Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.
Greene, Tweed sealing technology maximises compressor efficiency

Germany’s MAN Energy Solutions, which produces large-bore diesel engines and turbo-machinery for marine and stationary applications, is relying on sealing technology developed by Greene, Tweed & Co to help it substantially reduce internal leakage from metallic labyrinth seals used in its integrally geared compressors.

Greene, Tweed & Co – a manufacturer of high-performance seals and engineered components – recommended the use of Arlon® 4020, a proprietary polyetheretherketone (PEEK) thermoplastic material specifically developed for labyrinth seal applications, combined with a custom-engineered tooth profile.

The tooth profile enhances efficiency by encouraging vortex generation and reducing carry-over media that can bypass chambers, particularly in high-velocity applications.

Greene, Tweed says that the labyrinth tooth design delivers superior performance compared with traditional metallic seals, and achieved maximum efficiency gain – approximately 1–1.5% overall, compared with aluminium labyrinth seals.

For further information, visit: www.gtweed.com & www.man-es.com

Compact valves target low-flow bioprocess applications

The EnviZion® valve platform, developed by Engineered Valves, part of ITT Inc, now includes ultra-compact versions that are targeted at the biopharmaceutical industry.

Called BioviZion™, the valves, which range in size from 0.25 inches to 0.5 inches, are designed to address critical reliability needs of sampling and low-flow bioprocess applications.

ITT says that it has incorporated the same patented technology into the fractional size valve and added new features to overcome challenges related to dimensional limitations. This provides manufacturers with improved performance and reliability for critical sampling and low-flow installations.

Key features of the valves are summarised below.

- Mechanical thermal compensation system – a sealing force is constantly applied to prevent external leaking over a range of temperature changes.
- Quick change bonnet – maintenance of the valve is reduced by 10 times, compared with conventional valves.
- Patented diaphragm stud – diaphragm installation is a simple, quick and reliable process.
- High-strength stainless steel studs – small fasteners, prone to galling, breaking and misplacement, have been eliminated.

Valves that are part of the EnviZion platform possess 360° active seal protection, which provides leak-free operation, helping eliminate the risk of contamination and the need to re-torque after thermal cycling.

For further information, visit: www.engvalves.com/en-US/Products/BioviZion-valve

Company News

Events postponed or cancelled because of the coronavirus outbreak

A number of events that cover developments in sealing technology and related products have been postponed, or even cancelled, in response to the rapidly changing circumstances associated with the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Whilst various events listed on page 14 of this issue have been updated to reflect a revised calendar, the list below clarifies the changes that have been made to previous existing entries.

- SAE International’s ‘WCX 2020 World Congress Experience’, which was scheduled to be held on 21–23 April 2020 in Detroit, Michigan, USA, has been cancelled. The organisation says that before making this decision it extensively monitored and evaluated health guidance from international health authorities, government- and corporate-imposed travel restrictions and the recently declared State of Emergency issued by the State of Michigan.
- The Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers (STLE) has postponed its ‘75th
Dover’s Cook Compression signs service agreement with Krio-Serwis

Cook Compression, part of Dover Precision Components that delivers engineering support, services and products for reciprocating compressors, has signed an agreement with Krio-Serwis Ltd, making the company its exclusive authorised service partner for the gas sector in Poland.

As a well established service provider in the country’s oil and gas industry, Krio-Serwis, which is based in Odolanow, specialises in the maintenance, overhaul, repair, reconditioning, retrofitting and control systems of gas engines, integral engine-compressors and natural gas reciprocating compressors.

It has a workshop dedicated to comprehensive gas engine head regeneration and provides expertise in a wide scope of diagnostics and measurement, including vibration and shaft deflection.

It is also able to provide prefabrication and installation of technological and processing equipment, such as vacuum insulated pipelines.

Cook Compression says that as its authorised service partner Krio-Serwis adds repair and refurbishment of gas compressor valves, pressure packing cases and oil wiper packings to its capabilities. These are backed by specialised equipment and original parts from Cook Compression.

The company now has six authorised service partners across Europe, Africa and the Middle East, to help customers minimise downtime of critical equipment.

Cook Compression trains and certifies its partners to provide expert repair and reconditioning of compressor valves and packing cases in localised service centres.

For further information, visit:
www.cookcompression.com, http://krio-serwis.pl &
www.doverprecisioncomponents.com

Neutec extends its distribution of Nordson products in Switzerland

Neutec Electronic AG, based in Mellingen, Switzerland, has expanded its representation of all Nordson ASYMETEK and DIMA products to the French-speaking areas of Switzerland.

ASYMETEK, part of Nordson Electronics Solutions, says that Neutec Electronic will distribute conformal coating, fluid dispensing and hot bar soldering equipment, and provide technical support to new and existing Swiss customers.

Commenting on the agreement, Stéphane Etienne, Business Development Manager, Nordson Electronics Solutions, said: ‘With more than 30 years of experience in the distribution of equipment for electronics assembly in the Swiss market, Neutec Electronic has been providing excellent local support to our customers in major parts of Switzerland.’

‘This expansion will ensure that all Swiss customers have reliable, local support for their ASYMETEK and DIMA products.’

For further information, visit:
www.nordsonasymtek.com & www.neutec.ch

General Rubber Corp’s vice president joins FSA’s board of directors

In the USA, Amy Hammarstrom, Vice President, General Rubber Corp, based in Tucson, Arizona, has joined the Fluid Sealing Association’s board of directors.

Hammarstrom holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Arizona and has been employed by General Rubber since 1999, where she oversees accounting and finance, purchasing, human resources, legal and compliance, and distribution sales.

She has been active in the FSA and its Expansion Joint Division since 2009 and has served as chair of the FSA’s Program and Locations Committee since 2015. She has also served on the associations Marketing Committee since 2013.

General Rubber, which has three locations in the USA – in Arizona, Florida and Pennsylvania – has been a member of the FSA since 1970.

For further information, visit:
www.fluidsealing.com & www.general-rubber.com

Dana’s metallic bipolar plate for fuel cells receives award

A metallic bipolar plate for fuel-cell stacks developed by Dana Inc has received an award.

The US-based company which develops engineered driveline, sealing and thermal-management technologies, says that it has been recognised by the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU) with a 2019 FCH Award in the ‘Best Success Story’ category as part of the INSPIRE Project.

The award recognises outstanding projects and developments in the field of fuel cells that reduce production costs, speed up manufacturing, develop new materials, increase performance and demonstrate the reliability of hydrogen energy.

Dana is one of nine partners in the INSPIRE project, which develops stack components for fuel cells with high power densities.

One of the project goals was to develop a cost-effective and competitive bipolar plate. The company says that the results of the project demonstrate its ability to deliver a market-ready metallic bipolar plate that will be important for the growth of the fuel-cell market.

As a key component for the INSPIRE project’s stack, the plate developed by Dana is highly durable and is designed to meet the extreme demands for sealing, coating and absolute precision of the extra-fine embossing structures.

It has a power density of 5.7 kW/l and over 1.5 W/cm² – exceeding the group’s original target and, claims the firm, surpasses components on currently available fuel cell cars, which have a power density of approximately 3–4 kW/l.

‘Receiving the 2019 FCH Award is an excellent achievement for Dana and the INSPIRE team, and recognises the significant accomplishments of the project to deliver a highly capable and more cost-effective fuel-cell stack,’ said Steven Monte, Vice President, Advanced Technologies and Strategic Planning, Power Technologies Group, Dana.

According to Monte, both the function of the bipolar plate and the resulting power density (1.5 W/cm² and 5.7 kW/l) are critically important for advancing fuel cell power trains in the market.

In 2016, Dana announced it had joined the INSPIRE project, a consortium made up of Europe’s top fuel-cell catalyst researchers and development organisations along with BMW, to collaborate on accelerating the commercialisation of fuel cells.

For further information, visit: www.dana.com &
www.inspire-fuelcell.eu

NEWS

Annual Meeting & Exhibition’, which was being held in Chicago, USA, on 3–7 May 2020. The society is now working to determine suitable dates on which to hold the event.

• ‘Gasketing/Converting Expo 2020’ set to take place on 18–20 May 2020, in Orlando, Florida, USA, has been cancelled.

• Smithers’ one-day course, run under the theme ‘Understanding Polymer Durability in Critical Applications’, scheduled for 23 June 2020, has been postponed. The company reports that it is in the process of rescheduling this course.

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