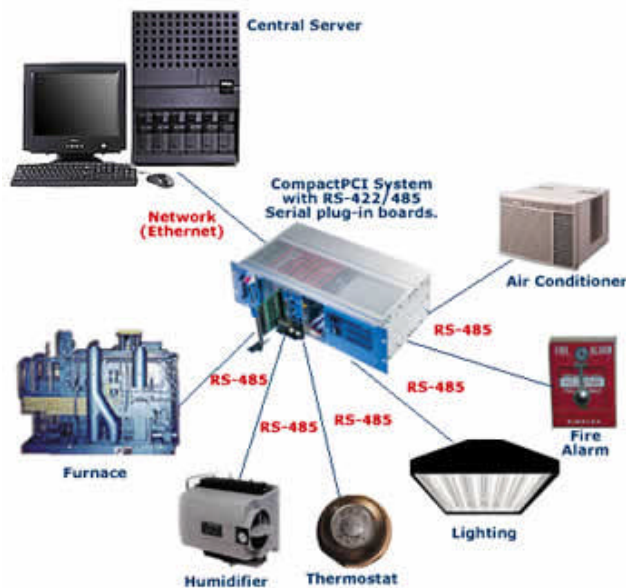


Environmental Control Systems

Quatech Products Used: DSCP-200/300M and QSCP-200/300M, two and four port RS-422/485 Serial CompactPCI boards with modular connectors

Manufacturing facilities have many sophisticated environmental control systems designed to maintain ideal production conditions. All these systems are computer controlled, and many are easily implemented using serial communication protocols. The various systems such as heating, air conditioning, humidity control, lighting, and fire alarms can all use RS-422/485 communication protocols. Rather than installing a separate PC workstation at each location, CompactPCI systems are often employed in factories, plants and warehouses because they are more resistant to noise, dirt, and other hazards common in industrial environments. The CompactPCI enclosure is essentially a computer in a box that is linked to a central command station using an Ethernet or other network connection. Central to the system is an onboard processor that contains all the major system components, but often too few I/O ports to be useful for complex monitoring and control systems. Quatech CompactPCI boards are cost-effective solutions for these systems, as they offer dedicated serial ports, rather than bundling the serial ports on boards that provide other types of functionality. (i.e., don't buy a new car when all you need is an additional spare tire).

A basic outline of a system that would be found in a typical manufacturing facility is outlined in the diagram below. It employs Quatech RS-422/485 serial CompactPCI boards to connect with the various environmental control systems. Note that two kinds of connectors are available, standard DB-9 ports or RS-45 modular connectors. The modular connectors are good choices for industrial environments because they use smaller connectors and thinner cables, which are easier to run in the close, cluttered quarters found in many older plants and factories.



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