Franke, The World's Foremost Kitchen Manufacturer, Launches Filter Monitoring Device Using Aplix's IoT Solution for Water Purifiers

- Measures the Amount of Filtered Water and Sends a Notification to a Smartphone When the Filter Needs Replacing -

Aplix Corporation (headquartered in Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Representative Director Kengo Nagahashi, hereinafter "Aplix"), a solutions developer for IoT products, announces that Franke, the world's foremost kitchen manufacturer, has launched FM100, a filter monitoring device that uses Aplix's IoT solution for water purifiers. FM100 will launch first in the U.S. in June 2017, and then in other countries.

FM100 is a device that attaches to the feed water hose of the water purifier installed under the sink and can be attached to any Franke Little Butler filtration product by users themselves.

It is difficult for users to notice when filters or cartridges for this type of water purifier need replacing.

FM100 measures and records the rate of the water flowing in the hose. When it detects the user's smartphone in the vicinity, it notifies the amount of filtered water to StillPure™ by Franke (hereinafter "StillPure™"), a smartphone app, using Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE).

When the cumulative flow nears the total filtration capacity of the filter, StillPure™ displays a notification. With StillPure™, the user can proceed to access the Franke online shopping site （https://ws.frankefs.com/b2c/#/product-detail/FM100）and buy filters on the spot.

Franke and Aplix have signed a revenue sharing agreement whereby Aplix receives a portion of the filter revenue generated through StillPure™.

For FM100, Aplix has developed and provided an IoT solution that consists of the following:

Beacon-Embedded Water Flow Sensor with Quick Connect Fittings

Aplix has made a customized version of the Beacon-Embedded Water Flow Sensor with Quick Connect Fittings that includes the Franke logo etc. for FM100. Franke sells this under the name of Franke FM100 Filter Monitoring Device. The main feature of FM100 is the ability to enable existing water purifiers to be IoT-capable without replacing or modifying them.
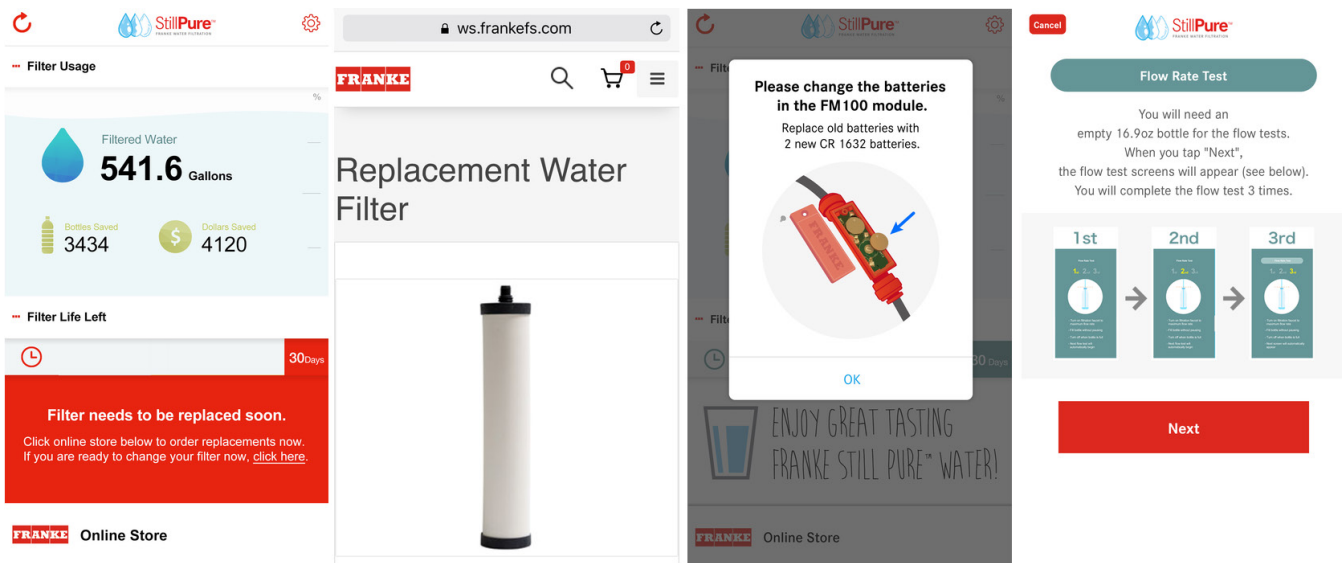
Cloud system

The cloud system manages information on the amount of filtered water through communicating with StillPure™, provides online shopping functionality and enables revenue sharing.

StillPure™ by Franke app for iPhone/Android

This app offers the following features:

- It displays how much water has been filtered, how many plastic bottles can be filled with the filtered water and how much money has been saved.
  It displays a notification at the bottom of the screen when the filter is about to need replacing.
- It allows access to the online shopping site.

- It notifies the user when the batteries are about to run out, and instructs the user what type of battery to use and how to replace the batteries.
- It instructs the user how to calibrate the flow sensor.

VP Product Development & Innovation, Lars Christensen of Franke endorsed Aplix, saying:

Aplix approached Franke during the KBIS show in January 2015 with a Bluetooth meter system idea and if it would be of interest to Franke for use with the Franke point of use faucets. I was very intrigued with this product and wanted to proceed with further development.

After 18 months and a few set back we finally found the perfect solution for an easy to install Bluetooth Filter module, known today as the Franke FM100. Part of the development for the FM100 was a unique and original app that would offer the following features:
- Display running total of water filtered
- Filter monitor % of filter used
- Send alerts when filter needs to be replaced
- Display total number of water bottles saved and dollars saved

The app and module have been named as the Franke StillPure™ System and are officially launching this month in North America. We recently featured the StillPure™ system at the ICFF show in NY and had tremendous positive feedback from showrooms, architects and designers. We are now looking to expand our distribution of this product into both Europe and Asia.

The FM100 developed by Aplix is truly a unique innovative product and we look forward to continuing our business partnership in developing further industry trend setting products to add to the Franke portfolio over the next years.

Going forward, Aplix will continue proposing solutions that help develop IoT products in Japan and abroad.

- StillPure™ by Franke
  - ・Download from the App Store
  - ・Download from the Google Play Store

■About Aplix Corporation

The mission of Aplix Corporation is to use the power of software to bring happiness to everyone in the world. Following the success of JBlend, which opened a new frontier for Java on mobile phones, we are currently developing the field of IoT (Internet of Things). By supplying IoT solutions from IoT modules (beacons), smartphone apps to cloud services, we aim to advance the transition of household appliances and other products to being IoT-equipped devices and in doing so, realize our concept of "enriching people's lives with notifications from things."

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