Advanced Leak Detection Revolutionizes Renewable Natural Gas Operations
A Case Study

A significant player in the RNG market with 19 landfill gas recovery sites across eight states faced a quantification issue at one of their RNG plants. The issue was resolved through ABB’s advanced HoverGuard Survey Service, leading to successful detection and quantification of leaks, customer satisfaction, and plans for further collaboration.

Customer Background
A diversified energy company situated approximately 40 miles southwest of Houston plays a pivotal role in processing raw biogas from landfills and wastewater treatment facilities. This raw biogas is converted into Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), which is then injected into the natural gas pipeline network for distribution across the United States. With 19 landfill gas recovery sites spread across eight states, the company is a significant player in the RNG market.

The Challenge
The company faced a quantification issue with a competitor’s leak detection solution at one of their RNG plants. This problem necessitated the need for advanced technology to conduct a comprehensive survey of the facility. ABB had struggled to inform potential clients about their Leak Detection Survey Services, which presented an opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of their solution and gain market share from a dissatisfied competitor’s customer base.

The Solution
ABB stepped in and conducted the first stage of their HoverGuard Survey Service in November. The advanced technology of the HoverGuard system promised precise quantification and reliable detection of leaks. The initial survey aimed to prove the system’s effectiveness and meet the company’s stringent requirements for accuracy and reliability.

The Benefit
The collaboration between ABB and the US EPA’s Landfill Methane Outreach Program during a September webinar showcased ABB’s Leak Detection Survey Services. This presentation piqued this company’s interest, leading to a follow-up request. The follow-up survey went exceptionally well, with multiple leaks detected and accurately quantified. The company was highly satisfied with the results, leading to plans for a third visit to verify the resolution of identified leaks.

Conclusion
ABB’s advanced HoverGuard Survey Service successfully addressed the quantification issues faced by the customer’s RNG plant. The successful detection and quantification of multiple leaks demonstrated ABB’s technological prowess and reliability, winning over a previously dissatisfied customer. The customer’s satisfaction with the results has paved the way for further collaboration across multiple sites in the United States, solidifying ABB’s position as a leader in Leak Detection Survey Services within the RNG industry.