



Spirax Sarco breathes new life into research centre steam system

Spirax Sarco has extended its successful water treatment contract with the International Centre for Life, Newcastle, to include the servicing of its automatic TDS blowdown controls and softening equipment. Spirax Sarco engineers regularly visit the site to monitor and adjust the system.

‘Since Spirax Sarco’s involvement, unplanned maintenance work on the steam system has been eliminated’

Included in the water treatment contract is on-site steam system training for new and existing operatives. “Recent training from Spirax Sarco has helped to improve site understanding of steam related issues, such as the auto TDS blowdown controller operation and basic water treatment practices,” states Mr. Jason Allan, Facilities Manager at the International Centre for Life.

Spirax Sarco overhauled the water treatment regime at the International Centre for Life in 2007, halting a corrosive period that had seen the boiler feedtank replaced twice in four years. Other costly repairs to pipework, valves, humidifiers and other steam plant components have also been eradicated. The existing mild steel boiler feedtank, which was suffering severe corrosion, was also replaced with a stainless steel version.

The Centre for Life uses steam for humidification, washing and sterilisation. Spirax Sarco found the problems stemmed from the previous water treatment procedure. By analysing the water quality as it passed through the steam system, Spirax Sarco was able to recommend an improved mix of treatment chemicals and processes that has reduced corrosion in the boiler. A full audit of the steam distribution system, including steam traps, was also undertaken to identify and rectify blocked components.

“Before calling Spirax Sarco in to look at the problems, we had tried various solutions, but nothing had worked,” explains Mr. Allan. “We suffered regular breakdowns, blocked valves, hot water supply interruptions and even water coming through the humidification system.”



Unlike traditional suppliers of water treatment chemicals who focus on the boiler, Spirax Sarco also considers the steam and condensate system.

Since Spirax Sarco's involvement, unplanned maintenance work on the steam system has been eliminated, according to Mr. Allan. "We now have better quality steam, are consistently getting the right temperature hot water, and we are using less water treatment chemicals, saving further costs. We have also moved from manual to automatic boiler blowdown, which is also saving us time and money."

Situated in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne, the International Centre for Life is a science village where scientists, clinicians, educationalists and business people come together to promote advancement of the life sciences. In the last decade, their combined efforts have produced spectacular results and have secured The Centre for Life's reputation as a centre for world class science.

Spirax-Sarco Limited
Cheltenham UK
GL53 8ER
t: +44 (0)1242 521361
f: +44 (0)1242 573342
ukenquiries@SpiraxSarco.com
www.SpiraxSarco.com/uk

spirax
/sarco