

OFFSHORE EUROPE



In safe hands with Rotork

Asset management expert Rotork helps operators manage and upgrade their flow control equipment.

Rotork IQ3 non-intrusive intelligent valve actuators on a tank farm installation

SATISFYING the flow control demands of the oil and gas industry with reliable and innovative actuation solutions has been one of Rotork's major achievements throughout its 60 year history. In addition to the manufacture of electric, pneumatic, hydraulic and electro-hydraulic actuators, instrumentation, valve gearboxes and valve accessories for new plants, Rotork has also gained unrivalled experience of retrofitting manual valves with actuators and replacing actuators on installed valves. This activity began in the company's earliest years and since the 1960s there has been an area of its business entirely dedicated to these site services.

Given its experience over 60 years, Rotork can now offer services encompassing system design, new product selection and procurement, design of controls, system integration with existing programmable logic controllers (PLC), the installation of power, control and instrumentation cabling and cable containment, commissioning and site training as well as on-going asset management.

(Retro)Fit for purpose

As cost pressures continue, an issue that is becoming more and more prevalent in today's market is how best to take care of existing plant alongside the advent of new technology. For Rotork, this also raises the question of how best to assist clients and product end-users in managing the change to more modern architectures.

In virtually every case, one of the most important considerations is how to successfully integrate new equipment with minimum disruption to normal plant

operations and how to take care of the asset once it has been successfully installed.

Using basic valve data collected from site, Rotork can match new equipment to any existing valve requirement, while taking advantage of the more compact dimensions of newer solutions. In this manner, the team can aid installation in the limited spaces often encountered in crowded groups of valves – for example, on offshore and onshore manifold installations. Where access to a valve is severely restricted, safe remote-drive solutions can be engineered, involving extension spindles, pedestals and adaptors, using well proven methodologies and design principles.

For controlling actuators, the company provides the Rotork Pakscan two-wire digital control system. This extends retrofitting capabilities from valves in the field to the control room, via a continuous chain of robust, proprietary actuation and control equipment. Designed specifically for the valve actuation environment, Rotork Pakscan provides a direct interface with host control and SCADA systems whilst simplifying the overall control network, optimising actuator functionality and increasing reliability.

With Rotork's intelligent actuation technology, hand held instruments provide a secure, bi-directional non-intrusive link, which is used for setting control parameters, commissioning and data collection. This system performs all the switch setting and commissioning functions that traditionally could only be achieved by removing electrical covers. Using the multi-lingual menu on the actuator display screen, it is quick and easy to commission the actuated valve – with or without mains power.

The same instrument can then be used to download this data and upload it to other actuators with similar commissioning parameters, simplifying and speeding up the operation, or to download actuator operating information from the actuator's datalogger to provide vital diagnostic information for asset management programmes.

Today, in addition to plant upgrading and automation activities, Rotork offers a complete Client Support Programme (CSP) to maintain and look after existing assets on the client's behalf. Benefits include increased plant availability through planned technical support, improving product reliability over time and helping to avoid costly unpredicted downtime. Ongoing technical support contributes to increases in availability and reliability, leading to improvements in operational performance. Less time spent on maintenance enables employees to spend more time on productive activity.

When supplying products over many years it is important that users have an ability to interchange new solutions with the minimum amount of disruption to their processes. Through its comprehensive expertise and international network, Rotork can ensure any such disruption is minimised – and ensure the plant is running with optimum efficiency. ■

Rotork will be exhibiting at SPE Offshore Europe 2017 – please visit Stand 1D111 for more information or to speak with a member of the team.

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