

EXHIBITOR SPOTLIGHT

Smart Technology to Improve Efficiencies & Reduce Maintenance Costs

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In recent years, there has been unprecedented progress in the pharmaceutical industry regarding drug discovery and development. New medicines, vaccines and tools have revolutionized medical practice, making fatal ailments curable and improving the quality of life in diagnosed patients significantly. However, pharmaceutical manufacturing is experiencing challenges that have the potential to impact patient care, as quality issues result in product recalls, drug shortages and harm to patients.

Trends aimed at improving quality through initiatives like PAT (Process Analytical Technology) and QbD (Quality by Design)



are driving pharma manufacturers to implement innovative smart equipment that enables data acquisition over industrial networks. This desire to utilize new technologies has encouraged the diaphragm valve industry to create new accessories that, in conjunction with aseptic valves, offer unparalleled control resulting in a solid and reliable manufacturing process.

Since the invention of the diaphragm valve by P.K Saunders in 1929, Saunders, a Crane ChemPharma & Energy brand (a business of Crane Co.), has been a key player in the evolution of high purity valve technology.

As a manufacturer of aseptic valve technology, Saunders understands the growing trend towards smart components and has developed a suite of automation products that adds intelligence to a standard diaphragm valve.

SaundersVUE is a new product line that offers intelligent solutions for diaphragm valves specifically in the Life Science industry. The platform is designed to maximize plant efficiency by eliminating false alarms and reducing set-up times. SaundersVUE valve sensors provide a positive and accurate confirmation

of the diaphragm valve position while delivering a wide variety of diagnostics for continuous monitoring and preventive maintenance.

The SaundersVUE suite of intelligent products includes two valve sensors:

- Saunders I-VUE: Valve solution for end users due to enhanced diagnostics and easy calibration
- Saunders M-VUE: For equipment manufacturers due to its modular and compact design

One feature that is present in both SaundersVUE products is the self-calibration feature that holds potential for cost savings. Traditionally, switchboxes require two people for calibration, each taking around 30 minutes.

The maintenance personnel have to locate the valve sensor in the field, open the enclosure and then adjust the settings. This consumes a lot of time, increasing maintenance costs. However, with the new sensors, only one person is needed to calibrate a sensor.

This process is very fast and efficient, taking only 3minutes, as the need to open the enclosure is eliminated because of the sensors' contactless operation.

As the industry continues to evolve, such technologies will enable pharma manufacturers to consistently improve efficiencies and save costs, while improving the quality of their products. ■

