

Supplier introduces diaphragm valve to African market

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Valves supplier Astore Africa officially introduced the DK diaphragm valve to the African market at the Electra Mining Africa exhibition, held at the Johannesburg Expo Centre in September.

Astore Africa product manager **Francois van Vuuren** notes that the DK range, developed by Italian industrial valves manufacturer FIP, was initially launched in Europe last year. He notes that the range was available in South Africa prior to the Electra Mining launch in 2016, as Astore

Africa had advised clients throughout the year to upgrade and replace VM diaphragm valves with the DK series.

Van Vuuren explains that the DK diaphragm valves are used in various different industrial duties and chemical applications. "The internal geometry of the valve structure optimises fluid dynamic efficiency by increasing the flow rate and ensuring an optimum linearity of the flow adjustment curve."

The valve series, available in sizes of between



DK DIAPHRAGM VALVE

DK series is suited to industrial applications, specifically those pertaining to chemical and industrial processes or water purification

20 mm and 75 mm, with a pressure rating of PN10, is compact and light, with an innovative handwheel equipped with a patented locking

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peak demand management. The interventions also focus on the optimisation of power consumption, while the sections on compressed air and motor systems consider optimising use and ensuring minimal waste.

In terms of water quality and water efficiency, he states that the capability and willingness to manage water consumption has become a necessity, not only because of municipal restrictions and associated cost implications but also the good of South Africa, which has always been a water-scarce country.

"The recent and seemingly ongoing drought has ensured that managing water consumption is of vital importance. Manufacturers need to establish the quality of water required for their processes and look for ways to reuse or recycle grey or industrial water where possible. This will reduce the strain on municipal and provincial reserves, while reducing costs..."

Further, he notes that companies can reduce water losses significantly by repairing leaks.

In terms of waste management, the guideline points to methods of disposing or reusing waste, while the monitoring and targeting sections recommend that manufacturers implement and maintain a monitoring and targeting system for key utilities.

He notes that each saving achieved by the



VICTOR MANAVHELA

The best practice guideline has been well received by the valves manufacturing industry

implementation of the methods outlined in the best practice guideline is cumulative, adding that the adoption of these best practices should, therefore, be undertaken holistically.

He adds that the guideline, while predominantly shaped by the collaboration between Vamcosa and the NCPC-SA, also benefited from collaboration with other national programmes that are hosted, together with the NCPC-SA, at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, including the Technology Localisation Implementation Unit (TLIU) and the National Foundry Technology Network (NFTN).

"The current collaboration between the entities is such that the NCPC-SA can assist in

reducing production costs by providing recommendations based on the RECP assessments. Meanwhile, the TLIU can assist companies in attaining international accreditation while allowing for access to newer technologies that might benefit their manufacturing processes," notes Manavhela.

He says the NFTN can provide access to a national network that offers practical and theoretical knowledge, specifically to benefit the castings industry and, therefore, associated industries, including the valves industry.

Since the establishment of the NCPC-SA and the acknowledgment of its methods, local manufacturers have enhanced their competitiveness and can access new opportunities and markets. Manavhela comments that "for example, the valves companies that participated in the 2014/15 RECP assessment... identified potential energy saving of 35%."

Manavhela notes that the NCPC-SA intends for this guideline to provide an "off-the-shelf solution" for manufacturing companies in the valves industry. He notes that the guideline is easy to use, ensuring that any operations manager in any part of the country can understand and attempt to implement the recommendations.

He says the guideline has been well received by the valves industry, adding that it is available for free on request from the NCPC-SA or can be downloaded from the centre's website.

He also acknowledges the work of NCPC-SA project manager **Thembi Kodisang Sibanda**, without whom the realisation of the guideline would not have been possible. 

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what you are doing, you will be successful.