Integrity - a tradition spanning half a century

For decades, the Maxseal name has been associated with process management in many of the most exacting environments in the world. Today, from the North Sea to South-East Asia, through North Africa, South America and the Middle East, Maxseal solenoid valves have a proven track record of safety and reliability. Since the 1950s, when the original concept was developed for nuclear power applications, the scope has extended to industries as diverse as aerospace, defense, power generation, mining and, of course, offshore and petrochemicals.

Safe, reliable and cost-effective Thompson Valves solutions

Thompson Valves Ltd is internationally renowned for the high technical added value of strong, dedicated brands such as Maxseal solenoid valves and IVP pressure regulators.

Whether part of a packaged solution or as individual components, they have become standard specification in a variety of critical control and instrumentation applications. This specialist nature of the company’s core business means that Thompson Valves is ideally positioned to support customers with a level of performance that is fine-tuned to specific expectations.

Explaining a recent restructuring, in which three distinct business units were created, Thompson Valves Sales Director for Industrial Products, Darren Sheppard, commented that it had resulted in clear identification of market-led opportunities for all areas of the business.

Due to launch September 2005, the new Maxseal ICO3S solenoid valve is a compact 2 kg version of the market-leading ICO4S, featuring fully 316 stainless-steel enclosure and valve construction to IP66/X8.

The dual-certified, direct lift solenoid design is magnetically fine-tuned to operate a 1/4” valve at 2.9W. Retaining the traditional Maxseal generous operating forces and safety margins required for reliable operation under the most arduous conditions, the ICO3 is typically suited to applications such as emergency shut down systems (ESD).

STOP PRESS
New compact concept

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Read full story inside

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Thompson

Industry standard evolved from an original concept

Maxseal was founded in 1952, by a group of engineers, to manufacture reliable solenoid-operated valves for the automation and control of process media. 1954 saw the first of an ongoing series of developments that were to continue throughout the UK nuclear-power build programme, with units for the Calder Hall experimental nuclear reactor.

Typical Maxseal solutions in hazardous areas

Zone 0 ICO2S Zone 1 ICO4S Zone 2 ICO4N

See inside for more details.
By 1958, Maxseal was already forging associations with larger organisations such as Ruston Gas Turbines (European Gas Turbines, now Siemens), ICI and The National Coal Board, designing for instance valves for the first automatic colliery at Beavercoats.

The original, and now famous, ICO4 - a 1/4” three-port direct acting solenoid valve for instrument changeover duties - was developed for ICI in 1964. Evolution models included two-port and five-port configurations. What was to emerge as the worldwide market leader in its class, offers the offshore and petrochemical industries of today a uniquely reliable and heavy-duty unit. A number of variations on this proven design, such as the ICO4N, ICO4P, ICO4D (4.5W) or ICO4S (stainless steel), cater for a range of specific applications.

Joint development work with the Ministry of Defence began in earnest in 1965. This produced an entire, purpose-built, new range of solenoid and servo-operated valves. Options from 1/4” to 6” were fitted to Royal Navy and other naval craft around the world, both conventional and nuclear.

Over the period 1978-80, Maxseal was working on a 1/4” three-port pilot-operated intrinsically safe solenoid valve to ICI specifications. This enhancement of the product range was eventually launched as the ICO2, to which a CSA version was added later.

During the 1980s flameproof certificates were updated from Health and Safety, Buxton, to BASEEFA and CENELEC standards. The new certification meant that solenoids up to 150W could be used in hazardous areas requiring EEx e and EEx d, as well as CSA approved equipment.

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Team news

In June 2005, the Maxseal team was strengthened by the technical expertise and enthusiasm of new Sales Manager Scott Waugh. Scott will focus on development opportunities in Europe and the Middle East. Describing the commitment of the Maxseal team, Sales Director Darren Sheppard added: “Exciting market opportunities mean that this world-renowned product and its potential are hugely important to Thompson Valves”. 
launch the low-temperature IC04S. Results were quick to follow, in the form of major contracts including Karachaganak, Sakhalin offshore and Tengiz. Today, low temperature expertise coupled with a well-suited product is a winning combination, accounting for a major part of the Maxseal business recognised by the GOST (K) Kazakhstan and GOST (R) Russia licensing authorities approving the supply of equipment suitable for use in hazardous areas.

More recently (2004), in order to align Maxseal manufacturing resources with current market trend Thompson Valves has made significant new investments: CNC lathes, vertical machining centres, new engineering and assembly facility employing the latest in flow-line techniques.

Today

The launch of the new Maxseal IC03 is scheduled for September 2005. A compact, lower power and reduced flow version of the IC04S, this product is designed specifically to meet modern requirements of the oil and gas, and petrochemical, industries around the world. Typical certifications include EEx d, EEx me (pending), ATEX, IEC, IP66/X8, NEMA 4X.

The Maxseal 2005 product development programme remains demanding, one example being the release of a filter regulator by early 2006. As Sales Director Darren Sheppard points out: “After a span of over fifty years, there are Maxseal products currently in use on nearly every offshore oil and gas production platform in the North Sea. However, in order to remain a market leader, development of new products and a consideration for new technologies are crucial”. Maxseal, with an enviable reputation for reliability, remains synonymous with onshore, offshore and petrochemical plants in every corner of the globe.

Maxseal

Local all over the world
Major installations in the world featuring Maxseal technology

Thompson Valves has consistently set rigorous standards worldwide, in exacting process-management duties such as in the oil and gas and petrochemical industries.

- ATEX-certified, low power consumption, fast-acting, 5-million cycle life, instrument changeover valves.
- Industry standard evolved from a proven direct-acting concept.
- Suitable for use in SIL 3 and 4 systems.
- Certification and approvals for use in hazardous areas.
- Choice of materials to suit process requirements.
- Resilient, compact and lightweight design.
- Market leader specified worldwide.
The Truflo International Group (formerly FCX) comprises specialist manufacturers of valves and related flow control products designed for use in severe service applications where integrity and performance are critical. Served markets include petrochemicals, LNG, oil and gas, nuclear power generation, PET, naval marine and shipbuilding.

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