

It's Time To Change The Way People Think About The Hydraulics Industry

Far too many people think of hydraulics as an archaic, dirty, low-tech approach that urgently needs to be replaced with something more modern, clean and technologically sophisticated. They're dead wrong, of course. But the fact that they don't know better is not their fault; it's ours. And it's time that we, as an industry, start doing something about it.

Take a look at why we think that hydraulics is an integral part of a sustainable future.

- Emerging hybrid solutions like Eaton's parallel hybrid hydraulic HLA® system, as well as hybrids from others, will play an increasing role in making commercial vehicles – and eventually automobiles – significantly more fuel efficient and less polluting. And series hydraulic drive-trains promise even greater benefits.
- Cost-effective utilization of renewable energy resources like wind, hydropower and ocean wave power will depend on ever more sophisticated hydraulic systems to capture, transmit and control the energy these systems generate.
- New materials, manufacturing and sealing technologies, and fluids will make leaks a non-issue and reduce the industry's contribution to the world's waste disposal stream to a trickle while still providing the traditional benefit of power density that hydraulics offers.
- And finally, the marriage of hydraulics and electronics – the nascent electrohydraulic revolution (or is it really an evolution?) – will deliver ever "smarter" products that combine the intelligence of electronics with the power density of hydraulics to enable all of these applications and many more that have not even been thought of yet.

We in the hydraulics industry need to do at least two things to change the misaligned reputation of our industry.

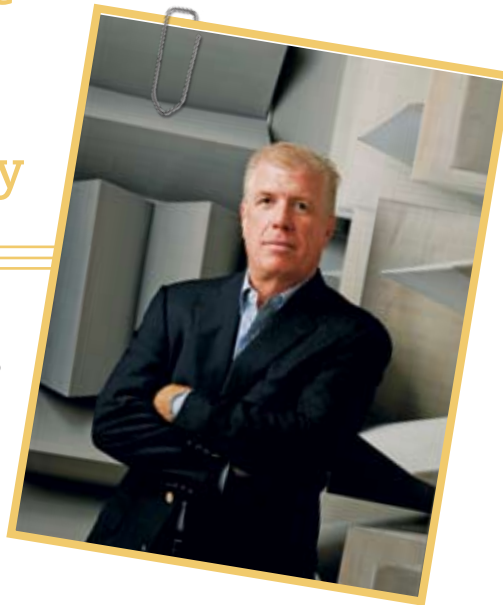
First, we need to re-double our efforts to create international standards to make sure all of the new products and applications we develop on the way to a sustainable future are globally applicable and inter-operable. That's the only way to make sure hydraulic solutions have the greatest possible impact on the efficiency of all the technologies they will touch. We've seen this effect in other industries such as the computer and electronics industries, and the hydraulics industry is not immune to the same forces.

We have a responsibility, as well as a vital self-interest, to support industry associations like the International Fluid Power Society, National Fluid Power Association, PLCopen, CANopen and others in their efforts to promote standardization, training and certification programs.

Second, the industry must attract and retain the very best engineering talent available. We have to convince the best and brightest that hydraulics represents a career path that offers both intellectual challenge and a real opportunity to contribute to a better future for everyone. We need to work with universities and community colleges to promote hydraulics-oriented programs at the graduate, undergraduate and vocational level.

It really doesn't matter whether you are a supplier of hydraulic technology or a user of hydraulic technology -- the fact remains that you will depend on that technology tomorrow and the next day, and every day beyond that. The only way to make sure the solutions we all rely on will be available when we need them is to start working together to change the industry's image.

Yesterday would not have been too soon to start.



Publisher

Innovative Designs & Publishing, Inc. 3245 Freemansburg Avenue,
Palmer, PA 18045-7118
Tel: 800-730-5904 or 610-923-0380
Fax: 610-923-0390 | Email: AskUs@ifps.org
www.FluidPowerJournal.com

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER **Marc Mitchell**
ART DIRECTOR | WEB MASTER **Adrienne Brandt**
EDITOR **Kristine Coblitz**
VP OPERATIONS **Lisa Prass**
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES **Bob McKinney**
ACCOUNTING **Donna Bachman, Debbie Clune**
CIRCULATION MANAGER **Andrea Karges**
CREATIVE CONSULTANT **Christopher Hercik**
GRAPHIC DESIGN INTERN **Brian Nowicki**

International Fluid Power Society

1930 East Marlton Pike, Suite A-2, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-2141
Tel: 800-308-6005 or 856-424-8998
Fax: 856-424-9248 | Email: AskUs@ifps.org
www.ifps.org

2008 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Rehfus, CFPE, CFPS | Crafting Solutions, Inc.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Robert E. Kraft, CFPE, CFPS | Kraft Fluid Systems, Inc. (*retired)

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Yund, CFPS, CFPIHT, CFPC, AFPI | Hennepin Technical College

VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP & CHAPTER SUPPORT

Leo Henry, CFPMHM, CFPC, AFPI | Attec Industries, Inc.

VICE PRESIDENT CERTIFICATION

Rickey L. Rodeffer, CFPC, CFPM, CFPS, CFPIHM, AFPI |

The Boeing Company

VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION

Jon Jensen, CFPPS, AFPI | SMC Corporation of America

VICE PRESIDENT MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Darryl Powell, CFPIHM, CFPM, CFPS, AFPI | Applied Industrial Technologies

TREASURER

John Groot, CFPPS | The Knotts Company, Inc. (*retired)

Directors-at-Large

Mike Lang, CFPHS, Parker Hannifin Corporation

James F. Simpson, CFPS, CFPM, AFPI, SMC Corporation of America

George L. Bufink, CFPMHM, CFPC, AFPI, American Electric Power

Gregory K. George, CFPS, CFPC, AFPI, Walt Disney World

Neil Skoog, CFPIHT, CFPMHM, CFPS, AFPI, ERHCO, LLC

Robert E. Evans, CFPS, Trackmobile, Inc.

Wayne C. Farley, CFPMHM, CFPMHT, CFPC, AFPI, American Electric Power

Patrick J. Maluso, CFPMHM, CFPS, AFPI, Western Hydrostatics, Inc.

Scott M. Nagro, CPFS, HydraForce Inc.

Mark Perry, CFPHS | Fitzsimmons Hydraulics

Dennis Crouch, CFPC, CFPHS, CFPIHT, AFPI | General Motors (*retired)

Mike Anderson, CFPS | Motion Industries

Honorary Directors

Robert L. Firth, Consultant

Raymond F. Hanley, CFPE, Consultant

IFPS Staff

Donna Pollander, Executive Director

Sue Tesauero, Certification Manager

Sue Dyson, Membership Coordinator

Adele Kayser, Public Relations Manager

Danielle Goulet, Certification Coordinator

Diane McMahon, Certification Coordinator

Beth Borodziuk, Administrative Assistant

Nick Pollander, Certification Assistant

Megan Whithouse, Bookkeeper

Paul Prass, CAE, CFPS, Managing Director

Fluid Power Journal (ISSN# 1073-7898) is the official publication of the International Fluid Power Society published bi-monthly with four supplemental issues, including a Systems Integrator Directory, Off Highway Suppliers Directory, Tech Directory, and Manufacturers Directory, by Innovative Designs & Publishing, Inc., 3245 Freemansburg Avenue, Palmer, PA 18045-7118. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part of any material in this publication is acceptable with credit. Publishers assume no liability for any information published. We reserve the right to accept or reject all advertising material and will not guarantee the return or safety of unsolicited art, photographs or manuscripts. POSTMASTER: Please send Address Corrections to Fluid Power Journal, PO Box 2548, Orlando, FL 32802-9830