

# Koso Kent Introl – What's in a Name?

**Takashi “Ike” Ikegaya, founder, Chairman and President of the Koso Group of Companies and Ed Singleton, founder of Introl**



**A History of the Company**  
*by Edward Singleton, founder of Introl, Managing Director of Introl from 1967 to 1990, Chairman from 1990 to 1995 and currently consultant to Koso Kent Introl Limited*

If names are important, 'Introl' has had more than its fair share, starting with Introl and then moving on to Kent Introl, Kent Process Control, Kent Instruments, ABB Control Valves and currently Koso Kent Introl Ltd. Ownership has changed six times in the company's 40 years history. All these changes, under different circumstances, could have created difficulties for the company, but most of them brought benefits through capital investment and access to new markets. I am pleased to say that the "raison d'être" for the formation of the company, namely to design and manufacture control valves for severe services and to provide pre-sales and post-sales customer services, has not changed. The company remains committed to this policy.

Introl was founded in 1967 by Edward Singleton (Ed) who, after 18 years experience with a British/American control valve company, decided to form his own specialist control valve company. The new

company started with many years experience invested in its founder and a nucleus of skilled engineers who moved with him. Orders from the specialist North Sea oil and gas market, which was taking-off at that time, were secured by the company almost immediately after its formation. Introl was in a favoured position for this and other specialist control valve markets because, although most of the competitors were much bigger, they depended on the States for special purpose designs. At that time Introl appeared to be the only company with design expertise in the UK.

The company grew rapidly and in 1971 attracted the attention of the major British process control instrument company - George Kent. Introl joined the Kent Group but remained a fully autonomous company and market expansion continued. The product range also continued to develop whilst remaining firmly anchored to the specialist field.

In 1974 the Kent Group was acquired by Brown Boveri of Switzerland, so Introl now became part of a huge international electro-mechanical conglomerate. This gave Introl access to the BBC fluids laboratory, which along with the high capacity liquid flow test at Kent Meters, met all requirements for testing and research into fluid dynamics as applied to new valve designs.