CONFIDENTIAL

4-20 mA – Modbus Smart Sensor Connectivity Kit



SENSING INCREDIBLE THINGS

4-20 mA Process Signals

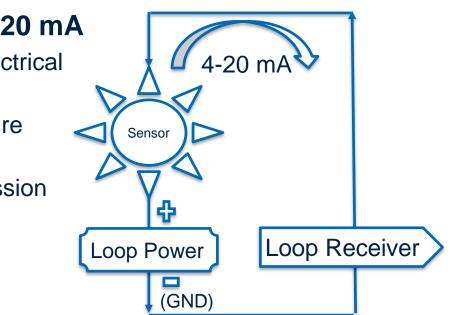


What is 4-20 mA

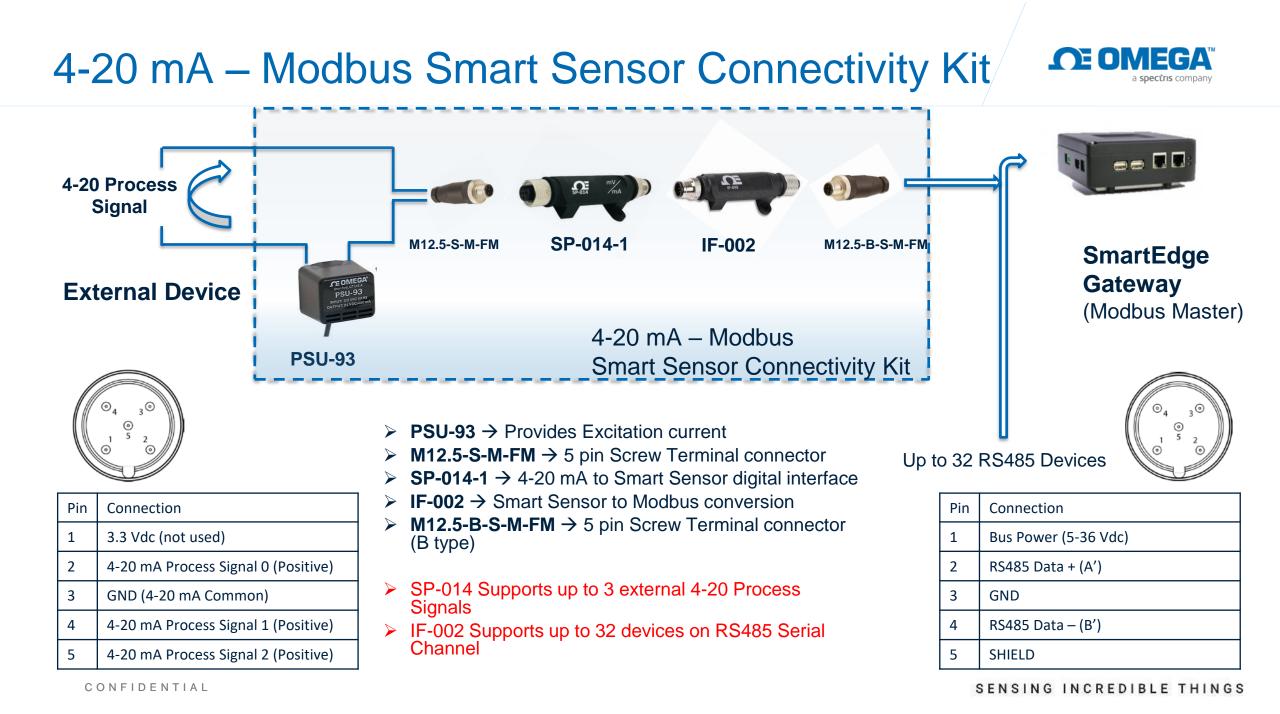
- A very common means to connect 'field devices' (Sensors) to control and monitoring equipment
- Devices are often referred to as *field* transmitters and include:
 - Temperature, Pressure, Strain, Ultrasonic, Level, Flow, pH and many others
- Common in *Intrinsically Safe* applications where sensor measurement is isolated from the detection system.
- The current flowing in the circuit, referred to as the Loop Current will vary between 4 and 20 mA, determined by the measured value
- If the current is less than 4 mA or greater than 20 mA indicates and **error condition**
- The mA signal is typically scaled to represent engineering units, for example, for an ultrasonic Depth measurement:
 - -4 mA == 10 feet depth
 - -20 mA == 100 feet depth

Advantages of 4-20 mA

- Less sensitive to electrical noise
- Integrated broken wire detection (0 mA)
- Long range transmission



- Loop Power: Provides 'excitation' voltage to the sensor, typically 12 – 24 Vdc
- **Sensor**: Controls the current that flows thru the circuit based on the measured value
- Loop Receiver: Converts the 4-20 mA signal and displays or transmits the measured value



4-20 mA Process Signals - Scaling



- External 4-20 mA signal conveys information in terms of mA, which represent some other 'unit of measure'
 Level Sensor Example: 4 mA == 10 ft of water, 20 mA == 100 ft of water or 4 mA == 0% full, 20 mA = 100% full
- Smart Sensor allows linear scaling of measurement for unit conversion using simple y = Mx + B formula, where M is the 'gain' and B is an offset.
 - Determine Gain: $(Actual_Hi Actual_Lo)/(Reading_Hi Reading_Lo) == (100 0) / (20 4) == 6.25$
 - Determine Offset: use calculated Gain, with 0 as Actual == 0 6.25 + 4 == -25
 - Change the 'units' string to %

