

● PRESS RELEASE

RETROFLO WINS INNOVATION AWARD

The energy-saving and OPEX reducing qualities of Retroflo's revolutionary pump control system have been recognised by the engineering sector's largest professional organisation the IET (Institute of Engineering and Technology). Retroflo's RPC_2000 was a winner at the IET North East Innovation Awards and achieved a second place in the prestigious national awards in the Built Environment Category. Alongside the IET awards, Retroflo has been shortlisted in the Pump Industry Awards 2008 for Technical Innovation of the Year.

The development of Retroflo's RPC_2000 represents a breakthrough in pump control systems. It is the world's first to offer pre-blockage detection, consent security, intelligent flushing cycles, periodic efficiency testing, and asset data storage, within a single system. In operation at various sites the system has recorded impressive results, including a minimum 12% energy saving, vastly reduced operational call outs, no consent failures, and a CAPEX payback within 12 months. It is these figures that have created its award-winning credentials.

Innovation is about doing things differently, in a way that is exciting and impactful. The annual IET Innovation Awards was established to herald those at the forefront of innovation. A world leader in developing science, engineering and technology, the IET has more than 150,000 members in 127 countries with a global knowledge network facilitating the exchange of information.

Speaking about the process of identifying suitable nominees for the awards IET Chief Executive, Robin McGill, said: "In short-listing the entries, the judges were looking for innovative engineering projects, products or processes for commercial use that demonstrate genuine novelty and represent a significant technological advance for the industry or technology sector."

This year's Built Environment category was open to entries that demonstrated engineering, scientific and technological innovation. The RPC_2000 was one of three short-listed finalists from over 300 entries and finished runner-up.

Andy Laundon, Operations Director for Retroflo, is understandably delighted with the accolade, saying it feels like reward for all the hard work he and his team have put into developing the system. The Retroflo concept, he explains, was no 'Eureka!' moment, rather a clear idea of how a pumping installation could work

Retroflo

REVOLUTIONARY PUMP CONTROL

efficiently: “It was an idea formed over many years in the industry, and with the knowledge I gained from working with early variable speed operations.”

Lee Bishton, Technical Director of Retroflo, says a system-wide approach was the key to creating the groundbreaking product: “Solutions in the pumping industry seemed to exist at component level but not as a system-wide solution. We were able to find the solution through adopting a holistic approach where all the characteristics of a wet well (level, flow, speed) are monitored and analysed by a single system.”

It is the impressive figures produced by the RPC_2000 in operation that helped convince the judges to short-list the system. At pumping installations currently operating Retroflo systems there has been a minimum 12 percent reduction in energy costs. This combined with little or no operator call-outs, cleaner wells and the security of consented flow, has enabled pumping installations, in many cases for the first time, to operate at optimum efficiency.

This growing need for reduced OPEX (operational expenditure) and improved carbon management has been the driving-force behind the Retroflo project and the company is positioned to be at the vanguard of improving the industry’s carbon management.

What is also clear is that the Retroflo RPC_2000 has the potential for wide application across the pumping sector at large, a fact recognised by the nomination for the World Pump Awards 2008 in the Innovation of the Year category to be announced later this year.

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IMAGES BELOW

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