

VALVE *user*

ISSUE TWO



Training

– Simply not an Option

Market Prospects

– A Taste of Things to Come

Material Testing

– Rationalisation?

British Valve & Actuator Association



*New or
Repair?*



*Crane
reorganise*



*Market
Prospects*



*Geoff's
40 Years*

New ideas take flight



One earth, one sky. And under that sky you'll find Rotork actuators hard at work, year in, year out.

They're chosen not just because of their solid engineering and unmatched reliability – critical as that is in many tough working environments.

And it's not just because of the supreme level of technical back-up we provide, from 150 offices in 75 countries – reassuring though that is.

Rotork also hits the mark with engineers who respond to our constant, iterative innovation. We've never broken the mould; we've never had to. But Rotork actuators are constantly being refined and improved to ensure that our customers always have the very best actuators on the market.

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Training

– Simply Not An Option

by BVAA Director, Rob Bartlett

Welcome to Issue 2 of BVAA's Valve User magazine. As I write, BVAA have just completed one of our most successful 'training weeks' yet, with our highest through-put of students since records began. I was particularly pleased that we once again welcomed a number of overseas students to our courses, a sign that our fine reputation for training is spreading around the world. With an eye to the future, the next BVAA Executive Committee meeting will also have a 'training focus', with the intent of addressing our industry's future requirements. With such positive developments, one might be forgiven for thinking that all's well with the world of valve education and training - sadly this is not full story.



life-long disabilities. All completely avoidable providing staff receive proper education and training and follow the correct safety procedures. Then, there are of course, the well publicised plant failures, for which the repair costs can be immense.

It is now incumbent upon employers to ensure that their workforces are competent and properly trained – in these litigious times, training simply isn't an option, it is a must.

Training Courses have become essential for today's personnel. Yet from my conversations as I tour the industry, it is clear that many key players - with a few notable exceptions - although concerned, are not taking positive steps to address the problem. We have, it appears, lost the breeding ground of good engineers – the traditional 'apprenticeship'. Their foreshortened 'modern' replacements are criticised by many, and the practice of learning under the watchful tuition of a seasoned, experienced mentor has gone by-the-by as companies have down-sized.

BVAA offers a range of courses on valves, actuators, control valves and safety valves, European Directives, plus bespoke courses on request. They are prepared and delivered by the industry's leading experts, and accompanied by BVAA's renowned course manuals, where applicable. One final thought – a BVAA course costs about one tenth the daily rate of a good barrister!

Your View? Remember, Valve User is your magazine. If you have a view on any issues relating to the industry, please send a 'Letter to the Editor' to rob@bvaa.org.uk

Check out Latest BVAA Training Courses on Page 19

From time to time, we see the evidence here of the accidents and injuries caused by poor or inadequate training. Sometimes the evidence is very graphic - such as the horrific injury sustained by one maintenance operative when servicing a valve. The cause in this case was "an unexpected release of stored energy". The operative appears to have assumed that merely because the valve he was working upon had been removed from the process line it was "safe". In removing a plug from a still-pressurized section, he sustained massive injuries, so extensive as to make a return to work extremely unlikely. The plug was left embedded in a nearby wall. Any company involved in a case like this will no doubt incur huge legal bills and have to pay a very large sum in damages. Victims will experience tremendous pain and suffer

Did You Know?

As well a printed copy, VALVE user magazine is also available as an email attachment, and as a download from BVAA's website, www.bvaa.org.uk

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Continued Growth at BVAA

BVAA are delighted to announce yet more new members, including Siemens Process Instruments, SGS UK, Belleville Springs, Stewart Buchanan, Valley Springs and Black Teknigas, bringing the BVAA membership to a record level of 88 companies.

Details of all our members' products are available from the BVAA website, www.bvaa.org.uk

SIEMENS



Black Teknigas: Sales Director Peter McEntee and MD Dave Martin, accepting their BVAA Membership plaque from BVAA Director, Rob Bartlett.



Induchem's Sales Manager, Tony Hendzel and Director & General Manager, Jeff Brown, being presented with their BVAA membership plaque.

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BVAA 'Mad Hatters'

"How far can you go wearing a BVAA hat?"

Quite a long way it would seem!

Readers are stilling sending in photos of themselves wearing the free BVAA cap that is available to anyone who can match or beat the places visited so far. In this issue, Comid's Alex Simmons is pictured somewhere tropical, and topical, a place well known for spawning superb cricketers, including Viv Richards, the scorer of the world's fastest test century (look closely at the photo for a big clue!). There's £50 to the charity of your choice if you are the first to name the location. Answers or cap requests to rob@bvaa.org.uk





Desktops: learning opportunities in a relaxed atmosphere

BVAA Visit AMEC Oil & Gas

BVAA held another very successful 'desktop exhibition' on 22nd May 2007, this time at AMEC Oil & Gas, London. Ten BVAA member companies exhibited a range of products and services, and were visited by 45 members of AMEC staff and their guests. BVAA Director, Rob Bartlett, commented, 'Everyone in the industry is under pressure these days, and time is now a valuable commodity. This is where our "desktop" events really win out. BVAA can bring a wide selection of potential suppliers to a contractor's premises, providing learning opportunities in a relaxed atmosphere but with minimal impact on the normal working day.'

If you would like to discuss, without obligation, how a BVAA desktop exhibition could help your procurement processes, call BVAA on Tel: (0)1295 221 270.

Valve User is your magazine, and we would like your views on your industry and its practices. Here John Savage, Director of the National Fluid Power Centre, gives his views on 'competences'.

HOW COMPETENT ARE YOU?

With such a bold statement, the start point has to be that of defining COMPETENCE. Competence relates to the application of knowledge and skills to carry out a particular task, to an agreed standard, in a given amount of time and with repeatability.

So how does one become competent? Throughout our lives we are continuously gaining knowledge. From school to college to university our knowledge, in a range of subjects, progressively grows. Facts and figures become the foundation of our knowledge enabling us to better communicate and translate our daily tasks into meaningful outcomes.



Knowledge is an enabling factor within our lives and by applying it correctly we gain experience and together, with an element of memory, we can repeatedly apply our knowledge and continuously achieve a satisfactory outcome.



Within the world of work, we are continuously influenced by time constraints, meeting targets, and health and safety issues - not to mention that of quality management, traceability, responsibility and accountability.

Measurement of "people performance" has now become common practice and COMPETENCE is a key performance indicator.

The need for our workforce to be deemed competent has changed the face of education by placing a greater importance upon training enabling people to develop and gain real world skills through effective hands on training. By combining education and training the journey to improved levels of competence begins.

Within the total scheme of it all, competence levels to meet particular vocational needs must be established, and through approved centres of vocational excellence working closely with employers and trade associations, standards can be set.

Such standards then underpin the workforce within a particular industry representing a minimum standard of achievement against an agreed performance criteria...

...Knowledge is not enough.



John Savage is Chairman of the BFP Education & Training Committee, and will be the guest speaker at the forthcoming BVAA Executive Committee meeting, which will have a focus on the Future of Training.

meeting, which will have a focus on the Future of Training.

Bestobell - World leaders in cryogenic valve design

Bestobell Cryogenic Emergency Shut Off Gate Valve



A pioneering range of Pneumatic Actuated Gate Valves, with the sealing performance of a globe valve but the flow characteristics of full bore specification, has been launched by Bestobell.

The new tyre-type actuated Emergency Shut Off Gate Valve in sizes DN40 to DN80 is described as a real step forward in cryogenic valve design, and has been developed by Bestobell in response to widespread market demand. It combines the design features that have made the manual gate valve the preferred type for many of the world's cryogenic road trailers, with the proven advantages of the tyre-type pneumatic actuator.

Traditionally globe valves have been favoured by cryogenic storage tank builders and industrial gas companies to ensure tight shut off. Conversely, the gate valve, despite its greater flow capabilities, has been unpopular due to the unreliable sealing capabilities

of available products, as well as installation and maintenance issues. However, the unique lapped finish on the Bestobell Gate Valve's seat means excellent sealing performance comparable to that of a globe valve.

Kevin Fretwell, Bestobell Valves' Technical Director said, 'We believe this product will become the preferred solution for the emergency shut off valve required on cryogenic road trailers in most countries.'

Proven track record

Over the last five years, Bestobell manual gate valves have become the preferred choice of many of the world's most successful trailer builders. More recently, the Bestobell gate valve is being used with great success in other non-traditional applications, such as top and bottom fill valve duties on trailers, static tanks, as well as LNG satellite plants.

'VALVE USERS' - BEWARE IMITATION PRODUCTS!

In the last issue, we advised valve users of the perils of using bogus agents. This issue we have a similar theme, but this time regarding imitation products...

Rotork has recently successfully defended its intellectual property rights in Europe. In a legal judgement on 11th April 2007, the Court of The Hague, Netherlands, found Shanghai Autork Digital Apparatus Co. Ltd guilty of slavish imitation, breach of copyright and violation of design rights relating to Rotork's current actuator range. In addition 'Autork' was found guilty of infringing Rotork's internationally recognised trademark.

In a wide ranging judgement, 'Autork' was ordered by the Court,

with immediate effect, to stop infringing Rotork's proprietary rights throughout the whole of the expanded European Community. The Court further instructed 'Autork' to remove infringing product from storage addresses, distribution points and customers.

Rotork, currently celebrating its 50th anniversary, has been responsible for introducing many innovations within valve automation and its products are the result of extensive research and development. Rotork has urged its customers and users to be vigilant



Imitators beware – a closed-down stand could be just the start of actions against you.

and wary of inferior imitations of its products and components that have not been subjected to the same level of third party approvals and certifications. We would offer the same advice to all valve and actuator users – be wary of what you are buying, and from who you are buying it.

ASCO/JOUCOMATIC

- Expanded Range of High Flow Pilot Valves for Critical Applications

Kevin Fretwell added, 'This valve has created a real win-win situation for the cryogenics industry. Superior flow rates mean cryogenic trailers can now be filled and emptied at far greater speed, meaning much better utilization of assets. And on the DN50-DN80 sizes, we've reduced downtime even further by including in the design a body seat that is removed from the valve body with the headworks.

With conventional gate valves, if the critical valve seat-face is damaged, the only solution is to cut the valve body from the pipework. But with the Bestobell Gate Valve you simply remove the headworks, replace the seat and re-install - simple, fast and cost effective.

For many years the tyre-type pneumatic actuator has been used predominantly by the industry due to its compact and robust design, and clear method of indicating open and close positions. Indeed, many engineers now view it as the industry standard.

The Bestobell Cryogenic Emergency Shut Off Gate Valve now includes this design and offers a single convoluted Air Spring Actuator of rubber construction. It also includes a manual override facility fitted as standard. Now for the first time, these two industry-proven solutions have been combined in this Bestobell Cryogenic Gate Valve, ideal for emergency shut off applications.

Bestobell Valves is a world leader in the design and manufacture of cryogenic valves, recognised globally for product quality and innovation. Bestobell valves are used with numerous cryogenic liquefied gases including oxygen, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and argon.

ASCO/JOUCOMATIC has announced that it has expanded the scope of its Series 327 3/2-way pilot valves to include 1/4" and 1/2" high flow (Kv 1.5) versions. The new valves meet the growing demand for direct acting valves with high reliability and low (<10 Watts cold) power consumption. Based on the principle of a balanced poppet type construction, the new valves have the same outstanding reliability as the popular 1/4" basic flow models and are ideal for demanding applications in the chemical, petrochemical and oil and gas industries.

The new, multi-purpose pilot valves are suitable for normally open, normally closed and universal operation, and for the selection or diversion of flow. The valves can also be used for 2/2 way operation by closing one of the ports. Suitable for use with air and inert gas, they feature a brass or stainless steel body, stainless steel internals, and are recommended for pilot applications that require high flow, wide pressure ranges and no minimum operating pressure. Typical applications include the control of single acting, spring return actuators driving all kinds of process valves.

The 316 stainless steel construction is resistant to highly corrosive atmospheres and special low friction seals and guiding rings eliminate sticking and provide exceptional service life. The core movement is guided to ensure optimum alignment and the special low friction seal provides a balanced operation over a wide temperature and pressure range, at minimum power levels. Series 327 solenoid valves satisfy all relevant EC Directives and are suitable for global use in demanding applications where high reliability is essential.

There are no bleed holes or bleed channels which could become



blocked by contamination, compromising valve reliability. This makes the Series 327 suitable for critical applications such as Safety Instrumented Systems (SIS). The 1/4" version has been successfully tested by TÜV and is suitable for use in safety applications up to SIL-4 with PFD < 4x10⁻⁷. This is the highest achievable rating.

The range comprises Basic flow and High flow models rated from 3.6 watts with a high flow (Kv up to 1.5). They are lightweight and their compact, rectangular shape saves panel space. Integral mounting holes make fixing quick and easy. The 1/4" basic flow version with NAMUR pad mount body is available in both aluminium and 316 stainless steel for direct installation on pneumatic actuators.

ASCO/JOUCOMATIC can supply a wide range of explosion proof solenoid operators with ATEX approval. Many other approvals are available to meet different standards worldwide including NEMA, UL, CSA, Gost, and NEPSI. International service and support is available through a global network of over 1000 sales offices and distributors.

Norgren - Making customers more successful worldwide

Norgren's passion is to ensure that its customers are successful. By exploiting the potential of motion and fluid control technologies, Norgren Engineers and Key Account Managers apply their dedicated skills and resources to fully understand customers' needs and processes so that they can develop smarter, more inventive and more effective solutions. For Norgren customers this means better results, faster/more efficient machines, improved machine performance, increased reliability/uptime and lower cost of ownership. Norgren is committed to optimising technological performance for its customers' advantage.

Within the field of motion control Norgren develops complete solutions for automation applications, and within the field of fluid control Norgren combines the proven brands of Herion, FAS, Buschjost, KIP and Webber to offer extensive solutions for the handling of air, water, oil and other fluids. These range from the ultra fine control of medical dosing valves for a child's respirator to the arduous environment of on-board truck suspension systems. Within the process control Industry, Norgren has its Watson Smith brand of process control instrumentation solutions. Through this brand Norgren is committed to developing innovative new solutions that engineer advantage for the process industry with solutions that include Field Mount I/P converters for direct control valve actuation, electronic regulators for automated pneumatic systems, Pilot I/Ps for analogue and digital valve positioners and a diverse range of more specialist electro pneumatic converters.

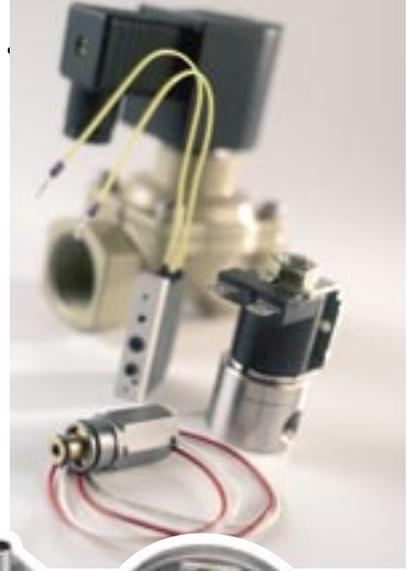
Norgren's systems are engineered for flexibility based on strong product fundamentals. Application specific solutions frequently involve integrated or modular combinations of actuator, control valve and air preparation technologies. By leveraging

and combining the specific strengths from each of its brands, Norgren can offer the customer a more complete solution.

Norgren has a wealth of understanding and experience in many different industry sectors including Automotive Manufacturing, Commercial Vehicles, Medical Care, PET Bottling, Printing, Packaging and Rail Transportation. Key account managers and sales engineers are focused on developing new generations of platform product as well as design engineering application specific solutions to meet individual customer requirements.

With a vast amount of industry experience and applications expertise they are knowledgeable about legislation, standards and specifications. Additionally, Norgren Engineers and Key Account Managers are up to date on the EU's ATEX Directive (94/9/EC) and can offer devices that conform to ATEX such as fluid control valves, pressure switches, motion control valves/islands, proportional valves-IP converters, actuators and airline equipment.

With four global technical centers in USA, Germany, UK and most recently in Singapore, Norgren can provide the support and innovation customers need. With established manufacturing facilities in USA, Germany, UK, Switzerland, and Spain and with newer facilities in Mexico and the Czech Republic, Norgren has the global manufacturing and support capabilities to be able to cope with the most demanding international projects. Drawing on many years of experience of handling major projects across national boundaries, the company can harness global resources to match its customers' own operations. With support through an established sales and service net-



work in 75 countries, Norgren has the global reach and capability to ensure continuity of supply and local support where it is needed for customers involved in export markets or multi site operations.

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Previously known as the WINW Automatic Air Eliminator, there have been well over 200,000 units sold in the U.K. over the last 25 years. Many of the valves are still in operation, proving the valves capability for long-term trouble free operation.

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CRANE

Crane announces new market focused organization

Crane Co.'s Fluid Handling Group, comprised of the Crane Valve Group, Crane Supply and Crane Pumps & Systems, with sales of more than \$1 billion globally, is well recognized as a leader in providing industrial fluid control solutions for critical performance applications, where engineered solutions matter. To better serve customers and more closely align to key target industries, Crane Co. has announced a realignment of many of its existing Valve Group brands into market focused businesses concentrating on the Chemical & Pharmaceutical and Oil, Gas & Power industries. Crane will use the new customer-focused structure to leverage its global position and drive growth of its key brands into these focused industry segments.

Crane ChemPharma Flow Solutions brings together the Xomox, Resistoflex, Saunders, Revo, Depa and Elro brands. Under these brand names, Crane designs, manufactures and sells highly engineered fluid handling products including: Sleeved Plug Valves, Lined Valves, High Performance Butterfly Valves, Aseptic and Industrial Diaphragm Valves, Actuation, Lined Pipe, Fittings and Hoses, and Diaphragm and Peristaltic Pumps. Aligning these strong brands allows Crane to offer

its customers fluid handling solutions for the most demanding, corrosive, erosive and high purity applications within the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and in applications where chemical processes are used.

Crane Energy Flow Solutions brings together Crane Gate, Globe & Check, Flowseal, Center Line, Pacific, Stockham, Duo-chek and Noz-chek brand names along with Crane's Australia manufacturing & distribution business. These brands are globally recognized for providing solutions to difficult applications and driving lifelong low cost of ownership. Key products include: High Performance Butterfly Valves, Resilient Seated Butterfly Valves, Wedgeplug Valves, Pressure Seal Valves, HF Acid Valves and Engineered Check Valves. The combination of these products aligns some of the most widely used and specified products for the oil, gas & power industries.

Crane ChemPharma Flow Solutions and Crane Energy Flow Solutions will continue to support targeted marketing and distribution channels to supply these focus markets in



addition to the other key markets in which they do business today, including building services, bio-fuels, mining, marine and others.

Crane Valve Services and Crane Fluid Systems (Crane Ltd.), also part of the Crane Valve Group, will not be impacted by the realignment and will continue to bring top quality services and products to the market. Crane Valve Services will continue to focus on nuclear power, valve testing technology, products, and monitoring solutions, and services and will continue to have responsibility for all Crane brands in the nuclear power market. Crane Fluid Systems (Crane Ltd.) is a recognized leader in supplying innovative valves, water couplings and fittings to the utility and building services industries in the UK and Middle East.

Crane Co. is a diversified manufacturer of highly engineered industrial products. Founded in 1855, Crane provides products and solutions to customers in the aerospace, electronics, hydrocarbon processing, petrochemical, chemical, power generation, automated merchandising, transportation and other markets. The Company has five business segments: Aerospace & Electronics, Engineered Materials, Merchandising Systems, Fluid Handling and Controls. Crane has approximately 12,000 employees in North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Crane Co. is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE:CR). For more information, visit www.craneco.com.

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Ensure Critical Valves are Healthy – Neles SmartSolutions™ will

Everyone appreciates how important Partial Stroke Testing is for Emergency Shut Down Valves (ESD) and Emergency Vent Valves (ESV) not only for Insurance purposes but mostly for the safety of plant personnel and the plant.

Over the years, different methods have been tried to handle this e.g. pneumatic panels, mechanical jammers etc but most require the valve to be taken off line for the partial stroke test thus making the unit unavailable if an upset occurs. The operating integrity of any ESD/ESV depends on the final control element-typically via a solenoid-with the valves remaining in the fully open/closed position until required to operate.

Extensive research by independent authorities e.g. OREDA and also by Metso Automation have concluded that the weakest link in the ESD/ESV

package is the solenoid valve which could cause the valve to stick. To overcome this weakest link the Neles ValvGuard™, one of the products from the SmartSolutions™ range, was born. This Smart Device evolved from listening to customer needs to improve reliability of the ESD and increase safety of the plant and plant personnel.

The Neles ValvGuard™ was designed to replace the solenoid valve - new or existing - and provide both overt and covert monitoring in the ESD in a live real time environment.

To test ESD/ESV valves utilizing traditional safety systems, operators have to shut down the process or extensive operator action is needed. Not with Neles ValvGuard™. Now you can reliably test valve performance anytime without disturbing the process at all. And if an emergency signal occurs during testing, the

Neles ValvGuard™ automatically by-passes the test procedure and performs the safety action.

The solution for testing using a solenoid and positioner has the problem that the weakest link is not checked to see whether it is still working. Other limitations of the solenoid/positioner combination are:

- A) extra cabling is required i.e. control and power-with the Neles ValvGuard™ only 1 cable is required to 1 unit
- B) generally movement is limited to 10-30 % travel - with the Neles ValvGuard™ testing can be carried out from 5 to 100% movement
- C) some positioners have no memory so any diagnostics have to be stored elsewhere - with the Neles ValvGuard™ having its own on board processor all the diagnostics

MEETING CHALLENGES

CUSTOMISING SOLUTIONS



alcon
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Alcon valves can be found where the flow of liquid or gas must be reliably and automatically controlled. Whether it be general purpose valves to innovative fully bespoke solutions, covering design, engineering, build and testing, our product line covers it across a range of media, including:

- Air
- Hot Water
- Steam
- Cryogenics
- Water
- Gases
- Fuel
- Aggressive media



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Engineering Solutions
For Over 50 Years

are stored until required. As the Neles ValvGuard™ uses open architecture, dedicated software may not be required.

D) testing has to be initiated by someone. Because Neles ValvGuard™ is a smart processor controlled device, monitoring and testing procedures are not dependent upon operator interaction. This minimizes any consequences that might have occurred due to human error while dramatically increasing the reliability of your system.

E) the Neles ValvGuard™ carries out a pneumatics test as well as a partial stroke test and so spurious trips can be significantly reduced.

Automated On-Line Testing

Neles ValvGuard™ allows you to define an on-line testing sequence based on your specific process needs - anywhere from every few minutes up to only once a year. There's no extensive testing management needed either. Valve status is immediately reported back to you as "OK", "Testing" or "Alarm."

Neles ValvGuard™ is uniquely designed to lower your operating costs and deliver fast payback. You can expect savings in several important areas because Neles ValvGuard™ requires fewer valves to meet your SIL 3 requirements, less piping and cabling, fewer testing hours, less managing and reporting time, less maintenance, simpler reporting procedures, and lower engineering and procurement costs.

Predictive Maintenance

Because the condition and performance of the valve is known at all times, maintenance periods can be extended and unnecessary repairs avoided. All valve test reports can be forwarded to maintenance personnel. Spare parts management can be optimized. And service agreements with Metso Automation can be arranged for periodic diagnostics work and remote analysis.

High Reliability Valve Components

Metso Automation valves are engineered to deliver optimum performance in ESD/ESV applications. The unique metal seating technology has been proven for over 30 years in some of the most difficult processes.

The range of Neles SmartSolutions™ products consist of the following

Neles FieldCare™

Field device asset management software with condition monitoring capability supports open and standardized FDT/D™ technology.

Neles ND9000®

Intelligent valve controller that provides a unique combination of optimum performance and 2nd generation predictive diagnostics.

Neles ValvGuard™

Cost-effective partial stroke testing solution for ESD and ESV valves fulfilling IEC 61508 and IEC 61511 standards.

Neles SwitchGuard™

Intelligent controller for process critical switching and high-cycle

applications; the latest addition to the Neles SmartSolutions™ product range.

For further information on any of the Neles SmartSolutions™ range please contact your local Metso Automation Office.

Geoff Newman – 40 Years Service



John Millar, MD of Tyco Valves & Controls Distribution (UK), presenting Geoff Newman (right) with his long service award.

Valve User is delighted to report that industry stalwart, Geoff Newman, recently celebrated 40 years of continual service with Crosby / Tyco on 1st May 2007. To mark the occasion, Geoff was presented with a long service certificate at a ceremony at the company's base in Market Harborough, UK.

Geoff is the longest serving Crosby employee, having joined the company in 1967 in the Wembley sales office, before relocating to Market Harborough in January 1975. Later Geoff became the company's Engineering Manager and has served on many of the national and international standards committees such as BSI/ISO/CEN, and is extremely well liked and respected for his work with all these groups. During the last 14 years Geoff has been focused on the Power Industry and in particular working with the European boiler manufacturers.

Geoff has also been heavily involved in the BVAA for many years, actively participating in many of the Association's technical committees, and chairing the BVAA Valve Working Group. He has also been instrumental in training the new valve engineers of tomorrow through his very popular courses on Safety Valves. On behalf of the whole industry we thank Geoff for his enormous contribution to Crosby, Tyco and the British Valve Industry in general.



Emerson Process Management

– Valve Automation

I Force Driving
All Valves...
Everywhere!



The launch of Emerson's latest FieldQ "fully integrated" actuator and control modules package continues to gather momentum, with orders placed by two of its European distribution channels in excess of \$200k. The first covers a minerals and mining project application in northern Sweden and the other for a bio-fuel / alcohol plant in France.

Technology leader Emerson, has gained significant competitive advantage by introducing its FieldQ, state-of-the-art product with the patented "fully integrated" concept using SMART technology to reduce total cost of ownership in valve operation. With FieldQ, you can;

- Capitalize on single vendor sourcing and reduce your administrative costs.
- Designed for traditional on-off conventional switch environments or bus communication applications, its interchangeable modules offer forwards or backwards integration offering complete flexibility, however you construct your system.
- Will meet the demanding requirements of the chemical, pharmaceutical and utility process industries where reliability and high performance standard are critical.

One call to an authorized Emerson business partner will provide FieldQ that can match the required sophistication of your application at any level.

For more information please visit www.fieldq.com

KKI - STATOIL Frame Agreements



New group-wide frame agreements worth over NOK 2 billion (£180M) in total will secure STATOIL's valve requirements for the next five to seven years.

STATOIL has signed a total of 17 agreements with 12 valve suppliers covering nine valve types, catering for STATOIL's valve needs in day-to-day operations, new developments and modification projects.

"For the first time, STATOIL is signing frame agreements for valves covering the whole spectrum of our business," says Rune Norseng, Vice President for procurements

in operations support in the Exploration & Production Norway (EPN) business area. "This secures access to essential equipment at competitive prices in a market with high demand."

KOSO Kent Introl are pleased to announce that they have been nominated as one of STATOIL's Control Valve and Surface Choke Valve Frame Agreement holders, where a total of NOK 830 million (£75M) will be spent within this period.

The agreements are a result of STATOIL's Best Procurement Practice (BPP) corporate initiative which aims to gather control of all STATOIL procurements into 64 group-wide equipment categories. The goal is to reduce STATOIL's annual procurement expenses by NOK 6.4 billion (£580M).

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Valve reconditioning can save time and money

By Alex Simmons, Business Development Manager, Comid Engineering Ltd

Like any other mechanical device, valves eventually need repair or replacement. The frequency of repair and/or replacement will depend upon the severity of operating conditions, the design of the valve and the preventive maintenance that has been performed. Valves are vital components in every process where fluids or gases are handled and their replacement when worn is not only costly but can lead to production losses if new valves of the type required are not immediately available.

Such arguments are gaining an increasing influence on process engineers to consider the economic benefits of valve reconditioning at a time when prices are fluctuating, quality from some sources questionable and the delivery delays for some classes of valve continue to grow.

Valve users need look no further than cost savings and availability

to justify a decision to hand over their valves to a specialist reconditioner. With typical savings averaging around 50% - considerably higher in many cases - and delivery in terms of days or weeks rather than perhaps months, the advantages are obvious.

Conserving and recycling

Wider benefits are now also emerging in the form of the valuable contribution which valve reconditioning makes to the national economy. It provides

an efficient and economic means for conserving and recycling the costly and increasingly scarce materials of which valves are made and, which is probably more important at the present time, for conserving the skilled labour content of the valve.

Skilled labour is one of the most serious limiting factors in engineering, and the Sector Working Party of the National Economic Development Council on Pumps and Valves reported that unless 'priority action' is taken, a 'severe shortage' of skilled manpower would emerge in the industry. Extending the life of existing valves by reconditioning is clearly a way of overcoming the skilled manpower shortage in valve manufacture.

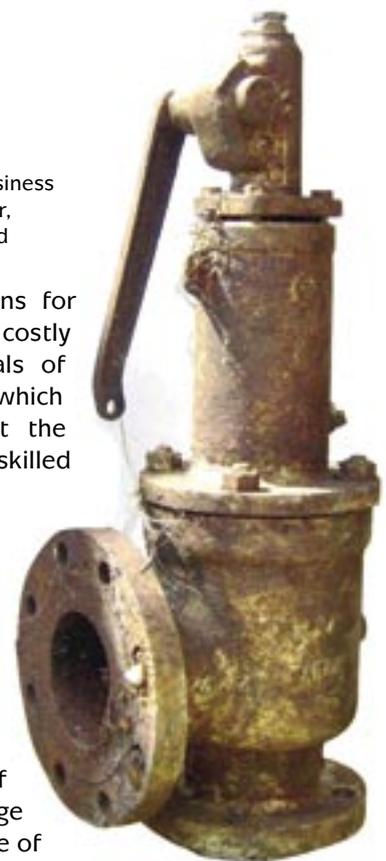
Comid firmly believes that its specialist valve reconditioning activities benefit both the customer and the engineering economy as a whole. It applies this philosophy of cost saving and conservation through its Valve Reconditioning Service, which has developed over the past thirty or more years.

Valve reconditioning is a wellproven procedure under which customers' valves are taken to the reconditioner's works for refurbishing and testing and then returned to the customer. A similar service is offered by a number of UK companies, some of which are valve manufacturers. Comid has a different history however, and believe having concentrated all their resources in equipment and skills on the maintenance side of the business, they are able to offer a service which covers almost every type of valve from any manufacturer and which can be tailored to the individual customer needs.

Specification assurance

By whatever route valves are reclaimed, process engineers need assurances that the valves have been restored to a recognised standard. Valves which have been returned to a plant after reconditioning must continue to perform the duty for which they were originally installed in that plant.

This is the crux of the valve reconditioning argument. The system stands or falls by the quality of the product which leaves the reconditioner's works; the only acceptable criterion is that every valve must be restored



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to a condition equivalent to the valve manufacturer's specification. Only if this can be assured will the customer have confidence in the valve.

Techniques for achieving this have now been established by reputable valve reconditioning concerns and include welding to make good worn areas, machining and lapping to restore the correct dimensions and surface finish and the repair or replacement of damaged components. By applying these techniques in accordance with the best engineering practice, under experienced supervision and with strict quality control, a valve is restored to an 'as-new' condition.

It should be stressed that although the refurbishing techniques involved are widely used in general production engineering, they must be applied with the distinctive principles of maintenance engineering in mind. The approach therefore, differs considerably from that of production engineering and underlines the special role of the valve reconditioner as an integral part of the maintenance engineering sector.

Techniques and practices designed to restore a valve to the manufacturer's specification provide a powerful argument for valve reconditioning. Nevertheless, something more is required if an engineer is to have complete confidence in the refurbished product that he is proposing to incorporate in a plant which may have a vital role in the efficient and safe control of a process.

Reconditioner's warranty

Standards must not only be established but must be seen to have been attained by appropriate test procedures, which will form the basis of the reconditioner's warranty, supported, if the customer so wishes, by a Test Certificate, signed by an independent qualified or designated Engineer.

Comid have set up test facilities which meet these requirements. Their equipment includes hydraulic pressurised pumps, gas pressure testing equipment and regularly calibrated indicator gauges. These test facilities are located in a separate area of the works, so that testing can take place in a clean environment.

Hydraulic and/or gas pressure tests can be applied up to 10,000 psig (690 bar). If necessary, they can be witnessed by independent quality assurance inspectors, appointed by the customer or his insurer.

Purpose-built facility

Though there may be, in some cases, advantages in having the work done in the customer's own works, those at Comid Engineering point out that, in addition to the problems of providing the necessary stringent tests on site, there is a lack of portable machines suitable to carry out the often extensive remedial work required.

The experience of Comid Engineering also suggests that, contrary to what might have been expected, site reconditioning does not always save time. This is because of the time saved by carrying out the work on special equipment in the workshops which have been carefully tooled up for this class of work, compared with the ad hoc methods which must necessarily be employed on site, where no two locations are the same.

It is all a question of the quality of organisation a valve reconditioner can offer. This is where the experience of a company whose management has a sound background in maintenance engineering really counts. Such a background is essential for handling the variety of work which comes forward. Such work can range from a single valve which needs emergency attention, to a long-term contract involving the reconditioning of all the valves in a large plant on a planned maintenance basis. The successful reconditioner must be aware of the requirements and problems of maintenance engineering, and be able to handle both types of business with equal customer satisfaction.

Since almost all valves can be economically reconditioned, the potential market for this service in process engineering is enormous. It is generally thought that wedge gate valves in cast iron below 200mm and in steel below 100mm nominal bore, are seldom worth reclaiming

because of the cost of restoration relative to the price of new valves, but that all others can be reconditioned, with no upward size limit.

Comid recondition valves in many sectors of process engineering, from power stations, oil refineries and petrochemical plants to breweries and water undertakings. The company also has a purpose built annex solely for the overhaul, reconditioning and testing of safety relief valves.

Despite the emergence of 'low value' valves from the Far East the scope for valve reconditioning indicates a healthy future for this cost saving and resource conserving activity.

Comid

In addition to Comid's renowned valve repair and valve reconditioning service disciplines, they have evolved their new valve and actuator sales to include most types of valves and actuators from various manufacturers. They also provide a complete on-site service package, including in-situ safety relief valve testing, for company plant shutdowns or outages.

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Historical Market Size and Growth

The UK valve market size averages around £1.1 billion per year, with parts and repair accounting for almost 19% of the total. Overall market growth is relatively slow and dependent on replacement demand because the installed base is large in relation to the need for expanded plant capacity. Replacement demand is therefore much more important than suggested by parts and repair, and may account for as much as 80% of the market.

Although overall market growth is slow, there can be shifts in the structure of demand because of changes in the relative growth rates of different end uses. For example, there has been a significant growth of demand generated by public sector construction since the election of the Labour government in 1997. On the other hand, demand from oil and gas in the North Sea is in long-run decline. Demand by the chemical industry has been adversely affected by stagnant UK investment resulting from the rapid build up of chemical plant capacity in the Middle East and Asia.

The Importance of Exports

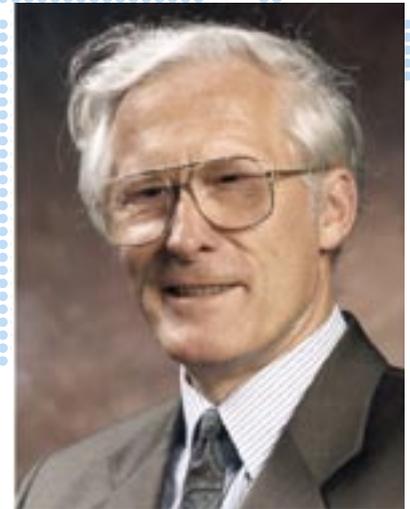
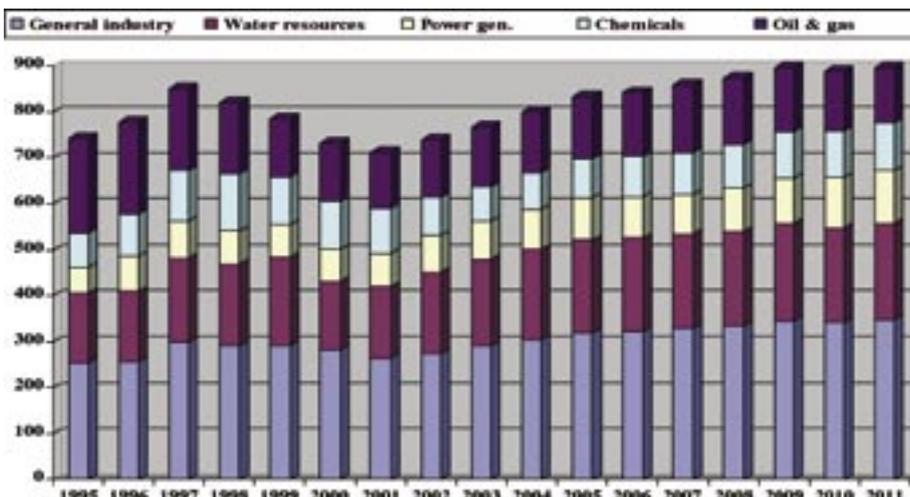
Exports probably account for around 60% of sales, although measurement problems prevent a clear comparison of exports with the level of total sales. The pattern of exports by destination is fairly stable, except that the table shows that China has become an important market since 2001.

Competitiveness, given the high level of the £ sterling, is an important issue. The US is the largest export market, and a \$2 per £ exchange rate will reduce export profitability.

Future Prospects

Over the next 5 to 10 years we expect a marked growth in demand from new nuclear power plants which are needed to replace existing nuclear plants. A new source of demand arises from the expected rapid growth in biofuel production. There will be a slower growth in demand from public sector construction projects.

UK VALVE & ACTUATOR MARKET
COMPLETE VALVES, EXCLUDING PARTS & REPAIR
£ million, 2003 prices



UK Valve Market Prospects
By Vivian Woodward,
European Industrial Forecasting Ltd

UK VALVE & ACTUATOR EXPORTS IN 2001 AND 2005*

£ million, current prices

	2005 £ million	2001 £ million
World	980	757
USA	118	128
Germany	71	58
Ireland	62	45
France	58	62
Norway	54	39
China	50	8
Netherlands	43	39
Italy	40	33
Belgium	25	18
United Arab Emirates	23	16
Iran	22	26
Sweden	22	17
Saudi Arabia	19	16
Singapore	19	15
Total: top 15 countries	605	520
Other countries	374	237

*customs & excise basis

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Subsidised copies of the full EIF report, covering the next 5 years, will be available in the UK to BVAA members – watch out for further details.



Comid & Saudi Pan Gulf Form Partnership

Saudi Valve Manufacturing Establishment (Saudi Valves) is a valve manufacturer and repair company based in Jubail Industrial City in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The company has been acquired by the Saudi Pan Gulf (SPG) and Comid partnership and is the first stage in the development of a larger valve repair and supply company to service the massive petrochemical and other supporting industries in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Valves are one of the few national manufacturers of valves and pipeline accessories and traditionally, their focus for manufacture and supply has been the water and sewage sector with the industrial, petrochemical and oil & gas sector being a secondary activity. Saudi Valves' servicing activities have catered mainly to the petrochemical sector and clients based mainly in the Jubail Industrial City.

SVM, Jubail, is pre-qualified with Aramco, SABIC and SABIC affiliates, Marafiq, Royal Commission Jubail & Yanbu, SEC, SWCC, Ministries of Water, Electricity, Agriculture.

Key to the success of the joint venture will be the development of a larger repair facility to cope with the full range of valves i.e. gate, globe, check etc. currently covered by Comid, the development of a new facility to overhaul, calibrate and test safety and safety relief valves and the development of the manufacturing facility to supply a broader range of valves to other sectors in the region.

With the investment in new equipment and machinery, training etc, it is the intention to provide not only Jubail Industrial City but Saudi Arabia and GCC with a first class service centre for all types of Valves and Actuators. Valve testing facilities have been installed to allow for independent testing and witness testing of end user valves prior to installation.

Comid have also introduced "veri-Test" to the Saudi market. veri-Test is Saudi Valves brand name for the in-situ testing of Safety Valves which forms part of the service facility.

Saudi Valves currently manufacture a full range of gate, globe, check, butterfly and air valves in ductile iron. This together with a complete range of Flange adaptors, couplings, fittings, surface boxes etc represents a complete range of products for the water and sewage industries.

Partnerships with pedigree Steel Valve manufacturers compliment the product range to enable supply packages to all sectors of industry including Oil, Gas, Petrochemical, De-Salination, Power and Utilities. Penstock valves, both manual and with electric actuator are supplied manufactured in stainless steel, marine grade aluminium or cast iron.

Saudi Valves is a division of Pan Gulf Valve Services Co Ltd and can be contacted via: UK: Comid Engineering Ltd Tel. 0161 6249592, email sales@comid.co.uk

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New 1½ inch Power Pulse Valve complements ASCO/ JOUCOMATIC NUMATICS Dust Collector System Range

ASCO/JOUCOMATIC NUMATICS has launched a 1½ inch version of its highly successful type 353/800 Power Pulse valves. Specifically designed for the dust collector market, the valves feature a patented piston design that enables significantly faster opening and closing times, quieter operation and lower operating costs. Power Pulse valves form part of a comprehensive dust collector offering that includes valves with integral and remote pilots, tanks, manifolds and complete systems.

The patented piston design of the Power Pulse valves substantially reduces the stroke volume while still enabling high flow rates. The reduced stroke volume cuts the amount of air to be exhausted, resulting in faster operation and enabling savings to be made in compressed air production. A new bonnet design allows the air to expand inside the valve, lowering the noise at exhaust. For applications where there is a possibility of dirt build-up blocking the silencer, an option is available to enable exhaust gasses to vent directly into the valve outlet port.

Power Pulse valves are very compact and the option of a remote pilot

makes them even more attractive for applications where space is at a premium. Remote pilots can be mounted individually or supplied in boxes, operating from two to twelve valves and having the benefits of a common inlet and exhaust.

Able to operate in harsh environments, the standard design can operate up to 85°C which can be extended to 150°C with the optional high temperature Polyamide piston. Coil options include high quality F-class epoxy moulded coils and a range of waterproof and explosion proof coils conforming to the ATEX directive 94/9/EC for use in potentially explosive atmospheres.

To enable easy installation, the valves can be supplied with a Quick Mount connection system eliminating time-consuming thread-cutting and sealing to the blow-pipe which is required when installing conventional dust pulse valves; it also costs less and is more effective than compression-fitting methods.

The complete dust collector range from ASCO/JOUCOMATIC NUMATICS includes Power Pulse valves, pilot valves, pilot boxes, sequential controllers, pressure differential modules, tank systems and air preparation equipment.

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Major pipeline contract for Rotork heavy duty electro-hydraulic valve actuators



A consignment of KA-210-EH and KA-260-EH actuators for the BTC pipeline about to leave the PCI factory en route to the valvemaker MSA in the Czech Republic.

The recently commissioned four billion dollar BTC (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan) pipeline heralds a new era of crude oil supply by linking the oilfields of the Caspian Sea – the world's third largest reserve – with the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. Rotork Fluid Systems has supplied a total of seventy-four heavy duty electro-hydraulic valve actuators for installation along the 1774 kilometre pipeline route through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey.

The rugged scotch-yoke actuators, built at the Rotork Fluid Systems PCI factory in Melle, Germany, are equipped with customised control

units providing special stroke times and safety functions for crude oil pipeline duties. The modular design of Rotork's self contained electro-hydraulic control package lends itself to customisation, offering higher performance and lower cost of ownership than alternative solutions. Common functions such as local/remote control selection and open/close operation are provided as standard, whilst optional features such as automatic line break,

high or low pressure closing and differential pressure systems are easily integrated.

Rotork Fluid Systems PCI has extensive experience of providing control systems to meet operational and safety needs, including double-acting and spring-return options for on/off, ESD (Emergency Shut Down) and modulating duties. Actuator operating pressures of up to 350 bar with torque outputs up to 350,000 Nm

are suitable for virtually all sizes and classes of pipeline valves. The robust construction is designed for severe environments and ambient temperatures down to minus 60°C. Explosion proof classification is approved for ATEX Zones 1 and 2 or alternative international standards.

Rotork's electric actuator division has also supplied several hundred IQ and IOT valve actuators on the BTC oil pipeline in an associated contract.

Rotork Gears manufacture a wide range of Gearboxes, as well as Valve mounting kits, Switchboxes, valve position monitors, extensions, locking devices and other adaptation accessories for customised valve configuration.



The Gearboxes and accessories are designed to withstand the harsh challenges of various environments, to include Sub Sea and Nuclear.

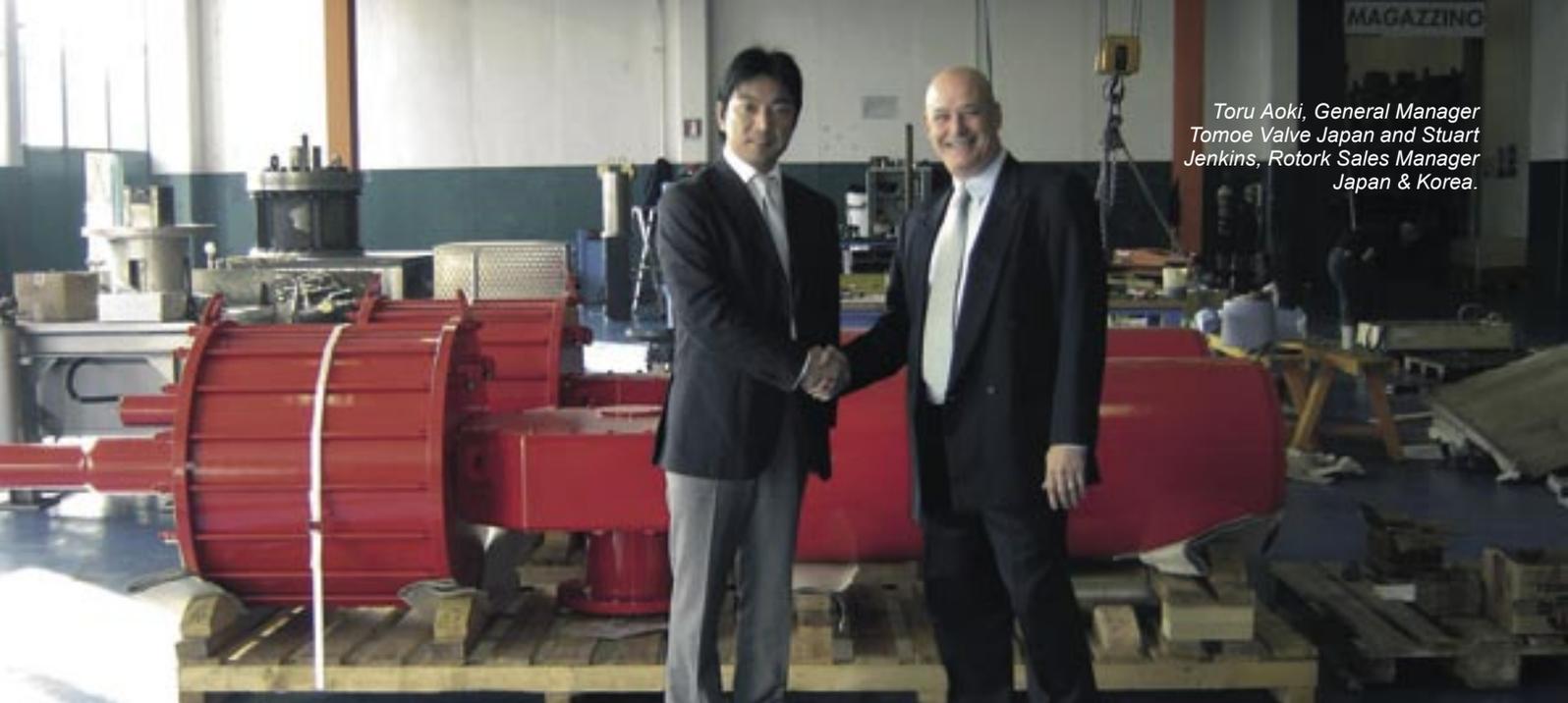
Rotork Gears provide a complete solution for all valve gearbox and manual override requirements, flexible products to suit the needs of the valve and actuator industry. Cost effective partnerships with the international valve and actuator industry, full support and back up worldwide.



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For further information visit our website www.rotork.com or e-mail info@rotorkgears.co.uk



Toru Aoki, General Manager
Tomoe Valve Japan and Stuart
Jenkins, Rotork Sales Manager
Japan & Korea.

Tomoe Japan Secures Saudi Electric Company Shuaibah Contract in Partnership with Rotork

Tomoe Valve Limited, a global leader in the design and manufacturing of valves and process control systems, has won a significant contract with the Saudi Electric Company in partnership with Rotork Fluid Systems. The Japanese office secured the deal to supply Tomoe butterfly valves to phase three of the Shuaibah project that sees the build of a 194MIGD desalination plant, together with three 917MW thermal power plants on a site 110km south of Jeddah. Tomoe Japan selected Rotork Fluid Systems, Japan (RFS) as their valve actuator partner for this project.

The desalination plant constructed by contractor Doosan, will handle a daily capacity of 990,000 tones of water and will supply drinking water and electricity power to the holy Islam cities of Mecca and Medina.

As part of the agreement, Tomoe is supplying 139 of their high performance, advanced butterfly valves, ranging from 12 inches up to 150 inches in size. The valves will be fitted with Rotork CP and GP pneumatic actuators. This landmark contract was won following a demanding bidding process with constantly evolving specifications and requirements, Tomoe's fast response and highly experienced designers and valve

engineers provided a competitive edge.

Mr Toru Aoki, General Manager Tomoe Valve Japan, commented on winning the contract, "The desalination market is a highly competitive one and we are delighted to have won this contract. We are confident that with our range of high performance butterfly valves and Rotork Fluid System's CP and GP pneumatic actuators, the project will be a complete success and the contractors and management team will be satisfied with both our products and our service."

Tomoe's high performance range of butterfly valves and actuators combine the latest in both valve design and materials technology. They incorporate unique features to meet the varied applications within the processing industry.

Four series of valves, the 300, 500, 700 and 800, are available from Tomoe, plus a full range of Triple Offset designs. All provide low torque, unparalleled levels of leak tightness, wear resistance and long life. These products are also supported by a comprehensive range of actuators and ancillary items, to match specific needs. All valves are also supported with Tomoe's comprehensive sales and

distribution channels throughout the world, with the highest levels of customer support.

About Rotork Fluid Systems

Rotork has become the name for excellence in the field of valve, sluice gate and damper actuation products for the oil, gas, power, water and waste treatment industries. Rotork has over 150 offices and representatives located throughout Europe, North and South America, the Far East, Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East.

About Tomoe Valve

Tomoe designs and develops the widest range of butterfly valves and actuators for all major industries including chemical processing, oil and gas, power generation, water treatment, marine, automotive, sugar refining, brewing, and food processing. Tomoe valves offer unparalleled levels of leak tightness, valve longevity and wear resistance and come with an extensive range of body designs, material options and sizes. Tomoe's high performance range of triple offset rotary process valves and rubber-seated butterfly valves are specifically targeted at the demanding, high pressure, high temperature applications in the oil and gas, petrochemical and power process markets.

Midland-ACS develops remote actuated valves to withstand the extreme environments of new BTC pipeline

Running over 1,700 kilometres from the Mediterranean Ceyhan terminal through three countries to the Caspian Sea, the new BTC (Baku-Tibilisi-Ceyhan) crude oil pipeline presented some new technical challenges for electro-hydraulic actuator specialist Midland-ACS. The company has been manufacturing remote actuated valves for oil and gas applications for over 20 years, but the -290C to +400C operating temperature range along the BTC pipeline required mechanical construction predominantly of 316 stainless steel and full Zone 1 (Eexd) compliancy.

Hydrocarbon reserves in the Caspian Region have attracted massive international interest from gas and oil companies resulting in joint ventures being established to explore the reserves. With the potential there for raising output the new BTC crude pipeline has been constructed by BP for the Turkish government owned company Botas. Based on prior experience, a reputation for quality and a global technical support network Midland-ACS were chosen by Botas to design, engineer, manufacture and commission actuated valves for the pipeline's Ceyhan Marine Terminal in addition to four of its pumping stations along the route.

Midland-ACS has now developed and supplied twenty Self-Contained Electro-hydraulic pipeline actuators controlling valves ranging in size from 8" to 32". In order



for the actuators to withstand the harsh and extreme conditions they would be subject to, and also to ensure longevity, specialist sealing technology and in-house manufactured 316 stainless steel hydraulic cylinders, pipework and pilot valves were used.

The actuator assembly also includes a hydraulic reserve tank used for pressure, flow control and re-injection, providing accurate positional, modulating, and fail-safe control of the larger main valve. Weather protection is provided for the electrical connections by using Eexd rated cables, glands and termination.

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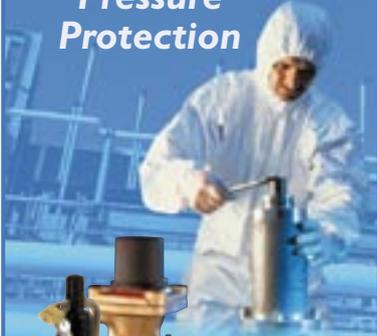
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Bifold AXIS Manifold System *Revolutionizes Valve Actuator Control*



Bifold Fluidpower, an Oil and Gas market leading manufacturer of stainless steel hydraulic and pneumatic directional control valves and pumps, has launched its patented system for valve actuator control.

The system enables a colossal 1038 circuit combinations to be created from a limited set of building blocks. The AXIS system is the culmination of 3 years design and development. Utilising Computational Fluid Dynamic (CFD) analysis and state of the art 3-D modelling techniques, Bifold Fluidpower has created the most cost effective, compact and versatile system for valve actuator control.

The AXIS system reduces leak paths, panel size and weight and offers the most cost effective solution from compact 1/4" through to 1" NPT port sizes.

The options in solenoid explosion protection concepts and certification and the range of manual override mechanisms presented a significant challenge. Bifold Fluidpower has also developed a range of solenoids with a common interface that are suitable for EExia,



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Presenting the NAMUR Mount Hygienic Valve for Wash Down Applications

EEExme and EExd applications. What is new is that auto reset, manual reset, manual override, tamper proof manual reset, magnetic latch, screw down override are available. This break-through drastically reduces the number of circuit variants.

The modular manifold part of the system was originally developed to meet the enhanced safety demands of some circuits philosophies designed to meet safety and reliability requirements of IEC61508 and IEC65011. These more complex circuits require partial stroking of the valve actuator and main valve together with independent testing of the solenoid valves.

The AXIS system takes the logic part of the system vertically off the flow path. With a patented flow diverting system, virtually any circuit control system can be achieved with the manifold design. In addition, since all logic valves are removed from the flow path, the overall system performance is significantly improved.

A previous reluctance by some users to using manifold systems was that lead times could be shorter using individual off the shelf components. This obstacle has been removed since the AXIS system uses standard building block modules and components. In addition, Bifold Fluidpower has invested in what is the world's most advanced manufacturing facility for stainless steel directional control valves for use in hazardous area and corrosive environments. Short deliveries are now possible for virtually any circuit design.

Bifold Fluidpower now also offers a valve actuator opening and closing time calculation to simplify system analysis and product selection.

For details, visit www.bifold-fluidpower.co.uk



With some of the problems incurred in washdown applications, SMC have now developed a valve that brings longer life to actuated assemblies who in the past have suffered down time due to failure of the solenoid from caustic washdown fluid and ingress to working pads. The valve also has a special EPDM duckbill exhaust protector check valve that allows air to escape and prevents washdown particles entering the engineered plastic body made from PPS (polyphenylene Sulfide).

A Transition plate can be flipped to change the valve function from three way two position to four way two position for flexibility of use and reduced inventory...

Features

- High temperature and chemical/corrosion resistance for use in wash down applications.
- Suitable for use in steam.
- ROHS compliant.
- 10w Power Consumption 0.5 watt for compatibility with AS-1 Bus system.
- Manual override system.

For further details, contact your local SMC Sales Engineer, or alternatively contact SMC on 0800 1382930.



Emerson to Build Control Valve Industry's Largest and Most Technologically-Advanced Research Laboratory

Multi-million dollar renovation and expansion will create the Fisher® Technology Development Centre

Emerson Process Management has announced a multi-million dollar renovation and expansion of its Fisher control valves research and development facilities in Marshalltown, Iowa, USA.

The project will create the Fisher Technology Development Centre, which will be the industry's largest and most advanced flow control research facility. It will be staffed by employees from Emerson's current research and development facility, with plans to add fifteen R&D engineers. Construction is expected to begin in 2007.

Ted Grabau, director of global technology for Fisher products, announced that the new facility will quadruple current air and water flow rate capabilities to permit testing of valves for larger and higher pressure applications. Pressure and flow sub-systems will also be increased to support noise abatement research and product development.

New flow sciences research labs will support multi-phase, cavitation and real world fluid control problems and there will also be expanded dynamic performance test loops to accommodate larger valves. The new centre will support all new product development and provide an improved customer demonstration and customer witness testing capability.

"Construction of this facility will allow us to continue to develop the innovative control valve technologies that help our customers maximise the performance of their plants," said Terry Buzbee, president of the Fisher division of Emerson.

Fisher control valves play a key role in managing the flow of materials through process systems in such industries as power, refining, chemical, and oil and gas production. With this renovation and expansion, Emerson is continuing the innovation and growth that dates back to 1880, when the Fisher Governor Company began its manufacturing operations in Marshalltown. Today, Emerson is the world's largest manufacturer of control valves, with sales, manufacturing and service facilities located worldwide.



The Marshalltown factory, past and present

"Process manufacturers have been relying on Fisher valves for well over 100 years, and this expansion of our R&D capabilities will enable us to broaden our global reach to better meet the needs of our global customers," Buzbee said.

Heap & Partners Ltd

"The only source of knowledge is experience"
- Albert Einstein

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Training Dates

Valve training from professionals

BVAA will again be running their very successful series of Training Courses in the Autumn.

Dates are:

Introduction to Valves – Mon 15th Oct 2007

Introduction to Actuators – Tues 16th Oct 2007

Control Valves – Wed 17th Oct 2007

Safety Valves – Thurs 18th Oct 2007

Introduction to SILs – Fri 19th Oct 2007

All product courses are £295+VAT.

BVAA members receive a 30% discount on fees.



The 'introduction' courses are ideal for newcomers to the industry or for admin staff. The Control and Safety Valves courses assume a basic familiarity of valves.

Full details are available from the BVAA website, <http://www.bvaa.org.uk/H1.asp>

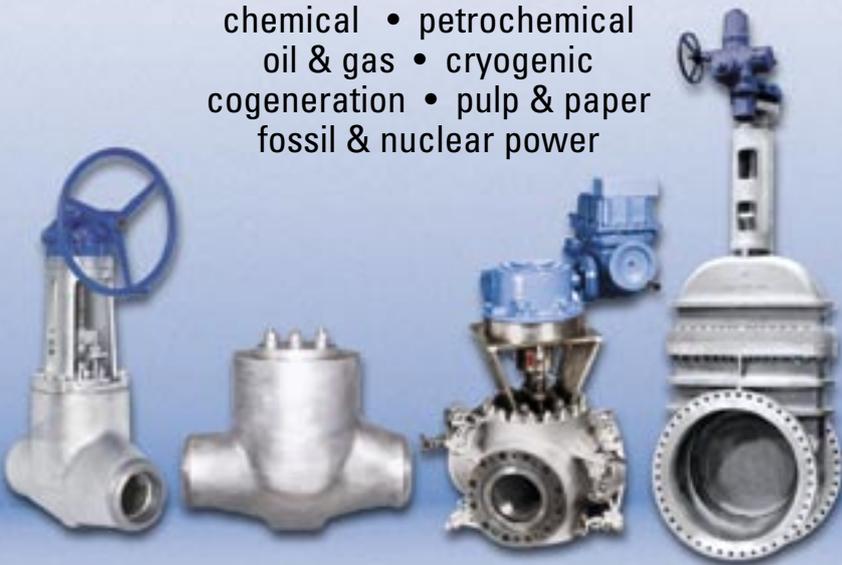
Alternatively contact BVAA to register or for further details.

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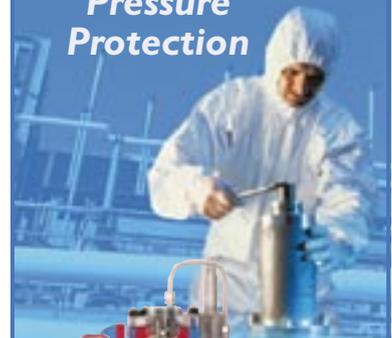
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Technical Update - ASME and European Material Testing Requirements

BVAA Technical Consultant Peter Churm reports...

A CEN Workshop on "EU – US Material Standards" was held on May 15th 2007 to discuss a report on the "Comparison between ASME Specifications and European Standards for Testing of Steel for Pressure Equipment." This had been prepared by Bernard Creton, Chairman of ECISS/TC1 "Steel – Mechanical testing" and Chairman of ISO/TC164/SC1 "Mechanical testing of metals – Uniaxial testing."

should recognise the report and allocate a number to it, to use the report to propose consideration into its findings by ASME and ISO and to further develop the report to include comparisons of material properties.

The aims of the project started in 2004, being the investigation into the possible mutual acceptance of materials to ASME specifications and European standards for use in steel pressure equipment, reducing the burden of redundant material testing requirements, welding qualifications and procedures and approval of non-destructive testing personnel.

This certainly seems to be a very pragmatic approach and one which BVAA will generally support, however we suspect it will take many years to bear fruit.

The report listed the properties specified in European Standards and ASME specifications for steel products for pressure equipment in the form of hot-rolled flat and long products, forgings, castings and tubes and the corresponding tests.

It also listed the European Standards and ASME specifications corresponding to mechanical testing and pointed out the technical differences between these testing specifications and discussed the possible influence of these differences on the test results.

The report identified the similarities and differences between ASME, CEN and ISO standards and the workshop examined the possible merging with, or adoption of, ASME or CEN or ISO standards to achieve an acceptable, safe and economic solution.

Wide discussion on the report's findings and areas of commonality and divergence were investigated and problem areas for the possible merging of standards were identified and challenged. It was agreed that CEN

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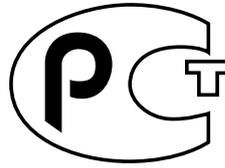
Courses are held at various technical college and workshop locations throughout the UK. For scheduled public course locations and availability see the website below. Alternatively, contact Cliff Matthews directly on enq@matthews-training.co.uk, or telephone 07732 799351.

Additional in-company PRV courses for up to 8 delegates are held on demand at client's sites.

www.matthews-training.co.uk



Midland-ACS products gain GOST approval



With the Russian Oil & Gas sector continuing to quickly grow at an unabated rate, there is a need to ensure that all components used have the relevant approvals. Midland-ACS - a leading manufacturer of 316 stainless steel valves, electro hydraulic actuators and accessories for use in extreme, hazardous, corrosive and low temperature conditions - has recently gained Russian approval for all variants of its acclaimed DN series, 3500 & 3550 series of air regulators, its 4500 range of accessories and the 1500 & 1750 ranges of pneumatic valves. The GOST and FSETAN approvals adds to the existing ATEX and IECex CSA, UL and CRN Approvals, complementing the certification family for use in high risk environments throughout the world.

The approval is well recognised and is also accepted in some other countries within the region. The process of obtaining the Russian approval was supported by Midland-ACS's Russian distributor, Kosmos Neft Gas.

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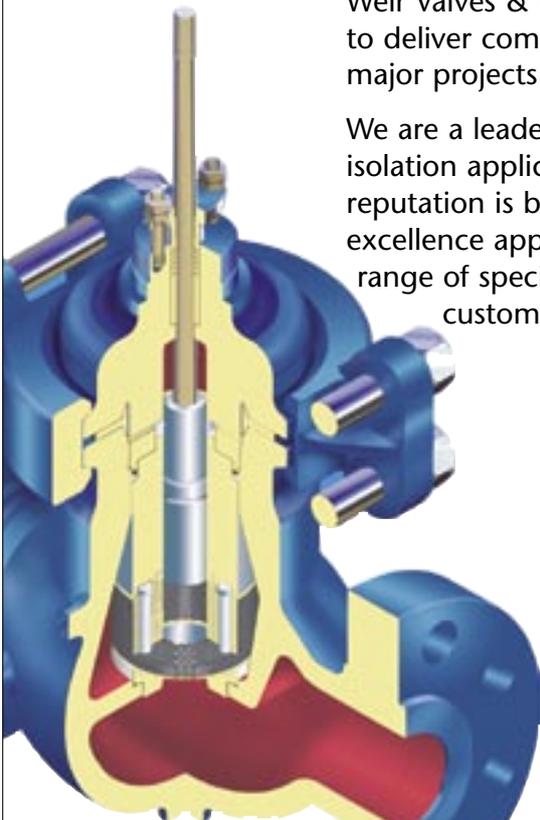
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