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Fluiten open the test rig's door to their clients

Moreover, for Fluiten Clients, can verify the performances of critical seals presents to the plant.

Milano, September 25th 2009 – Fluiten Italia S.p.A., an Italian company founded in 1962 that specializes in the development and design of mechanical seals for the process industry, developed the test rig to simulate the real operating conditions of different services and equipments.

The test laboratory is a significant investment for Fluiten, and a logical consequence of the company philosophy. Fluiten considers research and development as essential in the constant pursuit of quality and reliability, which are fundamental in order to ensure excellence, technology and competitiveness.

The test beds have been built to be flexible and adaptable to new requirements, so that horizontal or vertical assemblies may be simulated for internal or external single or double seals. The main parameters, such as pressure, temperature, speed, torque/power consumption and shaft dimension are variable. The fluid used to simulate the process is normally water. However other fluids are often chosen, together with customers, that have similar chemical and physical characteristics to those the seal will have to operate with, and these are used for the laboratory tests.

The test beds are able to simulate mechanical stress, such as run-outs and shaft misalignment, when required in order to check the performance of mechanical components in very much heavier duty conditions than those encountered during normal operation.

The parameters that need measuring during the various test stages are of fundamental importance, especially the torque consumed and therefore heat generated, the flushing required for cooling, the temperatures on the seal rings, and other changes that occur as the various parameters change. The numerous instruments for checking temperatures throughout the bed and the large number of

sensors installed mean that unmanned endurance tests may be performed in complete safety.

The results are recorded automatically in a database so that the various dynamic tests may be traced and compared over time. New product approval test cycles are established in advance with methods chosen according to the use of the specific seal. Only after this preliminary testing stage are on-site tests performed at plants run by trusted technicians with whom excellent working relations have been established.

On the basis of these resources, Fluiten is one of the few companies in the world to have developed dynamic tests that comply with standard API 682. Regarding these, supplementary tests have been devised on the basis of the requirements of a renowned oil company that asked for tests on a back-up seal designed to run dry at 2900 r.p.m. and ensure safe operation with an unstable liquid at over 25 bars for a good twelve hours after the simulated catastrophic failure of the main seal.

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Fluiten Italia S.p.A.

Fluiten is the leader in the design and manufacture of seals for rotating shafts. The entirely Italian company was founded in 1962 and is located at Pero (Milan). It employs over 100 people in its various European offices (France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain) and in Malaysia. Fluiten designs and manufactures mechanical seals in Pero, just outside Milan, which are mainly used in the chemical, petroleum and energy industries. Other important areas where Fluiten seals are used are the pharmaceutical, food, paper and marine sectors.

