduit to the remote forecourt providing total wet-stock control.

### Is it for you?

4COM is the perfect companion to the PCC4 site server.

- You are looking for more control over your network of retail sites
- As a fuel distributor you need information on fuel sales at your dealers' sites
- You run a network of unmanned commercial or home base sites
- As an independent operator of multiple sites you want consolidated reporting across your network
- To meet environmental regulations, you need to centrally monitor your sites for tank leaks
- You're looking to optimize your working capital by improved scheduling of fuel

## Key features

### *Proven technology*

With over 200 installations today, 4COM has proven itself time and time again to be a reliable and robust Head Office application for managing diverse networks of petroleum sites of all types.

### *Unattended automated operation*

Without any intervention, 4COM can poll the remote sites in the fuel distribution network. Optimize communication costs and reduce impact on sites by scheduling when 4COM can connect.

### *Interactive operation*

Supporting the automated operation, you can also manually connect to any site for on the spot investigation and analysis.

### *Self auditing*

Postec Guardian, a watchdog service, monitors 4COM to ensure that processes complete within a suitable time period and are restarted if not.

### *Multi-user*

4COM is a true multi-user application that supports multiple, concurrent logins. Enterprise level configurations are also supported with a dedicated database server, application server and client connections.

### *Email notification*

Configure an SMTP server connection for reports or exceptions to be emailed to relevant users from within 4COM.

### *Integrated data management tools*

In the case of disaster, you want to know that the large amount of data collected across your network is safe. Archive, Purge and Backup utilities are provided for this purpose.

## Benefits to your business

### *Report and track results*

With the 4COM reporting engine you have access to a wealth of data on the performance results of your site. Don't want to wade through all that data? Create exception reports, and you'll be notified when values of interest exceed predefined limits.

### *Reduce risk*

Solve complex business challenges today with 4COM and gain deeper understanding of your business with financial and management functionality. Working with Postec, with over 20 years experience in IT systems for managing petroleum sites, you can improve profitability and manage risk.

### *Improve productivity and insight*

Provide your employees new ways to access information across the organisation that they need to go about their daily tasks. Improve operational efficiencies and productivity by extending the information to the wider business, beyond those that would normally have access to this information.

### *Reduce your costs*

Focus your efforts on high return areas and making the best business decisions with information from across the organisation, rather than investing in expensive manual processes.

### *Protect your investment*

As a low margin high value good, fuel is important to you. With the Postec suite of products, you have a variety of tools at your disposal to protect and track the movement of your fuel. And as your business grows you can have confidence that your IT systems will scale with you.

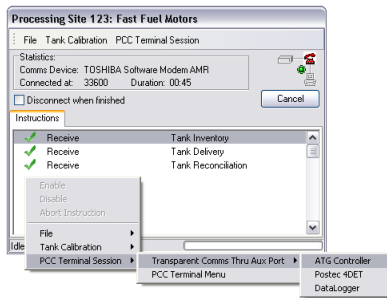


# What it does

## Data collection

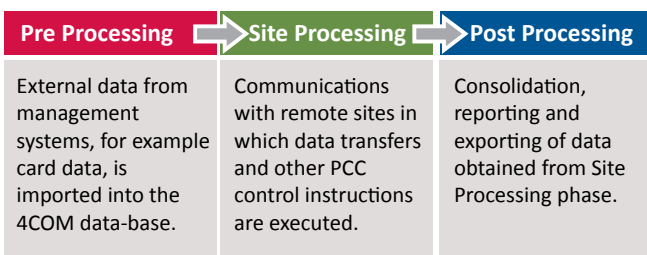
4COM can utilise a number of strategies for communicating with both remote and local sites in the fuel distribution network.

- Public telephone (including GSM) network
- Wide Area Network (WAN)
- Local RS232/RS422 & LAN direct cable connections



Communications can be interactive for ad-hoc queries and analysis, or automated and unmanned operation using pre-scripted processes.

Processes allow a number of user-defined instructions to be actioned on a large number of sites. Processes are executed in three-phases allowing data integration with other management systems.



### Data processing phases

Should communications be inadequate, user configured timeouts and retries ensure every possible attempt is made to process each site. In addition to this, users are quickly alerted to communication failure via email for follow up action.

## Numerical & graphical wet-stock analysis

DAILY GRADE TOTALS REPORT											
DISPENSER TRANSACTIONS REPORT											
TANK RECONCILIATION REPORT											
Site: 3911 - Grants Gas n Go											
Address: Unit F, 8 Piermark Drive Albany Auckland											
Tank: 1 Unleaded 91											
Closing Date	Opening	Deliveries	Sales	Closing	Closing	Daily	Cumulative				
	Dip			Dip	Book	Loss/Gain	Loss/Gain	Sales	%		
4/03/02 00:00	37190	0	5154	32099	32096	23	0.45	33	5154	0.46	
5/03/02 00:00	32059	22272	6698	47638	47632	6	0.08	29	11852	0.24	
6/03/02 00:00	47638	0	6770	40860	40868	-8	-0.11	21	18622	0.11	
7/03/02 00:00	40860	0	11650	29818	29811	38	0.34	59	29872	0.20	
8/03/02 00:00	29848	16732	8015	38588	38566	22	0.28	81	37687	0.21	
9/03/02 00:00	38588	0	7749	30848	30838	9	0.12	90	45436	0.20	
10/03/02 00:00	30848	17081	6237	41696	41692	4	0.10	96	51873	0.19	
11/03/02 00:00	41696	0	5391	36305	36307	-19	-0.36	115	57064	0.20	
12/03/02 00:00	36326	0	7098	29252	29228	24	0.34	139	64162	0.22	

4COM provides the user with an extensive array of reports which can be viewed on-line, saved to disk, dispatched via email, and sent to network printers and faxes.

Exception reporting enables the user to quickly focus their efforts into areas requiring the most attention.

Using external reporting packages users can create their own custom reports from the site data contained in the 4COM database. Much of the site data offers drill down capabilities allowing users to efficiently identify and focus their attention on detail from an initial summary level.

## Forecourt applications

Whatever your fuel management requirements are, 4COM significantly eases the burden in managing a fuel distribution network of any size.

- **Site totals monitoring** allows sales performance analysis, price assistance rebates, and debiting agent dealers for Consignment stock. Also monitors sales over time and provides reconciliation of PCC accumulated totals and dispenser electronic totals.



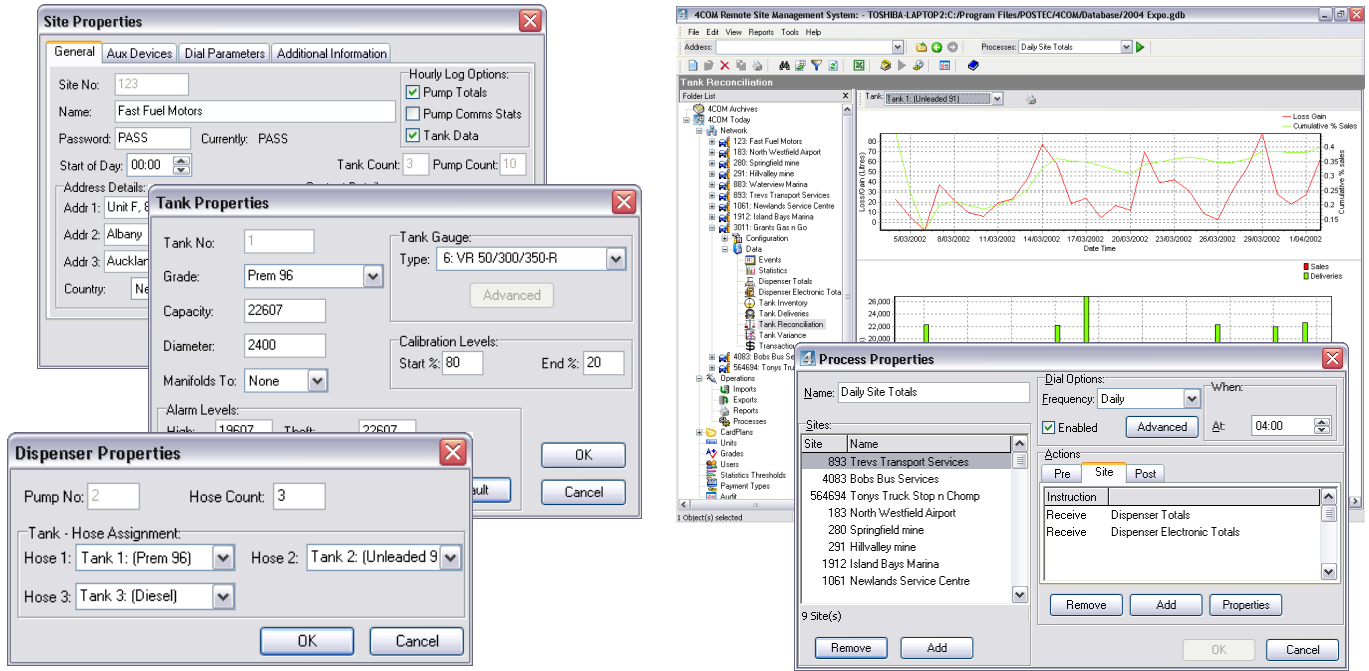
- **Remote grade pricing** allows Head-Office control of dispenser selling prices. Download fuel-selling price for updating dispensers and price signs. Price changes can be immediate or scheduled for a future date and time
- **Diagnostic monitoring** for site commissioning and equipment performance monitoring. 4COM provides access to the PCC event journal and remote real-time monitoring of peripheral devices connected through the PCC, as well as reporting on site statistics recorded in the PCC.

- **Unattended site refuelling** using card or tag dispenser authorisation. Integrated card management is available at Head Office. You can import card data from external systems, schedule automatic batch processing of transactions from site, and export transactions to external management systems.



- **Automatic tank gauging** provides leak and theft detection, delivery scheduling and on-going dispenser calibration monitoring. Measure tank inventory and ullage, record tank deliveries while dispensers are in use, and reconcile tank inventory with dispenser sales. An optional module adds Automatic Tank Calibration.

# User interface



A familiar intuitive “Explorer” style graphical user interface combined with informative on-line help allows users to concentrate on the important things, not how to access the functionality. Even users with little or no fuel industry knowledge can be tasked with controlling/managing their company’s fuel usage. Data is presented in an informative manner freeing users to manage their core business objectives.

Designed to be run in a secure Windows XP - standard user environment, 4COM offers restricted access to functionality provided by the 4COM Manager for each configured user of the system. This allows for different types of company users to perform different functions in 4COM. Users’ activities can be controlled from a “read only” view of the site data all the way up to site commissioning.

## Other products

### Postec Communications Controller (PCC4)

The Postec Communications Controller, the PCC, is a highly reliable and scalable embedded device for connecting to a wide variety of devices used in the petroleum industry.

With over 9,000 units deployed already, the PCC product has been proven over the past 20+ years. Operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the PCC operates unmanned and in retail environments all around the world, and has been installed in some of the harshest environmental conditions that exist in the petroleum industry.

The PCC’s modular hardware and software architecture facilitates a vast range of optional application add-ons including: Automatic Tank Gauging, Price Sign, Vending machines, Automatic Car Wash, Card Readers in Dispensers, Automatic Vehicle Identification, Attendant Tagging, Alarm Monitoring and Remote Communications.

