



GEM NEWS

Number 5
Winter 2001

featuring the revolutionary venturi steam trap from Gardner Energy Management

GEM accommodates continued success

A popular product, ever-increasing order books, extra staff to cope, more room for stock... these are some of the reasons why GEM has moved its HQ. Staff are now happily installed in a seventeenth-century building in Tailor's Court, Bristol. Then: bespoke suits; now: bespoke steam traps that suit. No change there, then. New contact numbers appear overleaf.

Tax break in the trap

Now for some really big news. GEM steam traps are now on the UK Government's approved list for enhanced capital allowance. This means you can offset the whole cost of GEM traps and their fitting costs against corporation tax in the year you buy them. Up till now, you had to claim a small percentage of the cost each year for many years. Go to www.eca.gov.uk for details, or check with your GEM engineer.

Sweet-smelling steam at aromatic Acordis

At the Acordis site on the edge of Leek in Staffordshire they make, amongst other things, aroma chemicals for the fragrance industry. A year ago the reboilers of two distillation columns on site — one batch and the other continuous — were fitted with GEM venturi steam traps. "We're very pleased with them," comments Acordis senior chemical engineer Paul Denny. "Installation was simple and there's nothing much to go wrong with them."

Why did Acordis switch to GEM traps for this application? "It's maintenance really," explains Denny. "We had to keep renewing parts on the mechanical traps which were there before," he says, "and downtime means lost production, which we certainly want to avoid."

Now Acordis is considering further replacement of mechanical traps with GEM traps. "Energy use and cost-saving are moving up the agenda," says Denny, "and when they get high enough we shall take action."

Maintenance sorted

Steam trap problems had been niggling adhesives manufacturer Vantico (formerly Ciba) at its Duxford site, just south of Cambridge, for many years. What was getting people down was the continual planning for maintenance of mechanical steam traps. And maintenance may not be enough, as Vantico's projects manager is well aware: if a mechanical trap jams open and live steam gets through to the con-



The GEM team outside their new offices (l to r): Terry Redgers, Rachel Madley, Helen White, Dirk van den Herik (Netherlands and Belgium), Scott Allen, Ken McFeeters (Ireland), Berry van Nunen (Netherlands and Germany), Rob Williams. Tim Gardner took the shot while Claire Perry (below) steadied the camera

densate system, the back pressure could cause real problems.

Then Vantico noticed that low-maintenance GEM venturi steam traps are guaranteed for ten years. To the projects manager that sounded like ten years he didn't have to worry about. So he arranged for a survey and then had a whole resin production building fitted. GEM traps are used on all drip legs on the steam lines, on air heating units and on jacketed reactor vessels. The company is pleased with their performance and confident it is doing the right thing: "Largely because they are just 'install and walk away'", comments the projects manager. In fact, he has ordered some more.



Claire Perry — GEM administrator at the new Bristol offices

Fast payback for Irish textile company

Textile manufacturers Penn Nyla in Northern Ireland (previously a Courtaulds company) changed six steam traps on drain legs of its 100 psi steam lines and found the change paid for itself in six to eight weeks. "We are," says engineering manager David Brown, "surprised and delighted."

What made the company change traps in the first place? "Well," explains Brown, "we knew we were losing a lot of steam from the system in the basement, even when no dyeing and finishing machinery was running. And the steam traps were hard to get at, because of the heat and their basement position. GEM venturi steam traps seemed ideal for solving the problem." And so it proved.

With no moving parts, maintenance of GEM traps is reduced to occasional cleaning of strainers. But Brown was surprised when, after running tests and then replacing six bimetallic traps with 15mm GEM traps, he made a £250-a-week energy saving,

For a
Happy
Christmas



turn over

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GEM NEWS *continued ...*

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Yule benefit

GEM wishes all its present and future customers Season's Greetings and thanks you for your support

TIM'S TOPICAL TIP

This one comes from Scott Allen. Scott bought GEM traps when he worked for a manufacturer in Scotland. He liked them so much that he joined the company. Now he is GEM's engineer in Scotland and the north of England, replacing lovely Nicole Silander. Ask him about it on tel: 07711-396782 or e-mail: scott@allenhpe.co.uk

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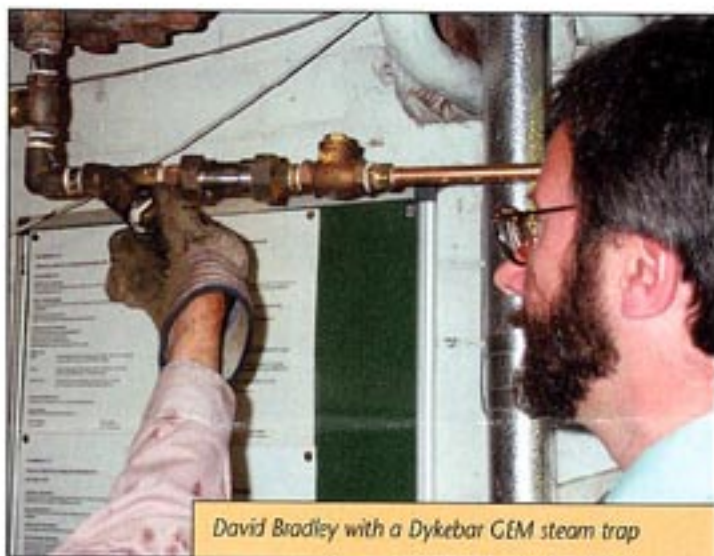
▶ giving a 6 to 8 week payback. "What was more," he continues, "we found that the six traps we took out were in good working order. Maintenance savings aside, the GEM traps seem simply to be more efficient."

Dykebar Hospital plays a long game

"They're always breaking down, need repairing and then we have to keep checking they're OK." That's the complaint that David Bratley, estate officer at Dykebar Hospital, Paisley, hears all the time about mechanical steam traps. So for the last 18 months he has been replacing faulty traps — rather than trying to mend them — with GEM venturi steam traps.

Bratley heard about GEM two years ago at a local energy efficiency meeting. He was struck at once by the low maintenance regime. And he devised a plan, using existing budgets, to replace the hospital's jam-prone mechanical steam traps one by one as they failed. Dykebar has 50 traps on calorifiers, boilers and drip legs of the steam system; in eighteen months 12 have been switched to GEM. "We just check the line strainers once a month, just as we do for other equipment" says Bratley, "and that's a huge relief."

At Dykebar the savings will be checked in due course. For the time being, it's the maintenance regime that appeals to Bratley. "We could benefit more by changing all 50 traps, but replacement is expensive," he comments. "So we will improve the situation gradually."



David Bradley with a Dykebar GEM steam trap

Bull in a steam shop

Rob Williams, GEM's man in the Midlands, wrote a short piece in *The Engineer* weekly magazine earlier this year on taking energy saving by the horns. Go to www.e4engineering.com and search for "energy bull". He passes on some useful advice about how to survey your company's energy needs in the best and most efficient manner.

Limerick competition

The winner of GEM's latest limerick competition is James Millar of Todmorden. A bottle of bubbly is on the way for this offering:

*When Climate Change legislation
Was first proposed to the nation
We fitted GEM traps
Avoided mishaps
And greatly reduced our taxation.*

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