Gazette
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CEIR
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The European Association for the Taps and Valve Industry

Dear colleagues and friends,

This is my first message to the industry as the new CEIR President. I would like to thank CEIR members for the trust they have placed in me. It is a great honour to represent the European taps and valves industry. Today's business environment is not easy and we see many companies struggling. I have worked in different countries worldwide and I am pleased to bring this asset to CEIR because global expertise is crucial to develop businesses and associations. I have a three-tier vision for CEIR which I want to share with you. Firstly we need to reinforce our cooperation with our American, Indian and Japanese counterparts. We also want to revive or trigger new cooperation with other national and international associations. Indeed, we see that water scarcity and energy savings, to name but a few, are worldwide challenges. Secondly we need to expand the CEIR membership and show potential members the benefits of what we have achieved in the past couple of years: our work on the Ecolabel and Ecodesign, the monitoring and analysis of EU legislation for our industry, our work on the 4MS and products in contact with drinking water, and activities in ISO on industrial and building valves are of great importance to our members. I will do my best to ensure that we continue our efforts and commitments, and you can read in this Gazette about the subjects we are currently working on.Thirdly, we need to reinforce our links with other stakeholders and with Research Institutes such as CETIM/VKI. At the last CEIR annual meeting in Ghent, I was very pleased that FEST (the wholesalers association) addressed our members, and that VKI (von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics) attended, as well as our American partners. That is why you will read articles from them in this Gazette. I also want to call on sanitary taps manufacturers to join the Water Label scheme. Please contact me personally. I would be pleased to support you in this matter. I will explain the benefits a company can gain from it, and how simple and cost-efficient the label is. You will find useful information about the label in this Gazette. I understand the levels of uncertainty you face as regards Ecodesign, Ecolabel and Energy labelling but it is only by taking our fate into our own hands that we can run our business and win the global competition. At the last CEIR annual meeting we heard an inspiring speech about business models, which made us look at our businesses from a different angle. The key factor of success is mastering our own future. That is where we need the support of CEIR, to represent us and inform us about upcoming legislation so that we can adapt and act proactively. This is also why we need to invest in our European association. To sum up, we have to take action and be bold.

Sincerely,
Klaus Schneider, Managing Director Keramik Laufen AG & Similor AG, President CEIR

CEIR Congresses in Ghent and Interlaken

Election of President

During the last CEIR congress in Ghent (Belgium), Klaus Schneider was elected as the new CEIR President succeeding Bulent Haciraifoglu. Klaus Schneider is the Managing Director of Similor AG and Keramik Laufen AG (belonging to the Roca Group) in Switzerland. He is also a Board member of the URS (Swiss Faucet Producers Association). The election of the new CEIR Board took place on 25 May during the CEIR General Assembly 2013.

Pascal Vinzio, KSB, Industrial & Building Valves Technical Committee President* and Ugo Pettinaroli, Pettinaroli spa, Marketing & Communication Committee President* were elected Vice-Presidents.

The new elected Board members are:

Maurizio BRANCALEONI, AUMA Italiana S.r.l., AVR (IT)
Peter PEGDEN, Croydex, BMA (UK)
Joao SARAIVA, Metalurgica Luso-Italiana, AIMMAP (PT)
Frédéric SEGAULT, Segault, Profluid (FR)
Carlos VELAZQUEZ, Roca, Agrival (ES)
Holger FEHRHOLZ, Similor, Sanitary Valves Technical Committee President* (* Ex Officio Member of the Board)

CEIR CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL CONGRESS

The CEIR conference was held in Ghent, Belgium on 24 and 25 May under the headline of innovation and water. Participants heard about what the sanitary tapware industry already does for energy and water efficiency and gained insights into how to better inform the consumer on these issues.

They discovered which schemes/regulations are already in place in and outside Europe and discussed the best framework and options for the tapware industry: mandatory vs. voluntary; ecodesign, labelling and ecolabel.

The conference started with a technical speech on the experimental study of two-phase flow induced by cavitation through a safety relief valve at inlet subcooled conditions given by Jorge PINHO from the Von Karman Institute.

Then a presentation about Solvay's innovation approach combining internal improvement and open innovation focusing on collaboration with suppliers was given by Mr Thierry CARTAGE, member of the Industrial Management Committee at Solvay.

Ms Antonia MORALES, Innovation Manager at CEFIC (The European Chemical Industry Council) presented the actions taken by CEFIC under different programmes (SusChem, SPIRE, BRIDGES, EIP on Water and on Raw materials).

Davide MINOTTI from the European Commission made a presentation on water and energy savings initiatives from the EC; Frans R.M.GEURTS, Director at FEST (European Federation of the Sanitary and Heating Wholesale Trade) presented his views on the European sanitary & heating wholesale trade.

To close the day, a panel discussion took place on sustainability and innovation in particular on "Efficiency and labelling for the sanitary tapware industry".

Mr MINOTTI, Mr SCHNEIDER, Ms VAN MARCKE (CEO, VAN MARCKE GROUP), Ms HIGGENS (Executive Director, Plumbing Manufacturers International) and Ms MIRELES SERRANO (Senior Policy Advisor, IKEA EU Affairs) participated.

In the evening participants attended a gala dinner. On the second day they listened to a presentation by Dr Miguel MEULEMAN (Vlerick Business School) on business models.

Then the Chairmen of the CEIR Committees reported and the General Assembly took place. Participants heard about the developments at PMI (Plumbing Manufacturers International) and VMA (Valves Manufacturers Association) and learned more about the upcoming conference of the NPAA (Russian Scientific & Industrial Valve Manufacturers Association).

Interlaken Conference - 15-17 MAY 2014

Venue : Grand Hotel Victoria Jungfrau, Interlaken, Switzerland

Programme :

Thursday 15 May - Arrival of participants
13.30 – 16.30 Board meeting
17.30 – 21.00 Dinner cruise on Lake Thun

Friday 16 May
09.00 – 16.00 Conference with speakers / panels
08.30 – 16.00 Visit Jungfrau (for partners)
19.00 – 23.00 Formal dinner at hotel

Saturday 17 May
09.30 – 11.00 Committee reports
11.30 – 12.30 General Assembly

THE FIRST CONTRIBUTION FROM LEDITH: EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF CAVITATION IN A SAFETY RELIEF VALVE

In November 2011, CETIM and VKI founded a common research laboratory dedicated to two-phase flows and hydraulic technologies: LEDITH.

The aim is to link these two actors, well known in the research (VKI) and the mechanical fields (CETIM), to increase the knowledge and technology transfers from laboratories to industries.

Since two years, LEDITH is carrying out a research dedicated to the understanding of the two-phase flow occurring through a safety relief valve (SRV) under cavitating flow. It is known that in these conditions, general sizing equations of SRVs tend to overestimate the evacuated mass flux, which may cause fluttering or chattering, and leading to potential hazardous situations.

A transparent model of an API 1'' ½ G3'' SRV has been tested under cavitation conditions. Measurements of flow rate, temperature, pressure and forces acting on the valve were performed at different operative conditions.

Moreover, the transparent model made of PMMA allows optical access to perform precise flow diagnostics such as high speed visualization and fluorescent particle image velocimetry (f-PIV). Experimental results confirm that cavitation has major influence on the flow characteristics through a SRV in liquid service.

The phenomenon of mass flow limitation is reproduced and interaction between cavitation and flow topology is highlighted and understood for the first time.

More info www.vki.ac.be/ledith

WHOLESALERS: PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE

Manufacturers are keen to show their new products to the world, This is where the wholesaler 's experience becomes invaluable. The wholesaler has to be able to recognise trends and listen to his customers , the installers, who in turn gather their information from the end consumer. Globalization, climate change, cost pressure and greater complexity – the enormous challenges faced by today's merchants' call for new integrated and holistic solutions. Particularly in light of steadily rising energy prices and increasingly scarce resources it is becoming more and more important to connect productivity and efficiency.

More than ever before we have to think ahead and to consider new perspectives in order to increase competitiviness. In view of rising energy prices and diminishing resources our suppliers and our customers are increasingly facing the same kind of questions : how can productivity as well as energy and resource efficiency be improved and the environment be spared at the same time. In all these challenges we work in close cooperation with our suppliers and our customers and deliver the right answers with our products, solutions and services.

Turbulent times call for strategic vision. The international "credit –crunch" has hit all our markets. Plans have been rel-laid. Staffs have been re-deployed. Some ideas have been shelved indefinitely. Others have come to the fore with surprising and unexpected rapidity. Wholesalers are a small group, but we are an integral part of this process . How would the system function if the industry did not have the opportunity to produce and place such large volumes of stock at the market's disposal? Experienced sales teams in the wholesale branch are well trained to deal with large industry and installation companies of all sizes, not to mention the general public when they visit the wholesalers' showrooms with the installer. This is a finely balanced system.

To get the most out of the market, we need to first work together to understand what it looks like today, and what it will look like tomorrow.

Frans Geurts LIM
FEST presidency

ECOLABEL AND GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FOR "SANITARY TAPWARE" GPP

EU Eco-label criteria for "Sanitary Tapware" have been developed by the European Commission and were published in May 2013 (OJEU L 145). Products eligible under this Eco-label category include household taps, showerheads and showers which are mainly used to obtain water for personal hygiene, cleaning, cooking and drinking, including when they are marketed for non-domestic use.

The European Eco-label is an official voluntary label used on some products and services which comply with very high environmental and performance standards (high energy efficiency, lower use of hazardous substances, extended product and repair guarantees…). More information can be found on the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/eu-ecolabel-for-businesses.html.

GPP Criteria for Sanitary Tapware covering taps, showerheads and showers have also been published. This voluntary instrument is complementary to the Ecolabel and is specifically addressed to Public Procurement authorities. More information can be found on the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm.

CEIR and its members directly contributed to the elaboration of these Eco-label and GPP criteria in order to guarantee that they can effectively be technically and economically applicable to sanitary ware products. However these criteria remain stringent and only very few products on the market could possibly be eligible.

ECODESIGN STUDY ON TAPS AND SHOWERS

An Ecodesign study on taps and showers is currently being conducted by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) on behalf of the Directorate General for the Environment of the European Commission: http://susproc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/taps_and_showers/index.html. It will run until 2014 and an Ecodesign measure, if deemed necessary, could still be adopted in the course of 2014.

CEIR is the first industry interlocutor of the JRC and the European Commission in this process. Its main objective is to ensure that the assessment of taps and showers is accurate and that the Ecodesign measure, if developed and adopted, is proportionate and applicable, while guaranteeing the necessary environmental performance of these products. Taps and showers manufacturers have developed many product types and devices which allow substantial energy and water savings. The challenge today is to ensure that, whatever Ecodesign or labelling measure is to be adopted, it is justified from an environmental point of view and properly applied throughout Europe, without hampering innovation and comfort. Ecodesign requirements are set to apply to energy-related products (ErPs) – products that use or influence the use of energy (electric motors, TVs, washing machines, transformers…).

The Ecodesign study is the first phase for determining the Ecodesign criteria to be applied to a specific ErP. It analyses the production, distribution, use and end-of-life management of that ErP, and its impacts on the environment, energy or other materials/resources consumption, waste generation and release of hazardous substances. In a second phase, and based on this study, the European Commission and the Member States authorities will develop and adopt an Ecodesign measure which will aim at setting minimum efficiency requirements

for reducing the environmental impact of the ErP under consideration. An energy label can also be adopted if it is deemed useful to inform the end consumer. This measure can take the form of harmonised legislation applicable throughout the 28 EU Member States, or a voluntary agreement subject to very stringent criteria such as wide EU market coverage, monitoring and reporting... Currently there are 7 Energy Label regulations and 21 Ecodesign measures including 19 regulations and 2 voluntary agreements.

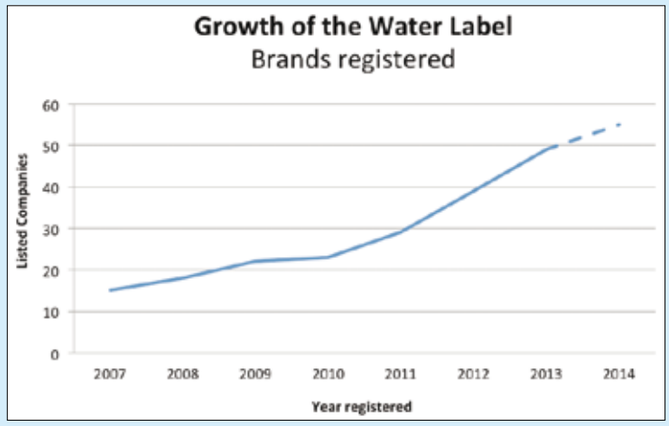
THE EUROPEAN WATER LABEL IN A YEAR OF RAPID PROGRESS AND GROWTH

2013 has seen rapid progress, development and growth of the European Water Label. Following its adoption in Europe in 2012 the product database has expanded, more manufacturers have joined the scheme and partnerships with major builders merchants and retailers have been forged.

The scheme now has 49 registered brands in its database, with over 3500 products and a further 4000 product registrations currently going through the system. Of all the products registered, 19% are faucets and 30% are shower fittings, electric showers and shower handsets (the scheme also comprises 30% WCs and 16% bath tubs in the UK). Products are registered in 32 countries and by the end of this year another major increase in registrations is expected.

During 2013 the Water Label website at www.europeanwaterlabel.eu was thoroughly overhauled and upgraded, making it more user-friendly. The innovative Product Map adds an interesting feature to the site as users can see products listed in their own country.

The British government fully supports the scheme and in July a major conference organised by WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme, which is funded by DEFRA, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) heard that an agreement had been reached with bathroom retailers, merchants and manufacturers to join forces to further support and promote the label. Supporters include Saint Gobain, Wolseley, Kingfisher, Independent Merchant Association, Home Retail Group and Travis Perkins. This represents



a significant step forward for the industry which has been seeking for some time the best way to provide consumers with clear water efficiency information.

Throughout the year the Water Label has been seen at major exhibitions in Europe. At ISH Frankfurt, the BMA and CEIR jointly promoted the label with a busy display showing to the 123,600 visitors. The Water Label was also presented at the CEIR Annual Congress in Ghent. At each exhibition the specially produced 'Water is Life' magazine, which features endorsements by leading figures in the water industry, was greedily taken up as visitors wanted to know more.

The Water Label has come a long way since its inception in the UK but the last twelve months have seen a rapidly growing awareness of the scheme and its benefits. The Label is now poised to grow faster and further and we look forward to 2014. The Water Label also won two major awards for its innovative approach to the labelling of water-consuming products. The first was in the Business Innovation Category at the UK's Sentinel Awards (www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2l5Dtru14g), and the second, from the industry magazine kbbReview (www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2l5Dtru14g), a more personal award given to Yvonne Orgill, chief executive of the Bathroom Manufacturers Association (UK), for her work in bringing the Water Label from a simple idea to a European scheme in the EU28. "The Water Label is here to stay as the preferred scheme throughout Europe" Orgill said.Further information about the Water Label: http://www.europeanwaterlabel.eu.

4MS INITIATIVE – UPDATE ON HYGIENIC COPPER ALLOYS LIST FOR DRINKING WATER APPLICATIONS

The four Member States participating to 4MS Initiative (Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) in January 2011 have agreed on cooperation in the harmonization of tests for the hygienic suitability of products in contact with drinking water.

Particularly, the 4MS are working together in order to adopt common practices for the acceptance of the constituents used in materials in contact with drinking water and for the testing of materials.

Among the 4MS, Germany chaired the group responsible for the methodology for the assessment of metallic materials and alloys and,

as a first country, Germany released in September 2013 a draft Basis of assessment containing a final whitelist of metallic materials for which has been demonstrated the suitability for use in contact with drinking water.

Analysing the structure of this whitelist, the approved metallic materials are classified into three following groups (reflecting products that can be produced with): 1) Pipes, 2) Pipe mountings, pipe couplings, appliances such as pumps, and 3) Components with parts in water that do not overall exceed 10% of the entire component surface in pipe mountings, pipe couplings and appliances such as pumps.

The use of metallic materials may be also limited to specific types of drinking water while materials for the product groups 1) and 2) must have demonstrated suitability for use in drinking water systems and they can be used with all types of drinking water.

The "Whitelist" includes the following metallic materials:

- stainless steels, which can be used in passive state for all product groups;
- copper, which can be used in passive state for all product groups with some restrictions related to the type of drinking water;
- internal tin-plated copper;
- hot dip galvanised iron materials, which can be used only for cold water installations;
- Copper alloys: the precise chemical composition of all copper alloys approved for drinking water applications is described in the Whitelist.

CHANGE IS ON THE WAY AS U.S. PLUMBING PRODUCTS MOVE TO LEAD-FREE

Barbara C. Higgens
CEO/Executive Director
Plumbing Manufacturers International

The Federal Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act, which passed in 2011, will go into full effect on January 4, 2014. It may come as a surprise that the plumbing industry, through Plumbing Manufacturers International. (PMI), was a primary proponent of getting this law passed, in the spirit of harmonizing regulations across the U.S. The Federal lead legislation is the result of collaboration with industry. Policymakers and others used PMI and its members as a resource and subject matter expert. PMI worked in a bipartisan fashion to secure support and passage of the legislation with a broad coalition of industry organizations, as well as coordinating closely with the offices of U.S. Sens. Barbara Boxer and James Inhofe and the staffs of U.S. Reps. Tom Petri, Henry Waxman and Anna Eschoo. Given this success, PMI will work to ensure that such collaboration with policymakers will continue to help guide and inform legislation and to provide adequate time for compliance and avoid unintended consequences.

However, questions remain. As the deadline approaches, PMI continues to work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clarify enforcement guidelines in order to address a number of unanswered questions. Furthermore, PMI has worked diligently to educate distributers, installers, suppliers, consumers and manufacturers about the new law

INITIATING LEGISLATION

The story begins in 2009 in California with the introduction of AB 1953. Although PMI and others in the industry believed that the performance-based NSF/ANSI Standard 61 was an excellent and more-than-sufficient measurement tool to monitor lead levels by evaluating the quality of water flowing from the tap, PMI ultimately worked to strengthen California's prescriptive law by helping to write language and advocating enhanced enforcement. AB 1953 set a prescriptive 0.25% lead content (wetted surface) product requirement.

Soon other states began looking at lead regulations, too, some considering different allowable levels from the California standard. PMI successfully advocated that those states (Louisiana, Vermont and Massachusetts) harmonize their regulations with California's. Recognizing the need to head off a potential patchwork of lead content requirements, PMI proactively worked to set a federal standard. With proposed lead laws emerging in several states, manufacturers advocated one uniform standard instead of 50.

The Federal Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act passed the Senate by unanimous consent on December 16, 2010, during a lame duck session. The House of Representatives then passed the bill without amendment by a vote of 226 to 109 on December 17, 2010. President Obama signed the bill into law on January 4, 2011, to be effective three years from that date, on January 4, 2014.

2014 – EMPHASIS ON THE NEXT GENERATION

Bill Sandler
President
Valve Manufacturers Association of America

We experienced continued growth since 2010 and all indications lead us to believe that it will continue into 2014.

Regardless of what direction the industry takes, VMA continues to reach out to the next generation of valve industry professionals. It is a known fact that a great deal of industry expertise will be leaving the industry over the next few years. It is also common knowledge that a gap exists between the knowledgeable and the novices.

As a first step towards narrowing this gap the VMA Board approved an initiative on education and training in 2009 which has continued and expanded since then. We were able to publish two compilations of articles from this magazine, as well as provide a highly successful seminar where attendance exceeded all expectations. Our Basics-in-a-Box program has become one of our shining stars. New products are planned including on-line education introduced this year as well

as continued seminars for the new professionals in our industry. Plans are also in the works to expand these seminars based on comments from past attendees. We were approached by two groups to bring our basics seminar to their meetings this past year.

VMA 2012-13 Chairman, Mark Cordell of Cameron Valves and Measurement suggested a new initiative for this year, a "young professionals" committee. VMA has taken the reins and put together a group of five industry up and coming professionals to share their thoughts on the direction of the VMA over the next decade. In 2013 VMA celebrated its 75th Anniversary and although we celebrated the past we also were looking at the future of our association and our industry.

CEIR'S BOARD MEMBERS VISIT TO FRATELLI PETTINAROLI S.P.A. AND CEIR/AVR JOINT MARKETING MEETING IN MILAN

Knowing the past to look towards the future

On October 10th CEIR's board members visited Fratelli Pettinaroli S.p.A., on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and to prepare for the CEIR/AVR Marketing Meeting that was held in Milan on October 11th.

Fratelli Pettinaroli S.p.A., an historic company based in San Maurizio d'Opaglio, Italy, is a leader in the manufacturing of valves and solutions for heating and conditioning. The production is all made in Italy, but the company exports more than 90% of its turnover, also thanks to its own distribution companies, located in the US, in Denmark, France and in Switzerland.

After finalizing the preparations for the Marketing Meeting that was held the next day and discussing the latest developments and forecasts of the macroeconomic situation and of the taps and valves market, the CEIR board members enjoyed a factory tour and a visit to the new Pettinaroli Museum.

Machinery, tools, equipment and documents, dating back to the period between the 40s and the 70s, are all showcased in the futuristic scenery created by the interior design, which has water as its central theme. Knowing the past to look towards the future is the message conveyed to the visitors.

On October 11th the CEIR Marketing & Communication Meeting was held in Milan by AVR/ANIMA headquarters.
After discussing the macroeconomic trends of the European valve and fitting industry, illustrated with the presentation prepared by Professor Marco Fortis, Vice President of the Edison Foundation, Ugo Pettinaroli, Vice President of CEIR and Chairman of CEIR's Marketing Committee, introduced the meeting by focusing on the reasons why a company should join CEIR and be more active with a direct participation.

The promotion of the CEIR Water Label in Europe was then explained in detail by the President Klaus Schneider, as well as the ongoing marketing and information tools and initiatives to showcase CEIR's activities: the Gazette and the website.

The full board was in attendance and contributed to the brainstorming: besides the above-mentioned members, there were Vice President Pascal Vinzio and Maurizio Brancaleoni, Past President of CEIR and current President of AVR, together with all the secretaries.

After an interesting, inspiring and productive meeting, it was agreed to reconvene on the occasion of the MCE (Milano Expocomfort) Show, which will be held in Milan in March 2014.

CEIR POSITION ON MACHINERY DIRECTIVE

Since 2009 and until now, the situation is clear according to CEIR members industrial valves, whether they are actuated or not, are not considered as machines in the sense of Directive 2006/42/EC. Since this position was stated in 2009, suppliers and customers globally agreed on the rationale of such a position, at European level.

However, some questions (or pressures ?) have lead our German colleagues to reconsider their position and eventually consider actuated valves as machines, according to Machinery Directive.

CEIR does not understand reasons nor expected benefits from such a change of position and therefore has decided to repeat its position: Industrial valves, whether they are actuated or not, are not to be considered Machines, nor Partly Completed Machines in the sense of the Directive.

Indeed, except some very specific exceptions, industrial valves do not have a specific application and therefore do not fit the definition of a machine in the Directive. The reasoning is the same for valve actuators.

This does not mean that industrial valves are not safe products : in the framework of the applicable Directives (including Pressure Equipment Directive), valves need to comply to very stringent standards and/or specifications to be sold on the European Market.

The updated CEIR Position Paper on Machinery Directive can be found in www.ceir.eu

CEIR MEMBERS BEAR NO OBLIGATION UNDER THE NEW ROHS DIRECTIVE AS FROM 2 JANUARY 2013

RoHS II Directive (2011/65/EU) is applicable from 2 January 2013. This new version of the Directive has introduced significant changes, including the scope, which will gradually be open to new equipment types which use electronics up to 22 July 2019.

Equipment manufactured by CEIR members, as they were not included in the scope of RoHS I Directive, shall not be CE-marked under RoHS Directive (other Directives may apply and require CE marking in their provisions) as from 2 January 2013. CEIR issued a new Position Paper on this point (www.ceir.eu/position-papers), and will publish a more detailed position concerning the new scope and applicability dates of the Directive in due time.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

CEIR has launched an open group on LinkedIN dedicated to industrial valves. It aims at creating a network of exchange for professionals to be able to advertise what the CEIR Building and Industrial Valves Technical Committee does and to obtain insights from the industry on topics of interest that the Committee could work on. CEIR wants to respond to the needs of industrial valves manufacturers.

http://www.linkedin.com/groups/CEIR-Industrial-Valves-Network-Exchange-5071011?home=&gid=5071011&trk=anet_ug_hm

CEIR is also on Twitter, do not hesitate to follow us.
https://twitter.com/CEIR_Valves

CEIR PRESIDENT ON THE ORGALIME WEBSITE

Watch the testimonial of the CEIR President on the benefits of being an associate member of Orgalime

http://www.orgalime.org/news/orgalime-testimonial-klaus-schneider-european-association-taps-and-valves-industry-ceir

VALVE INDUSTRY FORUM: THE RESULTS

From 5 to 7 November, 2013 the 1st International Valve Industry Forum & Expo - 2013 was held at the SOKOLNIKI Exhibition and Convention Center in Moscow.

The Forum was organized by Scientific & Industrial Valve Manufacturing Association and Industrial Forum, JSC. It was patronized by: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, supported by ASTM International (American Society for Testing and Materials), European Association for the Taps and Valves Industry (CEIR), Polish Industrial Valves Association (SPAP), Ukrainian Association for Valves Industry (APAU) and Turkish Pump and Valves Manufacturers Association (POMSAD). The Forum was sponsored by ENERGOMASHCOMPLECT.

The distinctive feature of the Forum was an extended BUSINESS PROGRAM specially emphasized by the initiators. Such events had never been held in the industry before.

The first day of the Forum brought a Plenary Conference and then the following events were held in three separate conference rooms:

- "Modern design solution in control valves" seminar;
- "Practice of using modern sealing materials in valve manufacturing and maintenance" workshop;
- "Modern means of technical valve diagnostics" workshop.

Apart from the listed events the following award ceremonies were held: "Honorary Valve Manufacturer", awarded yearly by decision of the Presidium of Scientific & Industrial Valve Manufacturing Association; and "Valve Manufacturer of the Year" award according to "Armtorg.ru" valve Internet portal.

This year "Honorary valve Manufacturer" award went to the CEO of ARMALIT-1, JSC Alexander Viktorovich Kuznetsov and Romuald Romualdovich Yonaitis, Doctor of Engineering Science, Professor and Head of NIKIET Laboratory, JSC.

The "Valve Manufacturer of the Year" prize was delivered to Denis Igorevich Rysenko, CEO of ALSO, LLC, for creation and development from scratch of an entire ball valve manufacturing plant; and Dmitriy Fedorov, leading designer of ENERGOMASH-CHEKHOV-CHZEM, CJSC, for the development and implementation of new valve designs in thermal and nuclear power plants.

Upon completion of the first day events there was a Director Club's session during which the management of participating manufacturers exchanged their impressions about the first day of the Valve Industry Forum & Expo and discussed burning problems and issues of concern in the industry development.

During the second day of the Valve Industry Forum the most important and lengthy events were held:

- The InnoValve-2013 Conference;
- The "Implementation of API and ASTM standards in the activities of Russian Companies" seminar;
- Round table "Efficient engineering solutions in projects of Fuel and Energy Complex. Problems of valve and equipment implementation".

At noon, a presentation of Saint-Gobain Rus, LLC was held in the central room of the pavilion, titled "Polymer spring-energized seals for Oil and Gas valves".

The attention of experts was drawn to the round table called "Innovations in surface engineering. Practical implementation of nanotechnology in valve manufacturing".

It was devoted to the discussion of a broad range of technologies connected to the improvement of surface qualities: chemical and heat treatment, powder coating technologies and innovative coating methods for basic materials.

The application of high-strength, corrosion resistant nitric steels as a modern alternative to carbon steels was also discussed. Some ball valve designs based on ceramic-metallic compositions were also demonstrated. The round table concluded with the modern state of material engineering discussion that resulted in the idea of creating a permanent committee of surface engineering under the guidance of Scientific & Industrial Valve Manufacturing Association (NPAA).

The closing day of the Forum was the shortest one but no less intense. In the morning, final events of the Business Program were held in three separate conference rooms. They stirred a great interest of experts. The events included:

- The seminar "Welding and coating equipment and materials"
- The workshop "EONCOM Unified Industry Catalogue as an Instrument of Fuel and Energy Complex Project Design andProcurement"
- The seminar "Valve operation. Input control, diagnostics and maintenance issues".