

Customised AUMA actuator bags Gazprom contract



Demonstrating its engineering skills, responsiveness and flexibility, AUMA adapted its modular actuator design to meet the flow control needs of the Gazprom gas compressor stations in Siberia, Russia. The contract with Gazprom, a global energy company holding the world's largest natural gas reserves, is a highly prestigious order for AUMA and the latest in a series of international oil and gas actuator installations for the modular actuation specialists. Having identified an opportunity to propose actuation technology to replace existing equipment, AUMA researched the station's installed control system requirements. The company's actuator engineering experts were deployed to produce customised wiring and circuitry diagrams to meet the precise needs of the scheme. AUMA's R&D resulted in production of a special version actuator for Gazprom that fitted seamlessly into the established installation and provided enhancements with speed of operation and modularity of design. AUMA has been commissioned to equip a further seven stations with its electric actuation technology. To date, over 200 explosion proof actuators with integrated controls and high speed, part-turn gearboxes have been supplied. This figure is set to rise to 300 actuators installed by the end of 2014. The contractor for the scheme is Jamalgazinvest, Russia, the subcontractor is Gazoilcorp and the customer is the ARMATURY Group, a.s. Czech Republic.

BASF starts up tBA plant in Nanjing, China

BASF inaugurated its world-scale tert. Butylamine (tBA) production plant at the Nanjing Chemical Industry Park in China. The plant is wholly owned by BASF, and is integrated into the production

facilities of BASF-YPC in Nanjing. With an annual capacity of 10,000 tons, the new facility strengthens BASF's globally leading position as a supplier to the rubber and tire industry. tBA is a primary aliphatic amine used as an intermediate for the production of accelerators for the rubber and tire industry. It is also used in the pharmaceutical and agricultural industries as a building block. In addition to the plant in Nanjing, BASF produces tBA in Geismar, Louisiana, and in Antwerp, Belgium. "The tBA plant is a vital element of our Asia Pacific strategy that has a target to produce 75% of the products we sell in the region. The production process is wastewater-free and minimises emissions", said Dr. Albert Heuser, President, BASF Asia Pacific. "The successful start-up of this wholly-owned plant is an important milestone for us. We have now complemented our global network with production facilities for tBA in Asia, Europe and North America. This further strengthens BASF's global leading position in tBA. From this local production facility, our customers can enjoy shorter lead times and higher supply reliability", said Dr. Guido Voit, Senior Vice President, BASF Intermediates, Asia Pacific.

MRC Global opens regional distribution centre

MRC Global has opened a new regional distribution centre in Tulsa, OK. The facility includes a 2-acre pipeyard, 80,000sq. ft. of warehouse space and a valve automation centre. The location will support 13 MRC service locations throughout Oklahoma and the Midwest U.S. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, MRC, a Fortune 500 company, is a global distributor of pipes, valves, and fittings (PVF) and related products and services to the energy industry. "This new facility demonstrates our continued commitment to the Tulsa community and the surrounding Midwest region," Jim Underhill, MRC Executive Vice President and COO—United States, said. "The RDC will house more than 80 employees and will initially stock more than USD 20M in inventory to support our customers in this thriving region." The new regional distribution centre is located at 11605 East 27th Street North, Tulsa, OK 74116.

Bernard Controls obtains Gazprom approval

Bernard Controls, electric actuation specialist, is now a Gazprom-approved

supplier and enters the restricted vendor list of this Russian key player in the world Oil & Gas industry. The STX-SQX Electric Actuators models produced by Bernard Controls successfully passed the test to be in accordance with the Gazprom standard. This approval allows Bernard Controls explosion-proof electric actuators to be installed on any pipeline of the gas transport facilities of Gazprom JSC. Gazprom is a global energy company, which holds the world's largest natural gas reserves. Its major business lines are geological exploration, production, transportation, storage, processing and sales of gas, gas condensate and oil, as well as generation and marketing of heat and electric power. Therefore, being part of Gazprom's vendor list represents a key step for Bernard Controls' involvement in Russian and international gas projects.

Business alliance between KITZ Group and G.I.V.A. Group

The KITZ Group and GIVA Group have entered into a business alliance. The CEO's of both companies signed the contract in KITZ Nagasaka Plant, Yamanashi, Japan, on 22 May 2013. KITZ Group, head quartered in Japan, is a globally operating valve manufacturer and consists of 33 companies mainly providing production and sales of both commercial and industrial valves. GIVA Group, head quartered in Milan (Italy), is a globally operating rolled rings and shells and consists of 14 companies also providing production and sales of cast steel and forged valves. GIVA Group also has RMT, manufacturer of trunnion mounted ball valves, and DVG, manufacturer of industrial actuators, in its group companies. KITZ Group and GIVA Group agreed to complementary supply products in the industrial valve business. "We aim providing products in package for projects in Oil and Gas market which is escalated awareness of industrial valves business". The companies plan to provide GIVA products to the down-stream market, the main business area of the KITZ Group, and KITZ products to mid to up-stream market, the main business area of the GIVA Group. "With this alliance, we both believe that we are able to provide next level solution to our business partners and customers, and expand our business opportunities. We are sure that we both can gain a lot of synergy in each business area and expand our business through this alliance."