

Best Practice



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Oliver Valves wins order for Major Green Field Project

Oliver Valves has won a significant order to supply a large number of Metal Seated Double Block and Bleed Ball valves to a Major Green Field onshore project located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Territory Manager for the Middle East, Haridas Embanath says "winning the order was the result of strong relationships with our distributor network and end users in the region, but it's really down to the efforts of our engineering and support team that provided the perfect valve solution to meet difficult cost restraints."



and designs can help to find the best valve solutions possible. Value engineering on this project has resulted in valves manufactured with Carbon Steel body and trim, and Inconel Weld Overlay. The estimated additional saving for the customer is around 20% - 30%.

For more information on how Oliver Valves can supply your project with the very best valve solutions, contact Oliver Valves on +44 (0)1565 632 636 or email sales@valves.co.uk | www.valves.co.uk

Value engineering is second-nature to Oliver's. By working closely with customers and engineering consultants, the scope of work can be understood and project objectives fully realised. Cost is a fundamental consideration for customers, and modelling scenarios using various combinations of materials

Introducing handheld fibre laser welding from Wilkinson Star

Handheld fibre laser welding technology is new to the UK welding industry, offering excellent welding performance, improving production efficiency and reducing operational costs. Up to 4 times faster than traditional welding methods, it offers high precision and neat welding seams on various materials. The Weld Star - Max Photonics system advanced air-cooling with self-adaptive fans ensures long-term stability and a neat, compact design. It is lightweight and ergonomically designed welding torch offers comfort and manoeuvrability to the user at only 680 grams and guarantees multiple safety precautions for welding operations.



guidance is followed and this equipment is operated within a suitably approved class 4 enclosure. Wilkinson Star can offer a full package solution in compliance with EN 60825-4.

Machines come with a 2 year warranty and torches a 12 month warranty.

www.wilkinsonstar247.com/laser-welding

Available through Wilkinson Star's authorised network of distributors

A full colour 7-inch graphical user interface with synergic set up and the possibility to save up to 32 stored jobs offers easy set up and high repeatability to the user. Shooting mode offers controllable and repeatable tack welding and single sided spot welding, whilst pulse mode offers aesthetically pleasing welds similar to that of traditional TIG welding methods. Quick training times with the laser process gives employers the opportunity to up-skill workers and increase production.

Laser safety is a big factor with this process being a Class 4 appliance. As such, it is imperative that the



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Lanes wins 5th Skills Accord for workforce development success

The water utilities and drainage specialist Lanes Group plc was presented with a coveted Procurement Skills Award by the Energy & Utilities Skills Partnership, for a phenomenal fifth-year running at a Best Practice and Awards event in May this year.



"This is a great achievement for Lanes as a forward-thinking employer and service provider. Our strategic workforce and objectives are closely aligned with the aims of the energy and utilities Skills Accord," explained Lanes Learning and Development Specialist: James Brewer.

The Procurement Skills Accord (PSA) is a nationwide initiative that encourages the energy and utilities supply chain, to focus investment on training and skills.

Last year, Lanes Utilities successfully won a further eight-year extension to its contract as the sole wastewater network services maintenance partner for Thames Water, where it carries our reactive sewer unblocking, tankering and sewer lining, amongst other services.

The Energy & Utilities partnership was suitable impressed with the

manner in which Lanes collects data on its female and ethnic minority employees, ensuring equal access to skills training, its promotional showcasing of opportunities in jobs fairs in schools and colleges, collaborative working with prison services and an excellent continuous improvement plan.

Lanes is coincidentally, an ally of the Women's Utilities Network, connecting women across the utilities industries and the Kickstart scheme, to create employment for 16-24-year-olds currently relying on Universal Credit.

www.lanesfordrains.co.uk

RMIG Solutions we make ideas come to life

Industrial Processing
Industrial Processing includes a vast range of potential applications for perforated products. RMIG has extensive experience in the chemical, pharmaceutical, paper, and offshore industries, to name a few. From small, high precision perforation in thin materials to large holes in thick sheets used in the mining industry, RMIG has the knowledge, versatility, and tooling to deliver products according to customers' requirements.

Bridge Slot
The RMIG Bridge Slot sheets play an essential role when it comes to the design and manufacture of biomass drying floors. The combination of sheet thickness and opening size allows RMIG's sheets to be used either as a suspended floor in wood chip drying containers and trailers, or as drive-on drying floors in outdoor buildings.

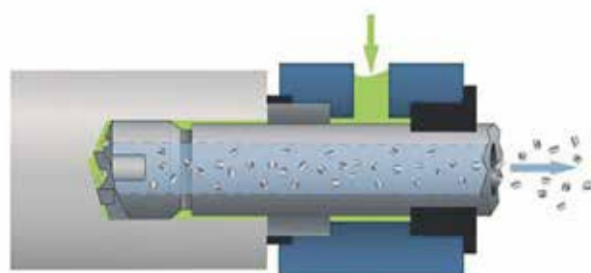
Food Processing
RMIG's Food Processing market sector meets the high levels of hygiene demanded by the food processing industry. Perforated screens are also strong with important thermal capabilities, making them useful for a wide range of food processing applications. RMIG's tailor made perforated solutions are ideal for cleaning, heating and steaming in food production environments. Whether it's baking trays, cereal cleaning or ingredient conveyors, all of RMIG's perforated materials can be customised for each application.

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BTA Drilling: Brazed Versus Indexable Tooling



Deep hole drilling applications can be approached in several ways, but one of the most effective methods is often BTA drilling. BTA stands for Boring and Trepanning Association, although it is sometimes referred to as STS or Single Tube System drilling. Unlike gun drills or twist drills a BTA drill features internal chip removal, which has advantages in both productivity and hole quality.

The BTA drill head has multiple carbide cutting edges and guide pads mounted to it. Open spaces are designed into the head for chip removal, and chips are evacuated through the drill tube the head is threaded onto. Pressurized coolant surrounds the drill head in operation, and is key to forcing chips through the head and out the drill tube. This method of chip evacuation allows for a very clean and reliable process with excellent surface finish and high drill feed rates - typically 5-7 times faster than gundrilling at the same diameter. No peck cycles or feed interruptions are needed, resulting in reduced machine time while drilling extended depth-to-diameter ratios even greater than 40:1.

BTA drills are generally available in two forms: brazed or indexable; and tool selection is dependent upon several factors. As the name implies, brazed tools involve brazing a carbide insert and guide pads onto a steel body, while indexable BTA drilling tools have carbide inserts either directly mounted to the head with a retention screw or seated in a cartridge that is mounted to the tool.

Hole diameter is the initial consideration when determining whether to use brazed or indexable BTA drills. For small hole diameters - generally 12 to 20 mm in diameter - brazed tools are often the first choice as it's difficult to make small inserts and screws strong enough to withstand the torque and forces of BTA drilling. (Manufacturers of BTA drilling tools continue to make improvements in indexable BTA heads as small as 8 mm in diameter, however).

Brazed tools offer extremely close tolerances and



BTA drilling heads with cartridge-mounted indexable inserts.

excellent surface finish as the insert and guide pads are mounted and then ground to the specified diameter, providing almost perfect concentricity and cylindricity. Ease of use is also a benefit - simply attach the head to the drill tube and discard it when it has dulled or failed. If you experience a tool failure, the investment in drill head isn't as costly as repairing or replacing an indexable drill head. Finally, an indexable BTA head can only be as accurate as the tolerance of the inserts themselves; but a brazed head has been ground to a very precise tolerance from the manufacturer.

By contrast, hole diameters starting at approximately 20 mm favor indexable tools, primarily for economic reasons. Replacing larger diameter brazed tools is expensive, whereas indexing an insert and guide pads gives an easy extension on the tool's life. Indexable insert manufacturers also offer an exhaustive range of carbide grades, coatings and chip breakers for application-specific advantages.

The placement of the indexable inserts on BTA drill head varies by diameter and by manufacturer, and can include one or multiple inserts mounted directly to the head or set in a heat-treated cartridge which is then mounted to the head. Guide pads are typically mounted the head to counter the drilling forces and burnish the hole during drilling. Indexing, or rotating, a direct-mounted insert is as simple as loosening the retaining screw and turning the insert to expose a fresh cutting edge. If the insert and pocket were made with tight tolerances, your cutting diameter should remain reasonably consistent.

Cartridge-mounted inserts, however, typically incorporate a shim or other adjustment system to allow for a much more precise diameter setting after indexing inserts and guide pads. This process does require additional equipment, however, such as a micrometer and stand or tool presetter - as well as the skills needed to accurately make the necessary adjustments.

Whether you select brazed or indexable BTA drills for your deep hole drilling application, you will be rewarded with high feed rates and process reliability, along with minimal centerline deviation and excellent hole quality.

EMO 2023 Hannover, 18. - 23. 09. 2023 Hall 13, C21.

To learn more, contact UNISIG about its complete portfolio of BTA drilling machines, drill tubes, tools and BTA durable tooling.

www.unisig.com



Brazed BTA heads - carbide inserts and guide pads are brazed onto the drill head



Indexable BTA heads, with inserts mounted directly to the head



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CNC tools are shown for display purposes. They are not included with our products.

Lanes drainage engineers gunning for safer water jetting

Lanes Group plc is ahead of the drainage and wastewater industry curve, by placing its engineers on a new DSP training module, formulated to enhance water jetting expertise for surface cleaning. The Drain, Sewer and Surface preparation (up to 275 Bar practice module) (DSP) has been designed by The Water Jetting Association and incorporates new instructions on surface preparation.

Safer water jetting
The course involves hybrid-classroom and practical learning to consolidate optimised productivity

and safety. Lanes Group Training Manager, Darren Hamilton is delighted with the results.

"Lanes aims to set the highest possible standards. By delivering the DSP drainage module, we are aligning our training and procedures with the latest WJA red code of practice for drain and sewer cleaning, which incorporates this new thinking on surface preparation."

Early adopter
The drainage operators at Lanes, all undertake WJA water jetting training before they advance

to using water jetting equipment. With rigorous safety awareness class-based training, followed by practical training, the operators achieve WJA-accreditation after the final DSP module.

The new DSP module has two practical assessments: firstly, water jetting in drains and sewer pipes and secondly, jetting for surface preparation up to 275 bar (4,000 psi) and water flow rates up to 73 litres per minute (lpm), within a maximum reaction force of 250 Newtons.

www.lanesfordrains.co.uk



Training offers gateway to turnstile standard

The Automatic Door Suppliers Association (ADSA) is launching a new training course as a 'gateway' to a new standard that regulates power operated pedestrian entrance control equipment such as powered turnstiles, swing lanes and retractable lanes.

The introduction of BS/IS EN 17352:2022 is the first standard for this product group. It addresses industry concerns about safety in use and sets out a machinery safety standard, requirements and test methods, to ensure systems are safe.

ADSA's standards accreditation outlines its requirements, ensuring all systems can be correctly specified, fitted, inspected, and maintained and enables employees and their employers to demonstrate their knowledge of the safety requirements and test methods within this product group.

Having already been piloted, the first of the day-long sessions will take place this month (June). This will be a classroom-based course, initially for ADSA members who already have ADSA PPD standards accreditation. However, it will subsequently be rolled out to others,

and sales, project staff and technicians are encouraged to take part.

Said ADSA's technical and training manager, Darren Hyde: "There has been an increasing demand for products of this type and it seems only right to bring them in line with safety standards for the wider industry. These products can be operated electro-mechanically or electro-hydraulically and can be used for normal access as well as in escape routes and emergency exits. So, it is critical that they are properly specified, installed and maintained."

"Many leading manufacturers, who are already ADSA members, include them within their existing products ranges, while as a result of the introduction of the standard, we have seen new members join us whose businesses are solely within power operated pedestrian entrance control equipment."

"We feel that this new course will meet the needs of many who work with the industry, across different roles and at different levels. It will also provide public confidence in those companies that have acquired accreditation and can evidence their competence."

The course costs £190 including examination. For more information visit: www.adsa.org.uk/exams-and-training



Casella announces 2023 webinar series on noise, air sampling and vibration

Global occupational health and workplace hazard monitoring expert Casella has announced its schedule of industry-leading webinars for 2023.

The schedule of free-to-attend, accessible webinars cover Casella's core areas of expertise, including workplace monitoring for noise, dust, gas and vapor hazards, as well as instrumentation usage and best practice. Each webinar is between 30 to 45 minutes and will conclude with a Q&A session to recap.

The webinar schedule is set to run as follows:

7th June - Setting up Air Sampling Pumps

This webinar covers selecting the correct pump, setting up the 'sample train' and ensuring accurate flow, as well as best practices to ensure good quality data.

28th June - Introduction to HAV Monitoring

This webinar reviews the terminology about HAV measurement, legislation and exposure limits, as well as how to measure exposure on the tool correctly and subsequently calculate exposure levels.

13th July - Introduction to Asbestos Sampling

During this 30-minute webinar, Casella's experts will provide an overview of the international use of asbestos. Attendees will learn how to sample for it and how to comply with legislation.

7th September - Use of SLMs and Noise Dosimeters: the best practice guide!

Casella will cover the principles of when to use a noise dosimeter or sound level meter, and the benefits and drawbacks of each.

29th September - Environmental Boundary Monitoring in Construction: Best Practice

This webinar covers the correct siting and installation of monitoring units to ensure compliance with guidance and legislation.

19th October - Introduction to Dust Sampling

During this webinar, Casella will share insights on the types of dust to measure, how to select the correct equipment and also gain insights into the calculation of airborne concentration, and more importantly exposure.

10th November - Introduction to Air Sampling

Attendees of this webinar will keep up with the ever-changing requirements and the rigour of air monitoring and testing. Airborne hazards from fibres, gases, dust, and vapors can all cause potentially life-threatening illnesses affecting the lungs. Air sampling is a method of monitoring a worker's exposure to these potential hazards.

To sign up for any of these industry-leading webinars, free of charge, please visit the following link: <https://tsiinc.webex.com/webappng/sites/tsiinc/webinar/webinarSeries/register/07a8cd379f8d4d89b9671b69fb8477d9>

To find out more about Casella's industry-leading range of monitoring solutions, please visit www.casellasolutions.com



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- Our aim is to target the huge UK manufacturing sectors as well as power generation and conservation and offer a quality service, product and development ability, not all solutions can be found off the shelf.
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- Manosun Ltd is also a member of the BSIF a sign and seal of quality and products that fulfil all UK and EU requirements of test and design.

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Industry

Custom DN600 wedge gate valves, farlington water treatment works

When there was a requirement for custom wedge gate valves to facilitate the transition to new metric pipework at a major water treatment works, T-T Flow stepped in to provide the perfect solution that would also maintain the ability to isolate flow.

The problem

Operated by Portsmouth Water, Farlington Water Treatment Works is a major facility supplying thousands of homes and businesses in Portsmouth, Havant and surrounding areas in Hampshire.

As part of a refurbishment at the treatment works, the contractor needed a smart solution to transition from old imperial legacy pipework to new metric pipework while also maintaining the ability to isolate the flow.

When the appointed framework valve holder was inflexible to accommodate the challenge, T-T Flow stepped in to provide a robust and reliable long-term solution that fully meets the brief.

The solution

T-T Flow was chosen to supply eight 600mm metal seated

isolating wedge gate valves rated to 16 Bar. The valves have custom flange drillings - one side metric (EN1092 PN16), and the other side imperial (BS10 Table D).

Working through a merchant, we supplied eight DN600 PN16 metal seat wedge gate valves conforming to BS5163 and hydraulically tested to EN12266. The full-bore valves feature precision machined weld-overlay leaded gunmetal seating faces able to withstand higher flow velocities.

For reduced friction, the wedge gate valves have non-rising stainless steel rolled threads, a thrust-taking bonnet assembly, and are manufactured from ductile iron coated in a durable WRAS listed fusion bonded epoxy coating.

Wedge gate valves lend themselves to wide ranging flow isolating duties for media such as potable water, raw water, wastewater and low solid content sewage.

T-T offers metal seat and WRAS approved resilient gate valves from DN50 to DN1200 rated to 16 Bar, with larger diameters and pressures available to accommodate any application. To compliment the gate valve range, we also stock WRAS approved swing check valves.



A full range of valve accessories including tapered stem caps, handwheels, reduction gearboxes (bevel and spur), electric actuators and custom operating equipment such as extension spindles is also available.

Explore our comprehensive range of gate valves, or check out our complete range of valve types at www.ttpumps.com. For help finding the right product for your application, chat to our experts on +44 (0)1630 647200.

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Encoders are indispensable wherever precise measurement and supervision of speed, direction of travel, distance travelled, and position of mechanical elements or number of rotations performed is necessary.

In any case, the encoder invariably affects the proper and efficient functioning of machines and systems. It is therefore a small investment in great profits of enterprises.

BEPC offers two major types of encoders, linear measurement encoders, as the TRI Tru-Trac™ or New Draw Wire Encoder (LCX), and rotary encoders like the Model A58HE which is an EtherCAT or PROFINET-ready. Linear encoders have a read head and track. This will produce an output for distance travelled typically in pulses per inch (PPI).

Where rotary encoder converts the angular movement of a rotational device and will have an output for rotation about the fixed axis typically in pulses per revolution (PPR). BEPC encoders are increasingly becoming the basic elements of automation systems in industries as:

- ▲ Machine building
- ▲ Robotics
- ▲ Automation and sorting
- ▲ Aerospace
- ▲ Food & Beverage
- ▲ Printing
- ▲ Material Handling
- ▲ Mobile equipment, etc.

If you still have questions as to how an encoder works in your specific application, please feel free to call a Customer Service Representative for Technical Support.

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Anua Clean Air International sees new growth and developments

Anua Clean Air International manufactures and installs Mónafil, Mónashell, CrumRubber and Mónasorb - Carbon Filter Units, biofiltration systems which have gained a reputation as a reliable, proven system for the treatment of municipal and industrial odour and VOC air emissions.

We caught up with Ian Phillips, Director, about the latest developments for the company, he stated that, "We have had very positive developments over the past two years with new patents for our Dual Stage Mónashell and our New CrumRubber process. This technology uses recovered waste tyres and a high performing catalytic Biotrickling process suitable for high H2S on air and biogas.

Patents have been awarded in the UK, Europe, the US and China and the technologies tick the boxes for best in class performance in terms of removing pollutants, using minimum energy and water usage, no chemical usage and reuse of recovered material."

Anua Clean Air International has been working with its Italian Partners Air Clean SRL, to offer the UK market its Patented Biological technologies, which offer the best in class performance at the lowest operating cost, coupled with benefits derived from reuse of recovered materials. In addition, Air Clean offered the full complement of Chemical Scrubbers, Carbon filters and Bag filters allowing Anua Clean Air International to be able to

offer the full suite of Clean Air Technologies for low cold emissions.

Ian expanded, "Air Clean our Italian Sister Company has recently opened a US Office and we have licenced our technologies for the US to Air Clean. We have been awarded a number of new projects and are very excited about long term prospects."

Ian continued, "We are seeing big Environmental Infrastructure projects starting to move, particularly in international markets where our international partners have full order books, so overall prospects are very strong. Pricing in current environment is challenging but we are very optimistic about future growth prospects."



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- Reduces time-based maintenance

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Online operator based condition monitoring

Applied Maintenance Technology provides professional vibration analysis services to a wide range of process and manufacturing industries, and specialises in high-volume industrial sectors such as paper and pulp, fragrance and flavour, mining and aggregates, food and fast-moving consumer goods.

Formed in February 2008, AMT has vast experience in implementing world-class maintenance, capex projects and reliability models for major blue-chip companies. It is this experience that has enabled AMT to gain a deeper understanding of the approaches and strategies that deliver outstanding performance results.

In 2020, AMT developed the concept of Operator Empowered Reliability, a fourth-generation maintenance approach formed with over 100 years of experience in the maintenance and reliability field. So convinced of the benefits associated with this approach, AMT secured the conceptual name as a trade mark for the company.

Today all AMT services and products are based upon the OER framework and principles. One notable service provided by AMT is FETCH, an innovative, operator empowered online monitoring system that combines several predictive machinery measurements.

Used to optimise operator-based condition monitoring, the simple early warning systems can identify a wide range of impending failure modes in rotating element machines and process equipment. The simple easy-to-use interface is backed by a start-of-the-art, sophisticated analysis and troubleshooting suite that can be used to identify, analyse, and resolve equipment defects.

Some of FETCH'S key benefits include identifying failures early on, eliminating breakdowns and the need for on-site experience, reducing time-based maintenance, increasing equipment availability whilst reducing spare parts usage, and is proven to lower time spent on repair and servicing.

Other predictive maintenance techniques provided by AMT include Tribology (Oil Debris Analysis), Thermal Imaging, Ultrasound, and Motor Current Signature Analysis (MCSA).

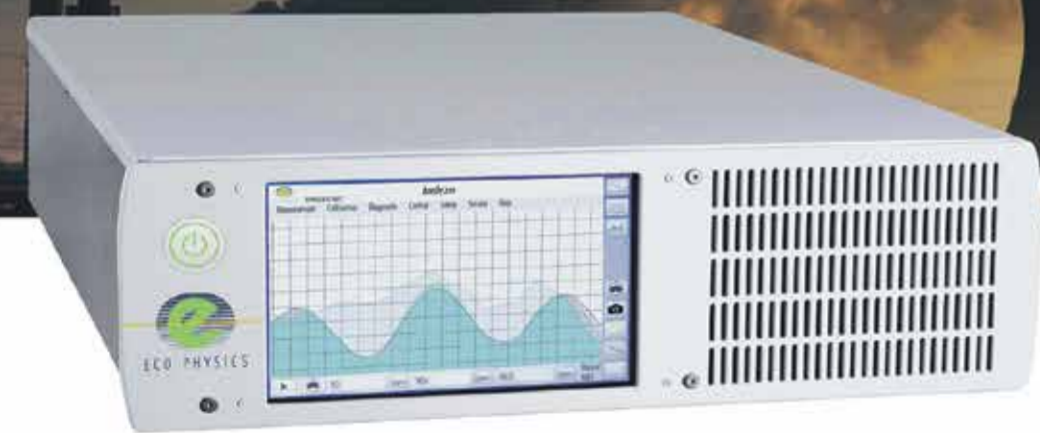
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AL, AL², EL S, EL, EL²



Measurement of
NO · NO₂ · NO_x

The one- and two-channel chemiluminescence based NOX analyzers of the nCLD "Facelift" box-solution analyzers detect NO, NO₂ and NO_x at concentrations ranging from 5 ppm to 5000 ppm with minimal detection limits averaging from 0.4 ppb to 0.5 ppm. They hereby focus on two main application areas, Ambient Air (AL, <50ppm) and Emission/Process (EL, <500ppm; EL S <5'000ppm) monitoring. The one-channel nCLD AL, EL and EL S feature an external pump, while the two-channel nCLD AL2 and EL2 include an internal pump. The nCLD "Facelift" boxed solutions consist of five, fixed and preconfigured analyzers. The nCLD AL (Ambient Level) and EL S/EL include a standard NO/NO_x measurement, with an optional NO₂ add-on, while AL2 and EL2 include, due to the two-channel set-up, a standard NO₂ detection. Additionally, all nCLD-models are capable of a remote power down/up including a failsafe feature. nCLD AL2 and EL2 are TÜV approved, qualified according to ISO EN 14211 and 15267 1-3.

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Manage your assets with RFID

Major operations involve hundreds or thousands of different assets and it's easy for valuable equipment to be misplaced or lost. Taking inventory of your assets is a time-consuming and sometimes inaccurate process. That's where RFID Asset Management comes in. With all of your assets monitored by RFID tags and readers, you can know exactly what equipment you have. That information helps prevent losses and helps you make informed business decisions. But the benefits don't stop there.

With RFID, you can track not only the location of the asset, but also its condition. RFID tags enable you to instantly see when equipment was last inspected and when it's due another inspection or to be replaced. This reduces downtime because you can repair or replace important equipment at the right time. It also streamlines your maintenance process.

You can also track the movement of assets, so you get alerts when a piece of equipment has left its designated area. People can also be tagged with RFID wristbands, which can be vital when moving heavy equipment, to improve safety by ensuring each worker is out of the way.

RFID Asset Management is a solid

investment for any business that has a lot of valuable assets to track. Benefits of RFID Asset Management include:

- Gaining real-time visibility of your assets
- Saving time over manual stocktakes
- The ability to locate assets using RFID
- Tracking the movement of assets
- Improving maintenance
- Improving compliance

If you have valuable fixed assets and are having trouble keeping track of them, an RFID asset management solution can not only save you time with manual tracking, but also save you money by reducing lost assets and improving maintenance.

RFID Asset Management is suitable for large or small businesses, with flexible monthly plans available.

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Dockland drainage survey reveals centuries-old secrets

Lanes Group drainage engineers have travelled back through centuries of British maritime history by looking into a sewer for a major dock development scheme at the city's Millbay Docks on ABP's Port of Plymouth.

The drainage survey was needed as part of exciting plans to redevelop the docks, and create new port facilities for ferries, cruise liners and freight ships.

Lanes Plymouth Area Development Manager Mark Rothwell added: "The survey has revealed layers of development that must stretch back to the 17th Century, the Victorian era as well as

concrete structures built from around the 1930s and 40s."

Lanes was commissioned to carry out the drainage survey, recording HD-quality video with remotely controlled crawler cameras.

Mark Rothwell added: "Our CCTV video footage showed how part of it has collapsed. Knowing the precise nature of the drains and their locations will allow civil engineers to plan new underground services and the location of above ground structures."

The plan to regenerate Millbay Docks was

announced in May 2022, as a partnership between Plymouth City Council, Associated British Ports (ABP), and Brittany Ferries.

The project includes carbon net zero support and is described as a 'golden opportunity' to create a new green ferry and freight shipping port and generate high-value jobs.

www.lanesfordrains.co.uk



Ultrafast drainage engineers help keep full fibre roll-out on track



Drainage engineers at Lanes Group plc are helping cable installers clear stubborn blockages in ducts - so they can meet tight deadlines to deliver ultrafast broadband to thousands of homes.

The duct jetting services are saving the installation teams from having to pay out huge sums to excavate blockages or reroute ducts - and also ensuring contract payments flow smoothly.

The Lanes depot in Cardiff is partnering with fibre cable installers across the South Wales region, to clear duct slit blockages, to bring ultrafast broadband to thousands. The partnership is ensuring a new service network, as part of a national concerted effort to expand gigabit speed broadband to over 85% of the UK.

The Lanes Cardiff Area Development Manager, Kyle Burgess explains further.

"Our sewer jetting capabilities are proving very useful to keep their ultrafast fibre installation programmes up-to-speed. We will respond ultra-quickly by deploying a jet vac tanker to clear the blockage and clear the tube."

The Cardiff team have two compact CityFlex jet vac tankers in its drainage vehicle fleet, perfect for work in tighter spaces in residential areas. In the case of collapsed ducts, the expert Lanes crew can excavate accurately and quickly, causing minimum disruption.

"We're making the work of broadband service installers much easier, reducing costs and helping them meet challenging installation targets that determine the level of income they generate," concludes Kyle.

The cable installers are supporting a plan to deliver ultrafast full fibre broadband to 25 million homes and businesses by 2026. The government wants the programme to make gigabit capable broadband available to over 85% of the UK.

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Oliver Valves chosen to supply world's single largest offshore wind farm

Oliver Valves are to supply a range of Modular and Monoflange double block and bleed valves to the Hornsea 3 Wind Farm project located in the UK sector of the North Sea. Hornsea 3 has two platforms, link 1 and link 2. These are unmanned and operated from shore with access to carry out maintenance done by vessel or helicopter.

These High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) offshore converter platforms have a combined capacity to produce 2.852 GW, enough to power the average

daily needs of over 3 million UK homes. This makes it the single largest offshore wind project in the world.

Manufactured from 316 Stainless Steel, Super Duplex, and Titanium materials, valves are to be used in cooling systems and firewater applications. Regional Manager for Scotland and Scandinavia, Colin Wood, says, "We're extremely proud as a business to supply valves for operation on large-scale green energy projects, and it's particularly exciting to be working with a UK-based green project, such as Hornsea 3."

We're committed to supporting a Net Zero Emission future, and have recently launched a range of zero seat leakage valves for hydrogen applications. Our investment in designing new and innovative valve technologies is having an enormous impact and is hugely significant - even a game changer!"

For more information on how Oliver Valves can support your green energy project with the very best valve solutions, contact us on +44 (0)1565 632 636 or email sales@valves.co.uk | www.valves.co.uk



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oliver valves

New Oliver Hydrogen transportation Valves are about time

Oliver Hydrovalves have announced the design and manufacture of three new valves for hydrogen transportation and refuelling. Using high performance polymer bearings and seals in partnership with DuPont™, valves have been qualification tested to 102,000 cycles of operation while maintaining a fugitive emissions leakage class of BH.

Another unique feature of the valves is their full-bore design. This avoids restrictive flow, which appears to be a common problem in many valves on the market. Nick Howard, Engineering Director at Oliver Hydrovalves stated: "By maximising the flow rate, it will deliver a more continuous and consistent flow of hydrogen medium. This will allow for hydrogen fuel to be dispensed and refilled onsite much more quickly, which will deliver dramatic time-saving benefits."

As the world continues to move towards sustainable energy sources, hydrogen is emerging as the promising fuel option for vehicles and industrial transportation on land, sea, and air. The transporting and dispensing of hydrogen fuel in working environments such as fuel stations and onsite fuel storage facilities, require specialist valves that have been designed and engineered for continuous high cycle operative use and meet the requirements of ISO 19880-3.

When dispensing hydrogen fuel onsite, it generally requires a large area to be closed off while in progress, and can even involve a whole site closure, dependent on size of area. Therefore, the time it takes to dispense hydrogen fuel is crucial. Oliver's full-bore valves deliver hydrogen much faster than other transportation valves that have a restrictive flow. This significantly reduces the downtime at a site, and in most cases, can be halved - minimising disruption to the forecourt and business operations.

Hydrogen fuel is stored and transported using pressurised tanks. Therefore, it's of paramount importance that valves can handle extreme pressures too. Since 1979, Oliver has been synonymous with valve safety and reliability, even relied upon by the world's largest energy producers, suppliers, and end-users for its precision engineered solutions. As Oliver's company mantra suggests 'Reliability Under Pressure', they're well-positioned to provide the necessary assurances required.

This latest engineering achievement firmly places Oliver Hydrovalves at the forefront for hydrogen transportation valves. Built to the highest specifications using premium quality materials, and tested to the highest standards, it's logical to see how Oliver's claim to offer the best valve solution for hydrogen transportation and refuelling applications, certainly holds up.

Bore sizes include: 10mm, 14mm and 20mm. To learn more about hydrogen transportation and for guidance on hydrogen specifications, applications, qualifications and pricing, contact Oliver Hydrovalves on +44 (0)1565 632636 or visit their website at: valves.co.uk

The new alternatives in power conversion

Power conversion is familiar in most consumer and industrial technologies, which typically use AC adapters to convert to DC and supply the required voltage. However, while the method of conversion allows a heater to operate at a given set temperature, it receives the full voltage when turned on, which can cause damage over time in some cases. Other solutions, such as phase-angle controllers and DC power supplies also have their own setbacks, making power conversion a tough task. In this article, Stan Breitlow, chief system designer at industrial temperature controller manufacturer Watlow, discusses the new alternative in power conversion.



The necessity of power conversion

The goal with a heater is not to attain a given DC current, but to maintain a given temperature, which is done using a switching device that turns the power on and off rapidly. Usually, this kind of switching or cycling is not an issue. But in some cases when heaters are small, have ceramic components, or where control of multiple heaters is needed, it is not ideal to have the device on with full voltage, let alone have it switching between states. For example, this can happen when precise heating is needed in medical devices, or rapid heating is needed to test microchips in the semiconductor industry.

The issue becomes worse when constructing devices for an international market. Heaters often have very specific voltage requirements, but the power sources can vary from country to country. In today's global economy, there is a great need to normalise this power for use with heaters built for the voltage requirements of any country. In short, power conversion is an old idea, but current technologies in the market are not well suited for some applications.



The problem with power conversion

Power conversion is essential for any heater, whether in an in-home medical device or a large-scale industrial process. But as heaters become smaller and more intricate, more attention must be paid to their power supply. It's important to be mindful that there are four types of cases where inadequate power conversion can lead to problems.

Firstly, fragile heaters become easily damaged. Switching a higher-voltage power source on and off creates wear and tear on devices. As this happens, smaller, more fragile heaters are more likely to fail over time.

Popular ceramic heaters are often made with molybdenum, which expands and contracts at the same rate as the ceramic. But molybdenum changes resistance with temperature, which means hitting a ceramic-molybdenum heater with a high voltage when it is cold can cause the device to crack or burst – which can become an expensive problem for manufacturers.

Additionally, available voltage varies around the world. For instance, a heater that is embedded in an at-home medical device and distributed globally, must be able to work safely whether connected to a 100-volt power source in Japan or a 240-volt power source in Germany. With appropriate power conversion, a single heater can be designed for the lowest voltage expected as incoming voltage can be brought down from

whatever the local standard happens to be.

New power conversion technology

Power conversion is commonly achieved through phase-angle controllers, transformers and power supplies. But as we have seen, these solutions can either damage heaters, or take up large amounts of space or make it incredibly hard to measure and control the power flow. Watlow's power conversion technology solves these issues by providing the ability to bring voltage up or down smoothly without having to introduce a bulky power supply. Watlow temperature controllers,

such as POWERGLIDE, are capable of modulating the amplitude of the output voltage, allowing the voltage to step down from 208 volts to as low as 20 volts.

Lowering the voltage in this way is a great way to drive low-impedance heaters. It can reduce the power distribution rating with smaller fuses and wires, which saves money and space. It can also protect ceramic heaters from breaking. Watlow's power conversion technology also achieves high power quality without the high cost and added space of a DC power supply.

Power conversion is an essential element of many heating applications. Yet most current power conversion technology is not well suited to cases where heaters are fragile, have ceramic components, or have to ensure safe operation across the globe. No longer do devices have to be engineered around power quality issues. Instead, smooth, stable power changes are possible across a huge variety of outputs, and noise is reduced drastically.

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Strand Hardware makes its mark

Strand Hardware has made its mark – completing UKCA compliancy more than a year ahead of the new deadline.

It completed certifications for all its Panic Hardware product ranges – 290 products in total – at the end of last year, in preparation for the original deadline.

The original deadline was intended to be 1 January 2023 but the Government announced an extension as many companies were simply not ready.

The new requirement is compulsory for products which fall within the scope of a 'harmonised/designated

standard' being made available for sale in the UK. They can continue to be CE marked until 30 June 2025 under a 'presumption of conformity'.

Strand Hardware Operations Director Jo Walls said that she was delighted that Strand was fully prepared and had made the transition ahead of schedule.

"We completed our requirements towards the end of last year. We are ready! and have everything in place for the new deadline and have begun to mark our products with the required UKCA markings. Our Declaration of Performance (DOPs), fitting instructions, labelling and certification have all been completed and



the DoPs are available on our website for download."

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The AZM40 works on the bistable principle: in the event of a power cut, it retains the current position. This ensures safe operation, whatever the status of the machine. Even if there are hazardous run-on movements, the safety door remains safely locked in the event of a power failure. Another advantage of the bistable principle is the consistently low energy consumption, as the interlock only requires power when the door is to be locked or unlocked.

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Schmersal presents new safety light curtains/grids in Ex design



Wuppertal, 13 June 2023.

The Schmersal Group has expanded its range of optoelectronic protective devices with a series of safety light curtains/grids in Ex design. The new EX-SLC/SLG440 series is designed in the ignition protection types EX d (gas atmospheres), EX t (dust atmospheres) and EX op is (optical radiation) and is thus especially suitable for access protection of potentially explosive areas in industrial production - namely for zones 1 and 21.

There is an elevated risk of explosion in many areas of manufacturing, such as in the chemicals industry, in refineries or paint shops where flammable coatings are being used. In industries that process bulk materials, such as in the animal feed or recycling industries, as well as in sawmills and plants that process cereals and grains, there is a risk of dust explosion and the occasional formation of a potentially explosive dust cloud during normal operation.

Schmersal has developed the SLC/SLG440 safety light curtain/grids in Ex version precisely for these applications. These devices can be installed in potentially explosive gaseous and dusty atmospheres of zones 1/21 and 2/22, category 2GD and are used to protect hazardous areas and machine access. When one or more of the beams is interrupted, hazardous movements are brought to a halt.

The series is ATEX certified and further certification - IECEx, INMETRO and CCC Ex - are due to follow. The sensor system is accommodated in a protective enclosure made from non-breakable glass.

Ex-SLC440 safety light curtains for finger, hand and body detection are available in versions with a resolution of 14 and 30 mm as well as ranges of between 0.3 and 20 m. Ex-SLC440 safety light curtains are suitable for access control to hazardous areas.

The waterproof and dustproof devices achieve IP66 and IP67 protection class and also have the capability to be used outside.

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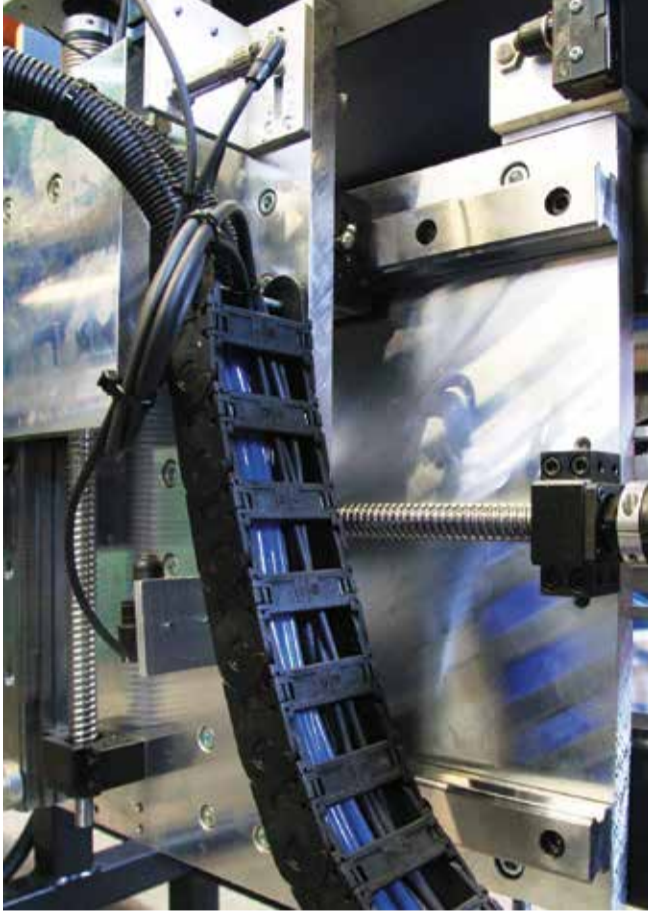
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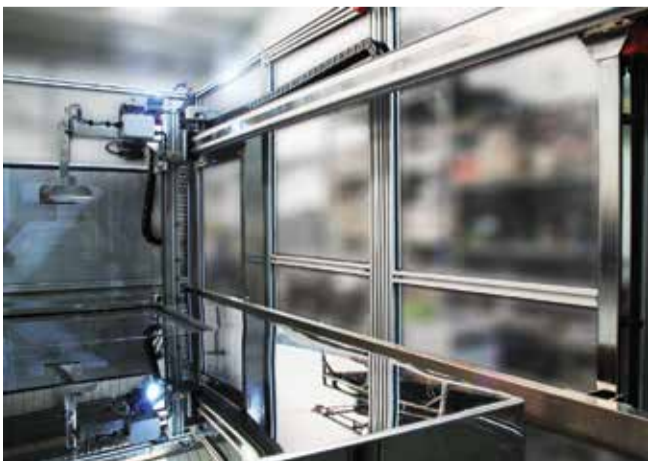
The dynamics of movement



Here at Best Practice, we like to celebrate dynamic innovation and in this current issue, we are recommending Matarauk Ltd.

Matarauk has been manufacturing unparalleled pneumatic and linear automation products to machine builders, end-users and resellers around the UK, for 28 unstoppable years.

Matarauk is excited to now be showcasing a moving demonstration unit, with three linear actuators, servo motors and stepper systems at the maiden Automation UK 2023 at the CBS Arena in Coventry, from 20- 21 June. The new exhibition is the brainchild of The British Automation & Robotics Association and will showcase the latest advancements in automation control parts.



The linear actuators, alongside the driver are the linchpins of Matarauk's next-generational linear motion system. Linear motion systems are integral to industrial automation applications: moving components of a machine in a linear, controlled manner: vertically or back and forth. These systems have the preferred advantage over pneumatics, with better positional accuracy, higher dynamic speeds and loads, with added minimal maintenance costs.

Matarauk, along with sister company Gapp Automation, are part of the Rubix Group: a globally leading supplier of industrial equipment supplies. The demonstration unit highlights the relationship between the two companies; Matarauk providing the linear actuators, and Gapp Automation providing the controls and drives.

This prominent manufacturer is based in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire and supplies an extensive range of linear rail and carriages, ballscrews and ball nuts, linear actuators, aluminium machine frames, pneumatic components and much more.

With an annual turnover of £7.3m in 2022 and an impressive factory space of 29,000 sq.ft, the company offers bespoke solutions to machine builders across leading automotive, aerospace, food and pharmaceutical industries.

Having invested heavily in state-of-the-art machinery since moving to their current site in 2015, Matarauk are able to offer many of their bespoke products on a quick turnaround. These include custom cut lengths of linear rails, custom ballscrew cutting and machining bespoke standard and rodless type pneumatic cylinders, custom belt driven actuators and custom cut and machined lengths of aluminium profile.

The Matarauk team, in conjunction with Rubix's distribution/MRO network, has started to service some of the biggest manufacturing and industrial plants across the UK, offering a huge growth expansion area for the future.

We caught up with Aidan Shearer: Product Marketing Executive at Matarauk to find out more about this Powerhouse.

"As a specialist manufacturer of industrial automation products and automation components, Matarauk provides Rubix UK with a significantly expanded footprint in the mechatronics sector. We now make up a third of Rubix UK's Motion control and automation (MCA) division within the UK.

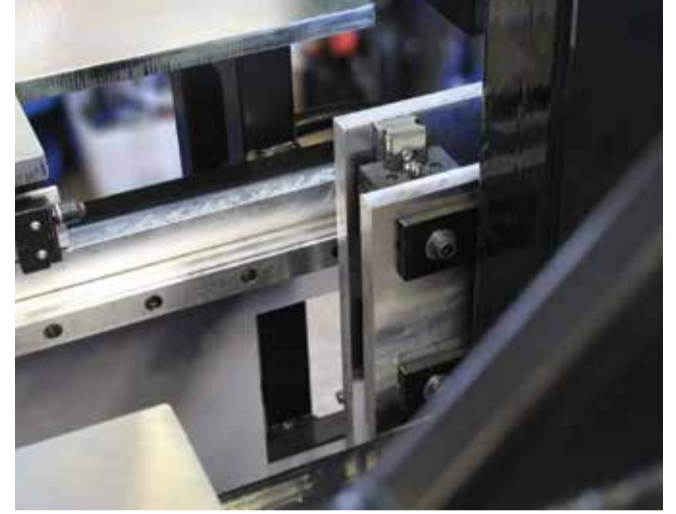
Combining technical expertise, market-leading value and a clear commitment to customer service, Matarauk UK has grown from strength to strength over the last quarter of a century and beyond.

Digitally, we have had a webshop for nearly three years now. Originally it was set up to just sell aluminium profile and accessories. In the third quarter of 2022, we saw the introduction of linear motion and pneumatic components added to the store, upping our SKU count from 350 to over 4k line items. This means that now we can provide a more rounded online offering for customers, making it as easy as possible for them to find and buy the products they require. We are aiming, over the next 12 months, to significantly grow our online presence for these new items."

Pernamatic Engineering recently asked Matarauk to design an XY linear system for a new CNC Corner Transfer Machine for uPVC double glazed windows. The Corner Transfer Machine can now easily handle 200 different uPVC window frame configurations, finishing a frame in a whopping 80 seconds.

Layton Technologies Ltd similarly wanted a Matarauk XY linear system incorporated into a PCB coating machine, to withstand corrosive atmospheres, and the design delighted Layton BDM: Vikki Breese,

"Layton have collaborated successfully with Matarauk on many projects where precision, reliability and flexibility of handling systems have been paramount to the success of the project."



Matarauk is clearly on growth trajectory to become one of the UK's most trusted suppliers of cutting-edge, bespoke linear automation components, alongside its three world-class exclusive partners: PMI Group, TBI Motion and Mindman Industrial.

"PMI Group supply our linear rail and linear rail guide solutions, such as industrial door runners and train door runners on production line machinery. We can offer bespoke linear rail solutions, cut and machined-in house to order, alongside pitch mounting holes for easy installation.

TBI Motion supply our ballscrews: rolled and ground linear, which along with linear rail, continue to make up approximately 50% of our business revenue.

Mindman Industrial is the leading pneumatic supplier to Taiwan and is our pneumatics supplier for many industrial applications: cylinders, air preparation units, solenoid valves, fittings and tubing. We have a large holding stock, available at all times, for all our customers."

Matarauk UK recently exhibited at the Automation UK 2023: CBS Arena Coventry in June and you can see them again at the Machine Building Live 2023: National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham on the 4th October.

Find out more on the website below:
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