

EPT announces 100k litre pillow tank re-engineered BIG Red Flexitank

Environmental Packaging Technologies has announced a total redesign of its BIG Red Flexitank. To meet better the bulk shipping safety needs of its customers, EPT partnered with leading global engineering firms based in the USA to analyse and re-engineer crucial elements of its flexitank system.

"The goal of this major investment in research and development was to challenge the current construction and materials used in our BIG Red Flexitank and in other flexitanks in the industry to determine their strengths and weaknesses," stated Nancy Wendrock, president of EPT. She added: "By scientifically de-constructing our flexitank, we were able to identify opportunities to improve the structural design and materials used for our products, as well as develop completely new solutions."

One result of this innovative process is the introduction of a rigid, reusable and returnable bulkhead designed to meet the high performance demands and safety regulations of global railway authorities. Manufactured from high strength steel, the new BIG Red Rail Bulkhead increases the distance between the product valve and the container doors and does not rely on the container doors for support. Incorporating a patented energy management system, the bulkhead design actually absorbs the energy created when cargo shifts in transit inside the container. This buffering feature helps preserve the integrity of the container and minimises impact to the cargo. The benefits to the container and cargo directly address concerns expressed by the Container Owners Association (COA) and exceed the new recommended COA Flexitank Code of Practice.

The BIG Red Rail Bulkhead requires no tools to install and automatically adjusts to fit different container widths. The efficient design of EPT's new rigid bulkhead significantly reduces the installation time of the flexitank system compared to industry standards and virtually eliminates errors during installation. "We're excited about our rigid bulkhead and pleased to offer our customers a viable flexitank and bulkhead option for rail applications,"

said Steve Kennedy, global sales manager of EPT.

In addition to the rigid, returnable bulkhead, EPT continues to offer its single-use standard bulkhead system. The standard bulkhead has been redesigned to simplify the installation process and reduce assembly time. Using a new, patent pending bar system, the improved bulkhead incorporates the performance benefits of the energy management system design. Customers have the option of specifying either bulkhead when ordering BIG Red Flexitanks.

The flexibag itself has been reconstructed using new, proprietary polyethylene film for its double inner layers and incorporates a stronger woven polypropylene outer layer. The outer layer is manufactured as a seamless sleeve for added strength and durability eliminating common vertical seam failures.

Based on research and customer feedback, EPT redesigned the BIG Red Flexitank compression flange, implementing a new, FDA approved composite material. This new flange material allows for a wider compatibility with food and chemical products and will accommodate two inch or three inch valves. The new three inch valve offers increased loading and unloading rates for a variety of products.

Both the BIG Red Flexitank/Rail Bulkhead and the BIG Red Flexitank/Standard Bulkhead systems include a unique 3-ply abrasion wear sleeve. This improved barrier protects against poor container conditions and eliminates the timely and expensive practice of lining the container with tape and corrugation.

All BIG Red Flexitanks are now manufactured in the United States from US materials assembled in state-of-the-art ISO 9001, ISO 14001, TS 16949 certified facilities. "The improvements and product enhancements we're introducing in 2009 represent our ongoing commitment to provide the highest quality and safest flexitanks in the industry," stated Tatiana Golovina, founder of EPT.

www.eptpac.com

100k litre pillow tank

Flexitank (Australia) has completed the design, manufacture and delivery of four 100,000 litre flexible pillow bladder tanks to a Newcastle construction company.

Different features of these flexible tanks include: the actual flat size of 12 x 9.5 m meant that the full height of the pillow tanks was capped at 1.2 m, thus limiting the pressure on each bladder tank at capacity; two 100mm BSP threaded stainless steel fittings are added as inlet/outlets for a maximum flow rate both in and out of the pillow tanks; a 38mm automatic ventilation point centrally located allowing pressure to escape whilst not allowing any liquid to bypass through the vent; 24 tie handles along the sides of the pillow tank helping to move and position the empty tank, as well as fixing and holding the tank in place when filled; reinforced PVC ground sheets and protective covers to increase the life span of flexible tanks.

All fabrics used in the construction of the tanks are UV stabilised and are fire retardant, offering maximum safety protection. The advantages of pillow tanks in this application are claimed to be in lower positioning costs, along with reduced set up and deployment times.

As the pillow tanks offer a short, medium and long term storage option, their versatility offered many



The 100,000 litre pillow tank

advantages over other conventional tank storage options. Order date to delivery date and deployment was less than three working weeks, meaning site downtime was reduced and construction could be started ahead of schedule.

As the pillow tanks in a packaged state fold down to approximately one-tenth of full size, freight was completed in three days with minimal cost involved.

Flexitank (Australia) manufactures a range of flexible pillow tank bladders for a variety of applications ranging in capacities from 35 to 100,000 litres. These pillow tanks can also be

manifolded together to create vast amounts of storage for relatively small set up costs. Standard bladders are available for irrigation and potable water (to AS4020 drinking water standards), diesel fuel and Avgas, recycled and waste water, as well as a vast array of chemicals and fertilisers. Bladders can be manufactured to meet strict EPA regulations, and Flexitank (Australia) is officially recognised as an Australian Defence Force supplier, meaning every tank is tested in excess of 3 psi in a free form state, which is the same standard applied to Defence specific works.

<http://flexitank.com.au>

Girard steps up European presence

Girard Equipment Inc, which is best known for the supply of components to the US tank truck market, has taken a number of steps recently to increase its commitment to the international tank container industry. Building on its strong US base and an existing sales office in Beijing, a new European sales office has been established, with its base in the UK, under the direction of Barry Fiske, formerly technical director of Stolt Tank Containers.

"While the European office is geared to serving the region's strong community of tank lessors, operators and service depots, the Beijing presence provides a link with the new generation of Chinese tank container manufacturers and the growing Asian tank transport infrastructure," says Timothy Girard, president of Girard Equipment. "The Girard global network is completed by its extensive US

activities, which comprise two service and machining facilities, in Linden, New Jersey and Houston; two sales offices in Chicago and Manalapan, New Jersey; and a new manufacturing facility in Vero Beach, Florida."

Girard has been providing tank container equipment for over 20 years, primarily in the North American aftermarket. Their business has grown steadily. Girard is also taking its US road tanker component expertise out to a global market. Currently 70% of the company's sales stem from the North American road tanker business, but the penetration of the European and Asian road tanker markets is also proceeding at a quick pace, as new products are being developed to meet local and regional requirements.

Girard Equipment has gained acceptance worldwide for its specially designed pressure relief products. One of the newest components from Girard is a PTFE-lined pressure relief vent designed to protect the metallic vent surfaces from degradation when in contact with aggressive and/or corrosive cargo.

Recent applications of Girard's main line of pressure relief vents have

included their fitting to tanks holding rocket fuel operating in the US Space Shuttle programme. Girard worked with Columbian Holding Company, the manufacturer of special fuel holding tanks and Lockheed Martin. Girard's new manufacturing facility in Florida, not far from Cape Canaveral, is assisting in the development of closer ties with the space industry.

Another Girard innovation is the company's newly styled, 3ins composite foot valve, which has an integrally joined butterfly valve in the same cast body as the foot valve. Seals, repair parts and O-ring have been minimised to keep the cost of ownership low. The valve is designed to optimise flow through a conventional 3ins outlet, providing full, unrestricted flow with full draining capabilities. The TankFlo valve is designed to accept seals from several manufacturers, most of which are commercially available in repair depots around the world. The disc closure plate can rotate past the centreline of the valve to allow for both sides of the closure plate to be thoroughly cleaned. The valve has recently undergone

Continued on page 6



The new TankFlo design by Girard Equipment comprises the three closure concept into this one neat package. Ease of cleaning and repair has been the main consideration in its design.

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The reliability you trust.

Pelican launches fully encapsulated gasket

Pelican Worldwide BV and its sister company PTFE Industries have introduced their latest development, a gasket for the 4ins 90deg Extended Pneumatic Driven Flowmaster Foot Valve.

The gasket boasts a fully encapsulated FEP/Silicone 'O' Ring which ensures no media contact with its silicone rubber core, the leading design problem with other gaskets currently on the market, according to Pelican. "A cycle test of 1000x was administered on the PTFE gasket and it performed perfectly, coming through the test completely undamaged," said a company statement.

The gasket is in stock and ready to ship. Orders can be placed by contacting the sales staff directly or through www.pelicanworldwide.com.

Additionally PTFE Industries has a revamped and userfriendly website. The new weight calculator is a useful online tool for determining the precise weight of PTFE materials with the simple click of a mouse. The site can be visited at www.ptfeinds.com.

Pelican Worldwide partners with PTFE Industries to combine its experience in the metal parts industry with excellence in the gasket industry. Pelican can manufacture virtually any product while PTFE Industries is a leading manufacturer of gaskets, and PTFE (Polytetrafluoroethylene) skived sheets, tapes and films.

Custom thicknesses are available ranging from .002ins to .180ins and widths from 1/4ins to 48ins.

For additional information, please contact Frank van de Moosdijk at frank@pelicanworldwide.com



The fully encapsulated FEP/Silicone 'O' Ring ensures no media contact with its silicone rubber core

New bottom loading adaptor

Civacon, a division of OPW Fluid Transfer Group and a provider of cargo tank components and systems, has announced the availability of the new 891 Series A PI Bottom Loading Adaptor. The A PI is claimed to have the highest flow rate currently on the market. Recognising the crucial role bottom-loading adaptors play in any bottom-loading system, Civacon has precision engineered and designed the 891 Series for long, dependable operation in high-flow applications.

The 891 Series is a direct replacement for Civacon's 861 and 897 Series A PI Bottom Loading Adaptors, and all competitors bottom-loading adaptors. The new 891 A PI conforms to A PI RP-1 004, ADR and EN1 3083 specifications and is available in both openable and non-openable versions, all of which are compatible with diesel, biodiesel, gasoline, ethanol and methanol. Other features and benefits include a poppet seal that can be replaced without removing the A PI from the tank; a computer-designed cam profile; a flat bottom design for minimal product retention; Viton GFLT seals that are compatible with fuels and additives; stainless-steel internals; a design that minimises pressure drop; and super-smooth lever action.

Four product styles are available: 891A - Openable A PI adaptor with aluminum handle, two-piece body and hard-coated nose piece; 891BA - Openable A PI adaptor with aluminum handle, sight glass, two-piece body and hard-coated nose piece; 891N - Non-openable A PI adaptor with two-piece design and hard-coated nose piece; 891NB - Non-openable A PI adaptor with sight glass, two-piece design and hard-coated nose piece.

www.civacon.com



The new 891 A PI is available in both openable and non-openable versions

Continued from page 5

testing with a well-known competent authority under the strict guidelines of EN 14433:2006 European Standards.

Girard has also launched a new bottom outlet valve specifically built for offshore vertical tanks. Since releasing the design in 2008, the orders have been brisk from customers throughout the world especially in the Texas and Gulf Coast region.

Two other products that are being launched this year are the 2ins pressure/vacuum relief vent called the "sMart vent". This product is designed specifically for the IBC market and passes all relevant UN regulations when used in company with the Girard's own 3-SPF (stainless polymer fusible) cap. This cap when used alone adheres to all the relevant criteria for transporting flammable liquids in IBC's. However, it is only employed during catastrophic events such as a fire about the container. Using the cap along with the "sMart vent" design will allow for the container effectively to "breathe" and make adjustments to the internal pressure of the tank while in transit.

Girard Equipment also recently gained approval by the Association of American Railroads for their new line of pressure relief vents for rail tank cars. In October, 2008, Girard signed a marketing agreement with Salco Products of Lemont, Illinois to become the exclusive distributor for the Girard line on tank car vents.

Girard's exclusive European distributor for its full range of relevant tank container products and road tanker components is Van Doorn Container Parts BV based in Rotterdam. Van Doorn is well-equipped to provide service and support to Girard customers through its network of offices and spares parts centres throughout Europe and the Middle East.

"These are challenging times for tank component suppliers, with issues like fuel price volatility and environmental concerns added to the fears generated by the financial crisis," added Girard. "Girard Equipment is well positioned to meet these challenges and to derive benefit from the new opportunities that are opening up. For example, we have monitored the increasing production of biofuels and liquids from oil sands currently taking place and studied the equipment required for their transport."

"We are already supplying components for tank trucks carrying liquids from the new Canadian oil sands production and similar developments are taking place elsewhere in North America. With these developments and the globalisation of our tank container equipment range, these are exciting times for Girard Equipment."

www.girardequip.com

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