

Surveys and condition monitoring of process valves crucial

BMG, which has been providing engineering support to essential service providers during the COVID-19 crisis, encourages plant operators not to neglect condition monitoring at this critical time.

“To ensure safety, environmental protection and high productivity at a plant, it is very important to monitor closely the condition of process valves. It is crucial that operators are aware a valve is leaking, or if there are any valve failures that could expose operators and the plant to unnecessary risks,” says Willie Lamprecht, business unit manager, Fluid Technology, Low Pressure at BMG.

“By combining condition-based maintenance products for process valves with planned maintenance programmes, downtime at a plant is reduced, and productivity and safety levels significantly improved. BMG Fluid Technology specialists offer customers valve condition monitoring services that ensure reliability, safety and efficiency of all processes.

“The risk of valve failure can be efficiently managed through correct and reliable monitoring and testing techniques. Condition monitoring enhances safety through the containment of process fluids. Valve failures, which are dangerous for personnel and harmful to the environment, also contribute to lost production, resulting from downtime.”

BMG’s field service technicians and trained branch personnel are available to conduct site and plant surveys in order to monitor the condition of valves and make recommendations for improved performance. Regular surveys enable BMG specialists to ensure that valves and automation systems function to exact requirements and also enable the team to identify equipment that should be included in scheduled maintenance programmes, to reduce unplanned plant downtime and loss of production.

A full range of valves is available from BMG outlets throughout Southern Africa, where specialists are on hand to ensure correct valve selection and to assist with problem-solving for customers and end users.

BMG’s range of Interapp butterfly valves, which is produced in Switzerland, is recommended for use in high-acid applications, while Desponia valves, which are manufactured in Spain, are available with different lining materials for reliability and extended service life in diverse industries. These include mining, water and wastewater works, sugar

plants, paper and pulp, food and beverage, and energy production facilities.

The locally manufactured BMG Klep Valves range include diaphragm, pinch and wedge gate valves, which are all designed for enhanced operating efficiency and extended service life in many sectors, including harsh environments. This range includes soft natural rubber-lined diaphragm valves, which are widely used in mineral processing and mining and slurry applications. Other lining materials include butyl, nitrile, jumbo (NAX), halar and hard rubber. Wedge gate valves are manufactured by BMG Klep Valves for Eskom for use on the fly ash lines.

BMG’s SAFi thermoplastic industrial valves are designed to efficiently handle corrosive and abrasive materials. The range, which conforms to stringent international quality specifications, incorporates ball, butterfly, diaphragm and non-return valves, as well as strainers and tank fittings – all manufactured from high quality non-corrosive materials.

SAFi’s lightweight polymer materials are integrated with a robust valve design for reliable performance, easy installation and low maintenance, reduced operational costs and extended service life.

Materials used include: glass reinforced polypropylene (GRPP) with excellent mechanical and UV resistance for use in water treatment and recycling, polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), which has a smooth surface that prevents the development of micro-organisms – a critical feature in food production, polypropylene (PPH) materials, for use in marine applications due to good chemical resistance, particularly to salts, acids and alkalis, PPH thermoplastic materials with carbon fibres, which are semi-conductive and compliant with ATEX specifications for safe use in hazardous environments and potentially explosive atmospheres.

BMG specialists recommend SAFi



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thermoplastic ball valves for use in on/off regulation applications. These thermoplastic ball valves are maintenance-free and have the ability to close faster, also ensuring extended service life.

BMG’s Pneumatic division specialises in pneumatic, electric and hydraulic valve actuation systems, with advanced process instrumentation, to ensure correct operation of valves on-site.

The company’s national branch network offers a technical advisory and support service to ensure optimum efficiency and the extended service life of every valve. A total process and lubrication management service is also offered.

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