

AS-Schneider goes Texas



The German valve factory AS-Schneider is preparing to conquer the American market. A new subsidiary is currently being built in the United States: AS-Schneider America Inc. in Houston. The Nordheim family company has been working with a few large customers in the US market for some time already. In March, the Board of Directors of AS-Schneider approved management's plans to found an American subsidiary – the company was registered just a few days ago. For AS-Schneider, it's an investment in the future that will pay off in the long run: The United States has resolved to cover its own petroleum and natural gas needs, becoming energy-independent by 2035. This will only be possible by opening up new sources, innovative conveying technology, and massive investment – including investment in high-quality valves. The selection of the Texan city of Houston as the headquarters of the new subsidiary is no accident – it's part of a well-considered strategic decision. Petroleum is currently obtained in 31 of the United States, but primarily in Texas. And in Texas, it's the region around Houston that represents the globally leading center for accessories for oil wells. The port of Houston, which stretches far beyond the city limits, is the largest international port in the country and simultaneously the location of numerous installations of the petroleum industry.

Container shipping leaders discuss piracy issues

CMA CGM, MSC, Maersk Line and Hamburg Süd, representing 40% of the world container shipping industry, met to discuss the piracy threat towards international shipping and co-operation measures between shipping companies. The meeting focused on piracy in the Gulf of Aden, the Indian Ocean and West Africa. The co-operation between CMA

CGM, MSC, Maersk Line and Hamburg Süd includes information exchange on security measures, piracy policies and procedures as well as co-ordination with relevant stakeholders. "Although we have seen a decline in piracy activity over the past year, piracy continues to be a concern for the shipping industry. Therefore, we still need our piracy consensus meetings where we can co-operate on responses to the threat to ensure the safety and security of our seafarers", CMA CGM, MSC, Maersk Line and Hamburg Süd said in a joint statement.

At the piracy consensus meeting, the four companies agreed that the international community's efforts to fight the problem have significantly contributed to today's improved situation. The naval presence in the Gulf of Aden and the pursuit of appropriate legal frameworks to ensure that pirates are prosecuted and held responsible for their crimes have especially contributed to this. Hamburg Süd, CMA CGM, MSC and Maersk Line continue to support proposals for regional capacity building to address the issue such as a regional coast guard and further commitment by the international community to address the root causes of piracy ashore.

All-new low pressure regulator on two week delivery

Rotork Fairchild, a member of the Rotork Instruments Division, announces the introduction of the all-new Model 11 low pressure regulator. Available on a 1-to-2 week delivery, the Model 11 provides a reliable and highly accurate solution for very low pressure control applications.

Designed to handle the most challenging duties, typical applications include leak detection systems, tank blanketing, air and gas sampling systems, analytical equipment, soil sampling and test stands. Available in a range of five sizes, the Model 11 features superior repeatability and sensitivity of 0.05 inches of water column (1.25mm WC) for ease of setting. Flow is critical for most applications and to meet this demand the



Model 11 delivers a flow capacity of 24 SCFM (28 litres/second). The Model 11 design incorporates a diaphragm diameter engineered for optimum performance within a compact package, offering an ideal solution when the overall envelope size must be minimised. Tamper-proof, screw or standard knob actuation alternatives provide versatility and ease of use. Nitrile or optional fluorocarbon elastomers enable the Model 11 to work in any environment.

Russian oil and gas industry to buy more automation

Russia's automation and control solutions (ACS) market is poised to look up over 2013-2016 thanks to the increased investments, government regulations and the exploration of new oil and gas deposits according to a research by Frost & Sullivan. However, the market faces major challenges in the form of Russia's unstable economic and political landscape and end-user perceptions of ACS being non-critical in the manufacturing process. The market earned revenues of USD 1,107.9M in 2011 and this could reach USD 1,822.0M by 2016. As demand for oil and gas soars, oil and gas companies have started implementing ACS to make the industrial process more effective and save on production costs. "ACS systems can be used to improve efficiency, decrease operating costs and boost the productivity of oil and gas manufacturing processes over the long-term", explained Frost & Sullivan Industrial Automation & Process Control Research Analyst Maryna Osipova. "Besides ensuring performance optimisation and technological control and planning, ACS also promotes safe operations. This will be in line with stricter government regulations related to safety in oil and gas manufacturing processes." Such trends have resulted in oil and gas customers recognising ACS as a strategic investment. At the same time, one of the major restraints to market expansion has been the end-user perception of these solutions being non-critical in the manufacturing process. Vendors, on their part, need to generate greater awareness about newer technological offerings and their benefits. Oil and gas companies need to be educated about the basic features of ACS and the advantages and opportunities that it can offer.