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KOSO Kent Introl strengthens its position in expanding Norwegian market

With a growing order book, ahead of budget for 2008, severe service valve design and manufacturing specialist KOSO Kent Introl Ltd has big plans for the year ahead.

Three years after UK-based Kent Introl Ltd was acquired by Japanese company KOSO and was renamed KOSO Kent Introl Ltd (KKI), there are clear signs of significant development.

Success in Norwegian markets

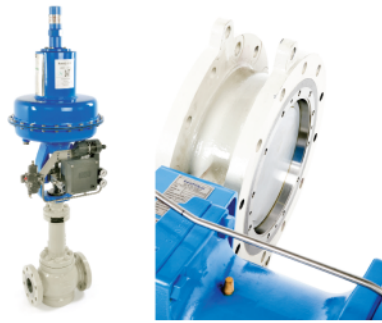
KKI has just enjoyed one of its best ever years with orders on target to exceed budget. This is the result of a focus on strategic markets and the success of a frame agreement contract with Norwegian energy company StatoilHydro - one of Europe's leading oil and gas companies.

As a specialist in standard and severe service control valves and high-technology surface choke valves, KKI was one of a select few companies in 2007 to become a preferred supplier of industry-leading StatoilHydro. This contract is now reaping great rewards. KKI has 35 years' experience of supplying valves to the Norwegian market and in that time the company has supplied more than 3,600 offshore and onshore products.

KKI has also been supplying its products to meet full NORSOK quality specifications since 1996, using M-650-approved material manufacturers. Furthermore, the company is a member of the Achilles Joint Qualification scheme. Keen to build on the success of its recent frame agreement with StatoilHydro, KKI is looking to further increase its share of the Norwegian market.

"These are very exciting times for KKI and our parent company KOSO, with major developments taking place within the company, both physically and strategically," says KKI Sales Director David Limb. "KOSO has confirmed it will expand its manufacturing plants in China and India, and construction work to treble the size of its operations in India got underway in January 2008."

A key factor in KKI's success in the Norwegian market has been the expansion of StatoilHydro's Gjøa oil and gas field in the North Sea. A number of valves are currently being manufactured for this project at KKI's state-of-the-art facility in Brighouse, West Yorkshire, England.



Hydrogen Globe Control Valve and High Performance Butterfly Valve

The Gjøa project has given KKI the opportunity to supply control and choke valves from right across its product range, many developed specifically for this project. Valves supplied have included globe control valves, butterfly valves and surface choke valves.

Advanced trim design for severe service

Among its range of high-performance trims, KKI offers the VeCTor multi-turn labyrinth trim design for specialist applications. This trim provides accurate control and long-life durability and has been specifically designed to prevent cavitation erosion, high vibration and noise for both compressive and non-compressive fluids.

Its improved performance and durability make it cost-effective and simpler to use than other severe service valves, with no requirement for ancillaries such as diffusers, baffle plates or silencers.

VeCTor trims are designed to control the potentially destructive effects of high velocities experienced in some control valves. Unlike conventional designs, it ensures fluid velocity never exceeds the threshold that could damage critical valve components. It does this by separating the flow mass into smaller individual channels to limit harmful velocities and staging the full pressure drops across multiple 90° turns in the fluid path.

The standard trim sizes range from 2" up to 14" and the number of turns from one to 24, although more turns are possible through special designs. Long and short stroke options are also available and up to 40 turns have been supplied. The flow of either gas or liquid increases by seven per cent after each turn, which means that after ten turns the flow area has doubled. Crucially, this enables any solids entrained in the medium to pass through.

Characterised disk stacks can be designed to handle the high velocities experienced in low-flow and start-up conditions (0% to 50% open) and then the disk stack can be altered to have fewer turns on the 50% to 100% portion of the disk. This enables it to accommodate increased flow requirements for end-of-field-life full-flow applications.

Global reputation for excellence

KKI has a worldwide reputation for the quality and integrity of its valves, as well as its unrivalled expertise in the sector. The company has been

growing its global capabilities recently, delivering valves for a number of challenging projects from Azerbaijan to Australia.

After fulfilling an original order in 2004 for the first phase of a major project in Azerbaijan, KKI has delivered additional API 6A 15,000 PSI-rated surface choke valves, bringing the total number supplied to more than 30.

The most recent order was for two pressurisation choke valves which were flanged 7.1/16" API 6A RTJ 6BX and two production choke valves with 6" hub-type end connections. The valves have ASTM A182 F22 forged body material with alloy 625 overlay of all wetted areas. The main trim throttling elements are manufactured from solid tungsten carbide.

Successes in the Asia Pacific market include the supply of compressor recycle valves to the Nam Con Son project in Vietnam, as well as specially designed offset surface choke valves for the North West Shelf of Australia. A range of choke and control valves has also been supplied to an FPSO off the coast of Brazil.



Compressor Recycle Valve for the Nam Con Son

Bespoke valves for specific applications

Many of the valves supplied by KKI are designed to cope with very specific conditions in particular locations. KKI has full design and manufacture capabilities which enable it to build valves that fulfil the requirements of individual customers and the process conditions of each application. KKI's engineering teams utilise the most up-to-date engineering tools, including 3D modelling, finite element analysis and CFD analysis to ensure that products are designed to the highest levels of integrity and reliability.

All products are backed up by a lifetime aftermarket service for all maintenance and spare parts - ensuring every valve achieves optimum performance throughout its lifetime. All servicing work is delivered by a dedicated service team based in the UK, backed up by local engineers in many parts of the world. KKI is constantly expanding this network of agents and service engineers into new regions.

Such a wealth of expertise and state-of-the-art manufacturing and testing facilities ensure that the valves supplied by KKI are set to remain at the forefront of control and choke valve technology for the foreseeable future.