Q: Does the IO-link system work for sensors and meters that the brewery already has from other brands? Or is it just for ifm products?

A: IO-Link can work with sensors and meters already installed in your system. If you wish to update your instrumentation on your brewhouse, IO-Link is an open protocol that allows users to select the right products for their system. There are over 100+ participating members.

Q: Does the Bluetooth IO-Link app allow for any alarms to be setup or is that only in IO Key?

A: No it doesn’t. If the sensor has available discrete outputs, you can still use these available switch points to trigger an alarm.

Q: For a brewer that is currently not automated, do you send a sales rep in to do an analysis on what is best needed? Who does the install?

A: You can contact Steve Novak (steve.novak@ifm.com) directly. He will be happy to coordinate a call to discuss what you are trying to accomplish. The installation can be managed either by the brewery themselves, a local integrator that you may already be working with or ifm can recommend someone who can perform the installation.

Q: You talked about sensors. What about one that measures the beer gravity in a fermenter? Can you provide an accurate sensor for that use?

A: ifm does not offer this type of sensor.

Q: In my brewhouse I have a product pump with speed regulation done by changing the current frequency. Is it possible to do the same thing with an ifm system?

A: Yes, this can be accomplished with the purchase of additional accessories that convert your signal to something that can be transmitted through IO-Link. In our presentation, we discussed how these accessories could be used to control a variable heater for example.