

# TECHNICAL PRESS INSIDER

30<sup>th</sup> May 2008

The newsletter for editors from *fishermarketing*

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Welcome to the latest issue of the *Technical Press Insider*, the electronic newsletter for editors in the technical media. *Technical Press Insider* contains summaries of some of the most important stories we've released this month, plus a few what's-on items you might find useful. And remember, you can get copies of all the press releases that we have issued on behalf of our clients from the press office on our website at [www.fishermarketing.co.uk](http://www.fishermarketing.co.uk)

If you think the content would be of interest to a friend or colleague please feel free to forward it, asking them to send their email address to [join-tpi@fishermarketing.co.uk](mailto:join-tpi@fishermarketing.co.uk) so they can receive future issues direct. To be removed from the circulation list, send an email to [leave-tpi@fishermarketing.co.uk](mailto:leave-tpi@fishermarketing.co.uk) or to change the email address it's sent to, hit reply and let us know.

The next First Friday Club for Editors is on June 6<sup>th</sup>, where we have SICK (UK) Ltd, ERIKS, ABB Drives & ABB Instrumentation, so keep an eye on your inbox for the invitation.

**John Fisher**

**Next Issue: 30<sup>st</sup> June 2008**

## Thought for the month

### On power and profits

So, the power is back they say. Apparently, electricity supplies returned to normal on Wednesday after the breakdown of several power stations on Tuesday caused power cuts to 500,000 homes across the country and a surge in power prices.

National Grid is reported to have said that power supplies were 'back to business as usual' and it was confident it had sufficient generating capacity in the UK. This was after the failure of British Energy's Sizewell B nuclear reactor and Scottish Power's Longannet coal-fired power plant was compounded by several generating plants already being offline, which triggered a frequency drop on the grid, leading to power outages at local distribution stations.

Further generating plant stoppages later in the day caused National Grid to issue a demand control imminent (DCI) notice for the first time in four years, requesting that power utilities provide spare generating capacity, and wholesale power prices soared above £80/MW hour.



Last month, power industry watchdog Ofgem launched an investigation into Scottish Power and Scottish & Southern Energy, based on a formal complaint alleging abuse of a dominant position in the electricity generation sector arising from constrained capacity on the transmission network.

According to The Independent newspaper, there was speculation among energy traders that the highly unusual shutdown of so many plants at once was caused by some companies trying to cash in on the rising wholesale price of electricity by taking supply out of the market. The wholesale price jumped by 13 per cent as the margin between supply and demand tightened.

Take a look at recent press releases on Ofgem's website, and you will see that it has launched several probes into power utilities, and even fined National Grid £41.6M for restricting the development of competition in the domestic gas meter market.

We all depend on the Power Industry and need a reliable source of electricity but would prefer that it wasn't 'at any price'.

**Boris**

**If you would like to comment on this or anything in TPI please drop us a line on [john@fishermarketing.co.uk](mailto:john@fishermarketing.co.uk)**

## Headline Makers

Contact Fisher Marketing for the full story on any of these items



Responding to the needs of the aviation manufacturing industry, a leading manufacturer of servo-hydraulic and servo-electric drive systems has developed a new version of its second generation radial piston pump, customised for use with aggressive phosphate ester hydraulic fluids, such as Skydrol and Hyjet. The specialist pump is available in 19, 32 and 80cm/rev variants, in single or tandem pump arrangement, with a maximum operating pressure of up to 350bar, and provides the option of either pressure compensator control or load sensing control.

Because microwave ovens are used so frequently, the door seals may eventually deteriorate, allowing microwave emissions to leak beyond approved limits. Microwave oven leakage testing is often carried out as an adjunct to Portable Appliance Testing (PAT). Leaking microwaves can cause cancer by heating the insides of the body. The TEK500 is an easy to use, low cost, pass/fail microwave leakage detector suitable for commercial and domestic ovens. It includes an audible warning device and a self test feature, which simulates a real microwave input to ensure the unit is working correctly.

A leading automation supplier has an established platform to deliver robust Process Solutions through its Integrated Architecture, FactoryTalk Suite and Plant-Wide Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) interface. Now their process capability has been further enhanced by specialist capabilities arising from three acquisitions and a technology partnership.

EPIRBs are now “must have” items on-board most sailing vessels. However, for the unfortunate yacht owner who falls overboard with the boat on autopilot, they are not going to work – especially if sailing solo or with the crew asleep below. A new life jacket available from a Redhill based search and rescue technology specialist, solves the problem.

Three control valves from a leading manufacturer of servo-hydraulic and servo-electric drive systems have received homologation (granting of approval) from the FIA for use with the 2008 Standard Engine Control Unit (ECU). To race in events such as Formula One, a vehicle and its constituent components must be homologated by the FIA (motor sport’s world governing body). Therefore, achieving FIA homologation [approval] means that only the components listed can be used in specific Formula One applications.

The UE410 FlexiSOFT is a DIN-rail mounted, software-based modular safety controller for applications that require more sophistication than basic safety relays but do not require the complexity of a full-scale safety PLC. The UE410 FlexiSOFT is a development of the well established UE410 Flexi Classic. Where the UE410 Flexi Classic was programmed by means of rotary switches, the Flexi Soft comes with a software configuration tool, which allows safety engineers to configure complex safety systems – from simple logic gates like AND, OR, etc., to more advanced functions such as safe on/off timers and set/reset function blocks.

Thanks to a new gearbox design, the new class leading models from a leading torque tool manufacturer’s range of pneumatic torque wrenches are now faster, lighter, smaller and therefore much easier to handle than other units of a similar capacity. The new ranges which have been introduced are the 540-2700 N.m and 700-3500 N.m PTM-92. To follow shortly are the 900-4500 N.m and 1200-6000 N.m PTM-119 Series Models.



Incuity Software, a supplier of Enterprise Manufacturing Intelligence (EMI) software, has been acquired by a leading automation supplier. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Rockwell Automation said that the acquisition will help it expand its FactoryTalk software suite. Incuity’s products are used to monitor production operations and enterprise systems for manufacturing.

An Epsom-based utility telemetry and control specialist has helped Yorkshire Water in its development of a new approach to reservoir level measurement. As well as removing significant manpower demands, the new system also copes, in some installations, with a complete lack of any electrical or telecoms infrastructure in its ability to provide measurements far more regularly than before.

For application stories or articles on a wide variety of topics or for any other information, please contact us directly on 01959 564987, or visit our press office at [www.fishermarketing.co.uk](http://www.fishermarketing.co.uk)

## ***Publishing Talk***

As you might expect, the *Technical Press Insider* is the ideal vehicle for gossip, rants, jobs, freelancing opportunities and all manner of publishing activities... oh yes, and news. So, if you have something to say or you want some help, drop us a line and we will see what we can do.



## ***What's Happening?***

Automatica – Munich, Germany – June 10-13

North West Manufacturing & Electronics 2008 – Reebok Stadium, Bolton – June 11-12

BARA Machine Safety Conference - Museum of Industry and Science, Manchester – June 17

National Electronics Week – Earls Court, London – June 17-19