Unidata –

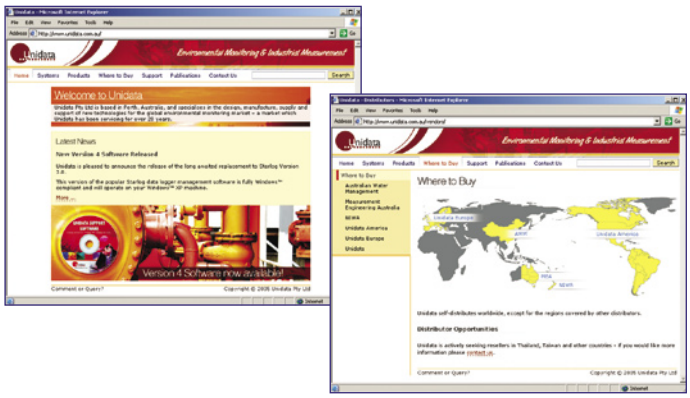
environmental monitoring & industrial measurement

www.unidata.com.au

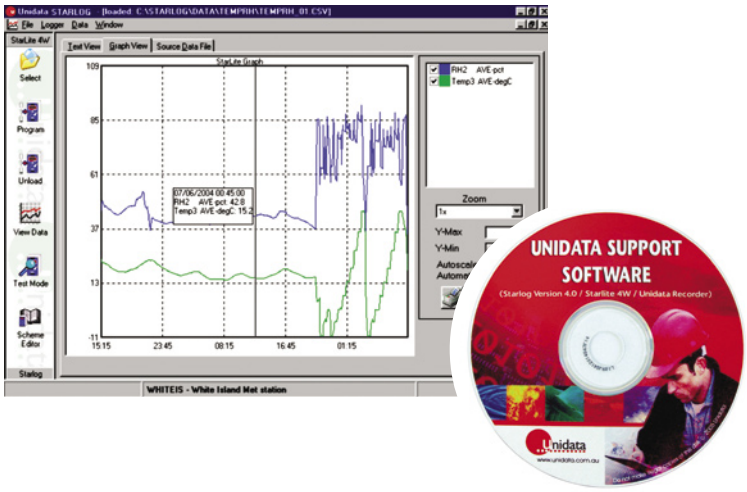
For nearly 30 years Unidata has been servicing hydrographic and environmental monitoring companies. Early in 2004 the company was restructured as Unidata Pty Ltd, with NIWA as the major (80%) shareholder. What followed was an exciting year which focused on re-establishing the company by:

- restoring key product manufacturing;
- addressing quality control and documentation issues, including electromagnetic compliance and C tick accreditation for products;
- rebuilding customer confidence in the company and its products.

We are well on the way to achieving these aims and see a bright future building on the history of a proud Australian manufacturer of data loggers and associated instrumentation. During 2004–05 we appointed new distributors, upgraded the website, and launched the quarterly newsletter *Unidata Newsline*. One of the distributors, Measurement Engineering Australia, now jointly markets Unidata products throughout much of Australia.



A major achievement was the release of Starlog 4.0, a fully revised and Windows-enabled software package for our data loggers which are used throughout the world in a large range of applications.



AMS hydrographer Gary Bruecher at one of the nineteen automatic weather stations around Western Australia using Unidata loggers.

Over 1500 station-years of data

Asset Monitoring Services records hydrological and environmental data for the Western Australian Water Corporation. To date, the group has collected more than 1500 station-years of continuous data using Unidata loggers. It maintains and operates more than 450 current model instruments – over half of which are Unidata data loggers – supplied and supported by Unidata. With the latest instruments installed they now cover more than 120 sites across Western Australia, from Kununurra to Esperance and across the Perth metropolitan area.

Unidata instruments installed at the constructed wetland in Bog Burn, Southland, New Zealand.

Artificial wetlands reduce pollution

Unidata instruments were installed in an artificial wetland built to measure how effective it could be in reducing agriculture drainage pollutants – nitrogen, phosphorus, and faecal microbes. The wetland is one of three being studied by NIWA's aquatic pollution group in conjunction with AgResearch. The project is funded by Fonterra. The instruments record the flow from the drain feeding water into the wetland, the flow received by the wetland, and the outlet flow. Nitrogen and phosphorus loads are estimated from the flow information, and their concentrations are determined from samples. Data from the station are retrieved via a digital phone modem.