



press release

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Creative impeller design from Amarith keeps latex flowing

Amarinth has designed and commissioned an innovative pumping solution for Polimeri Europa which prevents the frequent clogging inherent in the existing centrifugal pumps used to move latex agglomerate around the plant. The new pumps have increased reliability by a factor of 15 delivering a return on investment in just nine months.

Polimeri Europa is one of the major world producers of elastomers at their plants in Hythe and Grangemouth, United Kingdom. Using a range of proprietary technologies and state-of-the-art production systems, the company produces basic chemicals, polyethylene, elastomers and styrenics for many of the world's leading brands.

For years, the latex agglomerate used during production had tended to clog and accumulate behind the impellers of the existing centrifugal pumps. This overloaded the pumps causing gland leakage. Despite a regular maintenance schedule of stripping, cleaning and rebuilding the pumps and re-packing the glands, seizures would still occur each week, sometimes resulting in the failure of a shaft or bearings. The consequence was unplanned downtime and disruption to critical stages of the production process.

Polimeri Europa was unable to identify any standard products that would meet their needs and so it invited a number of ISO9001 accredited pump suppliers with proven track records to propose how they could resolve the problem. The design parameters were for a pump that could run for three weeks before requiring any maintenance.

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Amarinth were selected for their ability and willingness to work with Polimeri Europa on optimising a design which would include special features outside of their standard catalogue. The base pump chosen was an N-Series which included a removable front suction cover enabling quick access for cleaning. A scalloped impeller was specifically designed to minimise clogging and an electro-polish was applied to the back-plate and impeller to create low cohesion surfaces. Finally, working in partnership with John Crane, a special mechanical seal was designed to contain the latex agglomerate.

The new pumps were delivered on-time and have exceeded the design expectations on this very demanding application. Reliability has improved by a factor of 15 and a quick internal jet-wash is all that is often needed. Previous pumps required cleaning and re-packing every few days, or even daily during difficult running conditions, a process that took 6 – 8 man hours for each pump. The resultant cost savings in parts and labour mean that the pumps will pay for themselves in just nine months.

Polimeri Europa are delighted with the results and has now brought additional pumps on-line and is working with Amarinth to enhance its existing pumping solutions in other applications.

Robert Pearce, Project Manager at Polimeri Europa, summed up his satisfaction: “We are delighted with the original thinking and design work undertaken by Amarinth in developing a pump tailored to our demanding application. They have successfully overcome the issues we have faced for the last 20 years of clogging when pumping our latex agglomerate. These new pumps were delivered on-time and have performed to specification, leading to a significant reduction in maintenance costs and eliminating expensive and disruptive unscheduled stoppages.”

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OPTIONAL PANEL or BOX ITEMS



Scalloped and electro-polished impeller

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Founded in 2002, Amarinth has harnessed the skills, creativity and passion of people who have worked in the pump industry for many years. Amarinth delivers world-leading expertise in the design, application and manufacture of centrifugal pumps and associated equipment to ISO, ANSI & API standards, primarily for the industrial, chemical & petrochemical markets. Their portfolio includes:

- **Pumps:** Horizontal and vertical API 610 pumps, chemical and industrial pumps, many of which are interchangeable with the Girdlestone pump ranges, eliminating the need for expensive modifications when replacements are required.
- **Pressure Vessels:** Protect System Plan 52 and 53A and 53B sealant systems with inbuilt condition monitoring for pumps and mixers that are suitable for Safe area up to Zone I.
- **Spares & Service:** High quality, fast lead-time re-engineered spare parts to improve performance and extend pump life, including many which are directly interchangeable with the Girdlestone pump ranges.
- **Packages & Modules:** Condensate Recovery Units manufactured for Spirax Sarco incorporating the innovative Ci-Nergy intelligent variable speed control system, plus bespoke packages & skids built to order.
- **Business Systems:** state-of-the-art e-commerce technologies that deliver 24/7 support enabling customers to select pumps and place orders on-line and then track every stage of manufacture through to delivery, any time, anywhere in the world.

The company operates globally from its base in Rendlesham Suffolk, United Kingdom and has a customer base of world-leading companies, including BP, Shell, ExxonMobil, GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer, Spirax Sarco, Diageo, AMEC, Fluor and Halliburton.

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