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Clark·Reliance

NEWS and TRENDS for the POWER GENERATION and PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

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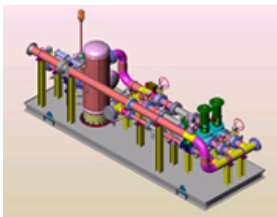
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MAY 2009

Seven Ways to Upgrade Your Boilers' Safety and Performance

If your steam boiler system is showing signs of wear or underperformance, there are multiple upgrades you can make to improve safety, save energy and decrease maintenance time. Engineers and product managers at Clark-Reliance have identified seven ways to enhance your steam boiler without incurring the expense of purchasing a new system:

- Upgrade water column by replacing whistle alarm and original float mechanism with conductivity probes and switch outputs with an optional audible horn, which eliminates any moving parts originally subjected to pressure and fatigue. This simple conversion reduces maintenance and results in a more reliable alarm system.
- Replace existing high voltage relay controls on conductivity probe activated High & Low Alarms and low water cutout circuits containing 300-volt probe circuit with new relay modules for greater sensitivity on level detection circuits, higher reliability switch contacts, and improved safety with LED status indication and circuit protection. These new controls will easily provide 15-20 years of typical service life.
- Install live loading on existing SG700 and SG800 series steel valve stem packing glands, which increases the valve's service life and reduces maintenance costs with less packing replacements. This comes in handy when your operation staff is limited and the boiler is frequently unattended.
- Install live loading on existing FG1500 and FG2000 series water gage glasses to extend service life, especially on applications with high frequency cycling.
- Upgrade flat glass water gage glasses with DuraStar LED Illuminators for power savings and safety measures. This LED illuminator is designed to last for 10 years of continuous service without maintenance, reduces power consumption by more than 95 percent, and eliminates heat risk for plant personnel.
- Upgrade Simpliport water gage glass with an LED Illuminator for less maintenance and increased safety. The LED Illuminator eliminates the need for red or green glass filter strips with colored LEDs and lasts for 10 years of continuous service, reduces power consumption by 95 percent and removes the chance of heat risk for plant personnel.
- Retrofit EA100 Levalarms[®] with Retropak Cap Assembly, which eliminates nuisance trips caused by fatigued components. The Cap Assembly replaces float mechanism and mechanical switch with a conductivity probe and level detection module with switch output for high reliability and reduced maintenance. No pressure piping is disturbed to retrofit this item, which makes for an easy installation.

Outdated equipment can make your steam boilers operate less

efficiently, cause more downtime and increase the risk of an accident. For detailed information on these and other upgrades, please contact [Clark-Reliance](#) and a local representative will help you select the right equipment for your operation.

[Report shows nuclear power plants have added 5,600 MW in past decade](#)

Power Magazine May 1, 2009

New-generation nuclear plants may be having trouble getting out of the gate, but that doesn't mean that nuclear capacity additions are at a standstill. In fact, the 104 operating nuclear units in the U.S. have added substantial new capacity in the form of reactor and plant uprates over the past 20 years.

Power uprates alone have added more than 5,600 MW since 1998, the equivalent of five new nuclear plants. Safety and operating performance at the nation's nuclear plants have also remained high.

[GE Plans to build an advanced battery plant](#)

BusinessWeek May 12, 2009

General Electric will invest \$100 million in a battery manufacturing plant in upstate New York, which will produce sodium-based batteries for hybrid trains and other vehicles. The venture, a new business for the company's GE Transportation unit, should bring in \$500 million by 2015 and \$1 billion a few years later, says Chief Executive Jeffrey Immelt.

These new batteries aren't suitable for automobiles, however. Car batteries must not only store energy, but provide quick acceleration. To supply that market, GE has invested about \$70 million for a 10 percent stake in A123 Systems, a Watertown (Mass.) startup that creates lithium batteries for electric plug-in cars.

[Biodiesel industry sees activity despite recession](#)

Biodiesel Magazine June 2009

Despite the economic crisis, some producers are still managing to maintain a healthy business and a fraction of them, in recent months, have continued to forge ahead with acquisitions, expansions and new projects.

[Russia's South Stream Gas Pipeline Gets a Boost](#)

BusinessWeek May 18, 2009

Russia has signed deals with Italy, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece, bringing the South Stream project, a major new gas pipeline to Europe, one step closer to reality and doubling the planned pipeline's capacity to 63 billion cubic meters.

The participating countries signed documents needed to start work on the 2,000km (1,243-mile) pipeline. With completion planned by 2015, South Stream eventually will pump natural gas from southern Russia under the Black Sea, bringing it via Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary and Greece to terminals in western Austria and southern Italy.

[Smaller smart grid projects to see more stimulus funds](#)

Forbes Magazine May 18, 2009

The Department of Energy will raise the maximum amount of matching grants aimed at so-called smart grid projects tenfold, from \$20 million to \$200 million per project. The cap on grants

for demonstration projects will also be raised from \$40 million per recipient to \$100 million.

Smart-grid projects, including smart-metering systems that allow users to change their energy use in real-time in response to energy supply, are expected to vastly increase the efficiency of America's power supply; smart-metering systems, for instance, could save utilities \$35 billion over the next 20 years, according to the consulting firm Brattle Group.

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