



Hudson Fin-Fanner®

Fin-Fan® Air Cooled Exchangers and Tuf-Lite® /Cofimco Axial Flow Fans

www.hudsonproducts.com

Winter 2007

Corporate Announcement

We are pleased to announce that The Sterling Group, L.P. of Houston (www.sterling-group.com) acquired the majority ownership of Hudson Products Corporation on December 6th, 2006. Sterling is a private equity firm with experience in the energy sector, and we certainly look forward to increasing our capabilities under their guidance. Our prospects for capacity growth include investments in our shop equipment, personnel, and further implementation of our successful Lean Manufacturing Program in our Beasley and Pombia, Italy facilities.

Product Development Hudson/Cofimco Fans

We are expanding the Cofimco Ultra Low Noise CX and Hudson Tuf-Lite III Fan Lines. The 10ft and 12ft diameter CX Ultra Low Noise series fans are commercially available through our Cofimco USA sales office and are manufactured by Hudson in our Beasley production facility. We continue to work on expanding these lines and will have a 9ft and 11ft fan available before the end of the first quarter of 2007. As with all fan products, we will stock these in Beasley for quick shipment. Starting in early 2007, we will be expanding our new generation Tuf-Lite III product line. We will be doubling our current 30K Series line capacity as well as installing new 14K series and 16KW series molds to replace the current Tuf-Lite II 14H and 16HW series fans. The addition of this equipment will allow us to provide fans that not only have higher efficiencies, but also are more robust due to the single piece design.

Website Changes

We are doing another revamp of our website and welcome your suggestions on what you would like to see displayed.

Performance Tip

One of the most common performance failures for air-cooled heat exchangers is airside fouling. Airborne contaminants such as tree pollen, seed, insects, dust and sand all filter out of the air when passing through

a finned tube bundle. Frequent cleaning is a must (foams, CO2 blasting) but more plants are focusing on inlet screen technology and maintenance procedures. We used to see a #8 mesh used on inlet perimeter screens, but now the specification of #16 mesh screens is common. This added wire density appears to work well for the majority of contaminants but the added static pressure loss across the screen has to be incorporated into the fan power calculations. Also, access should be provided to maintenance personnel for cleaning the contaminants from the screen media.

Market Report

US and Mid-East Refinery expansions are now well under way followed closely by LNG activity, additional GTL plans, and heavy oil projects. The strain placed on materials and resources has extended project deliveries and caused others to be postponed. In spite of all of this activity, we are still open with only 35 to 40% of our shop committed in back log.

Heat Transfer Research Inc - Activities

An additional communication committee has been established in Italy, which brings the total to 14 countries represented. Membership growth for 2006 continued with 39 new members and 33 new Participating Affiliate's. Revenue surpassed projections and the new Research and Technology Center is on schedule. On line training has been a hit and the next North American meeting will be held in Houston. This meeting will introduce more booth space that proved to be a successful venue in the well-attended Calgary meeting in August of this past year. We plan to park a few 60' bays of an LNG Propane Condenser out front to make sure we get noticed!! Check out the website at www.htri.net for more details.

Life of an Air Cooled Heat Exchanger

We are often asked how long we would expect an air-cooled exchanger to run in an operating environment. This is a good

question and varies significantly. We have had units running for longer than 30 years with regular lube and greasing schedules. First consider the tube bundle. Depending on the process and chosen metallurgy, the lifespan of an exchanger can vary significantly and sometimes intentionally. For example, we have had plants specify Duplex Stainless Steels, or Incoloy alloys for particular services where others specify carbon steel. Some plants find the economics of changing out carbon steel bundles every 2 - 5 years outweighs the investment in higher alloys. Units located next to salt water are susceptible to external corrosion, so the use of wrapped vs. extruded type tubes reduces the life of the exchanger process bundle. On the mechanical side, our own Hudson bearings are designed to allow shaft misalignment to compensate for movement during installation and operation. However, the design of these bearings allows life cycles commonly in the 15 - 20 year range with proper maintenance. Conversion of older bearings to the Hudson Link bearings will increase the life of the unit.



Hudson fans have lasted for 30 years in dry environments. We welcome your input on your experiences with cooler life cycles.

For further information on any of these topics please contact us:

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