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CAPITILIZING ON EXPERIENCE IN ADVANCING THE AUTOCLAVE INDUSTRY THROUGH DIVERSIFICATION

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ABSTRACT

The boundaries of pressure leach have been continually pushed through decades of technological development and application-specific knowledge and experience of ore bodies and operations. Recent times in a pandemically-impacted environment has also imposed domestic and international travel restrictions, requiring not only high integrity, high performance equipment supplies, but also more efficient means of remote technical support on this equipment.

MOGAS is known for its technology-focused vision in the Autoclave industry and has added significantly to its portfolio of application-based proven valve solutions. Acquiring similarly aligned companies (such as Brenco and Watson Valve) has facilitated a platform for further surface technology development, in addition to diversifying our valve supply portfolio. This also brings about another mutual benefit for both the end-user and MOGAS in that application-specific knowledge and experience is expanded upon due to access to a number of sites globally.

This article elaborates on two cases where significant value was realized by end users by tapping into MOGAS' diversified portfolio of solutions. Cladded overlays for titanium substrates was incepted in 2014, with the first commercial trial actually performed on agitator blades in 2016. The hard facing characteristics have been optimized considerably since then, and also rolled out on other equipment like severe service ball valves, slurry discharge strainers etc. Additional installations and commercialization have been integral in proving integrity of the technology – ultimately adding significant value to the end user by enhancing the service life of rotable spares, reducing maintenance costs and contributing to enhanced safety and longevity during operating campaigns.

Similarly, technology has been developed that monitors valve health and condition, providing early notification of a valve leak path even before any visual, audible or process system is able to pick up the condition. This technology has undergone rigorous evaluation, development and trialing in a controlled workshop environment first to prove the concept, establish sensitivity and identify installation, maintenance & optimization requirements before successful installation on a commercial site.

A history of proven application-specific technology in the Autoclave industry has laid the foundation for rapidly diversifying scope and also applying these solutions in other applications. This approach is of benefit to both expanding the Autoclave industry boundaries as well as offering end users more options to consider driving specific value proposition(s) for their operations, which could include improved safety, cost of ownership, increased production, decreasing downtime etc.

Keywords: Cost of Ownership, Technology, Value Added, Increased Revenue, Improved Safety, Monitoring, Decreasing Downtime