Instrumentation and Monitoring for Vacuum Systems

Emma Larrabee and Todd Dunn Zorn Compressor & Equipment Keynote Speakers

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Q&A Format





- Panelists will answer your questions during the Q&A session at the end of the Webinar.
- Please post your questions in the Questions Window in your GoToWebinar interface.
- Direct all questions to Blower & Vacuum Best Practices® Magazine

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Paul L. Baker, PE Senior Mechanical Engineer, Jacobs



Neil Mehltretter Technical Director, Kaeser Compressors



Tim Dugan, PE President, Compression Engineering Corporation



Martin Zeller Country Manager, CS Instruments USA, Inc.



At the end of the webinar, we are having a fun contest for a chance to win a free full conference pass valued at \$675!



Instrumentation and Monitoring for Vacuum Systems

Introduction

Blower & Vacuum Best Practices Magazine



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About the Speakers



Emma Larrabee Marketing Manager Zorn Compressor & Equipment



Todd Dunn Vice President Sales & Marketing Zorn Compressor & Equipment Sponsored by



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What Is Vacuum?

- Vacuum: air drawn down to below atmospheric pressure
 - In contrast to compressed air: air raised to a pressure above atmospheric pressure
- Vacuum Pumps: pull large volumes of air into the vacuum chamber.
 - When the air is pulled in, the area left where the air once existed creates a vacuum effect.



Vacuum Applications

- Packaging & Bottling
- Drying
- Wood Fabrication
- Assembly Line Picking & Placing
- Degassing

- Glass & Stone Cutting
- Various Medical Uses
- Thermoforming
- Battery Manufacturing
- CNC Processes

And many more!





- Vacuum plays an incredibly large role in the creation of many manufactured products
- Many of these manufacturing processes rely heavily on vacuum and cannot complete the job without it
- Vacuum systems come in a variety of technologies, sizes, and operating pressures to maximize your facility's efficiencies
 - Consulting a professional and properly sizing a vacuum system with coordinating instrumentation to your unique applications is extremely important





Overview of Vacuum Instrumentation & Monitoring

- Gauges, valves, interlocks, and app-specific instrumentation are all examples of important pieces to Vacuum Instrumentation & Monitoring
- These pieces ensure that...
 - 1. Proper vacuum level is produced for each unique application
 - 2. Multiple vacuum pumps are effectively controlled at the same time
 - 3. The units are exhausted properly

Let's look at an example of the importance of vacuum instrumentation & monitoring...





OVERVIEW

- Industrial woodworking customer had vacuum pump installed by an independent contractor for use on router table to hold wood in place
- The unit was installed without any monitoring equipment like a temperature sensor or pressure transducer on the exhaust piping

PROBLEM

- There were too many elbows in the exhaust piping causing a restriction
- This ultimately caused the system to run hot which caused the oil to breakdown and overheat the unit





SOLUTION

- Clean up the discharge piping with proper sized pipe and proper turning radiuses
- Install proper vacuum monitoring equipment

CONCLUSION

 Had the customer purchased and installed equipment to monitor the vacuum temperature and discharge pipe pressure, they could have caught the issue earlier before it became a major catastrophe in need of emergency repair and/or replacement





What An Efficient System Looks Like- In Real Life!



What An Efficient System Looks Like- In Real Life!



About the Speaker



Benjamin Cameron Quincy Compressor



 Vacuum Business Line Manager, Quincy Compressor

 17 years of experience in Vacuum Technology: Roles include Applications Engineer, Systems Manager, and Product Marketing Manager

- Worked with Mitsubishi Chemical and Nova Chemicals
- B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Virginia Tech and an MBA from Old Dominion University
- Aspiring carpenter, tiler, electrician, and plumber

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Instrumentation & Monitoring for Vacuum Systems



WHY do I <u>need</u> instruments & monitoring devices on a vacuum pump/system?



WHY is it a good idea to include instruments & monitoring devices?

- 1. Vacuum level is important!
 - Impact product quality and throughput
 - Too shallow / Too deep can be problematic
- 2. Uptime depends on equipment health...so it's good to have some understanding of how the equipment is behaving



Will have to find the balance that suites your organization / objectives





Vacuum & Pressure



What type of vacuum device?

- 1. Bourdon Tube Good for industrial applications
 - Consider Dial Size (4 or 4.5" dial)
 - Liquid Filled
- 2. Vacuum / Pressure Switch
 - Discrete signal(s) based on vacuum
- 3. Transmitter For use within control systems
 - Monitor inlet for use with vacuum level control (ON/OFF or modulating)
 - Alarm for low vacuum and shutdown for high discharge pressure
 - Consider redundancy
 - Check requirements of PLC input card



Temperature

Where should I put a thermometer?



Wet Vacuum Technologies (Oil Sealed Vane, Oil Sealed Screw, Liquid Ring)

In seal fluid – Oil Sump, Seal Fluid Inlet

Dry Vacuum Technologies (Screw)

In cooling jacket



- 1. Bi-Metal Good for industrial applications.
 - Pay attention to insertion length!
 - Thermowell for use with corrosive gasses
- 2. Capillary Style For remote dial installation
- 3. Temperature Switch

estm

- Discrete signal(s) based on temperature
- 4. Transmitter For use within control systems
 - Monitor pump temperature
 - Alarms for high temp
 - Consider redundancy
 - Check requirements of PLC input card



Where should I put valving?



What type of valve?

- 1. Isolation Valve
 - Ball (up to 3"), Butterfly (4"+)
 - Manual, or Actuated (Pneumatically or Electrically)
 - Limit switches for positive OPEN/CLOSED indication
 - For high vacuum applications use full port ball valves or high-performance butterfly valves
- 2. Check Valves Prevent backflow into process
 - Swing checks in horizontal orientation
 - Butterfly style Spring/No Spring, Clearance



Control Scheme – Start / Stop Purge



When to Consider Start/Stop Purge?

- 1. Operation close to pump's end-vacuum is critical
- 2. Pumping vapors which exist as liquids at room temperature and atmospheric pressure



Control Scheme – Liquid Capture / Drain



- Low level switch = Alarm
 High level switch = Shutdown
- Level switches: Float & Capacitance





Monitoring







Monitoring – Vacuum Level



Vacuum Level vs. Time

A. Operational Diagnostics:

- Why did throughput / quality suffer? Was the vacuum system a potential cause?
- B. Vacuum System Optimization (Efficiency):
- How quickly does vacuum system respond to changes in demand?
- Operate at the least possible vacuum level, which accomplishes operational objectives
 What Vacuum Level Do You REALLY Need?
- Monitoring data removes subjectivity



Monitoring – How is the Pump Behaving?



Pump Speed (Run Command) vs. Time

Operational Diagnostics:

- How consistent is the demand from application?
- Are there detectable patterns between shifts, operators, or product types
- Frequent start/stops could be indication that pump is oversized





Temperature, Vibration, HP vs. Time

Predictive Indications:

- Many variables/instruments which can be leveraged for indication of machine "health"
- Mitigate the severity of issues by acting sooner
- Understanding thresholds is important
- Plenty of IoT solutions offering data collection and "push" notifications

Look for "off the shelf" trending capabilities





WHY do I <u>**need**</u> instrumentation & monitoring devices on my vacuum system?





Will have to find the balance that suites your organization / objectives







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Thank You



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Please submit your answer in the upcoming poll

What is the primary purpose of instrumentation in industrial vacuum systems?





*By entering you are giving permission to announce your name if you are a winner



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Q&A

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