

## PRESS INFORMATION

### **SMC offers shorter lead times and flexible solutions thanks to its SY series**

***Johannesburg, South Africa, March 2016***

*SMC, the world's leading provider of pneumatics continues to dazzle with the new SY series of Valve Manifolds which will be manufactured on-site in SMC South Africa's brand new production facilities. With its diverse customer base, SMC covers all automation industries and provides customers in their respective competitive markets with the best possible solutions.*

#### **Meet the sleek SY series from SMC**

According to Ernst Smith, Product Manager at SMC Pneumatics South Africa, the unique, all-purpose valve is available in three sizes, namely the SY3000, SY5000 and SY7000. Thanks to its innovative redesign and smaller size, a reduction of 29% is achieved in installation space offering greater flexibility, increased flow rates and a more economical operation. The two smaller valve sizes or two larger valve sizes can be mixed on one manifold to closely match application requirements. The manifold offers piping options to the top, side or bottom with various port size options, achieving a flow rate of up to 1500 litres per minute via the biggest valve mounted on the manifold.

"The valves in the new SY series offers further air savings as a result of driving bigger cylinders with reduced cycle times without the need to use larger, more expensive solenoid valves. These valves are available in either rubber or unique metal seal versions with the metal seal version being particularly suitable for higher operating frequencies and extended lifetime performance; boasting switching cycles of up to 200 million cycles," Smith explains.

The SY series incorporates SMC's energy-efficient V100 pilot valve and a power saving option that reduces power consumption (per valve coil) down to just 0,1 Watt.

The option to have a single valve mounted on a base is available for such projects and also offers flow rates exceeding 1500 liters per minute. The connection to this plug-in sub base type valve is via the well-known M12 waterproof connector. The valve can be supplied fitted with a residual pressure release valve that enables manual dumping of residual compressed air in the cylinder. This function ensures safety in the production environment by avoiding the need to use any external component or dangerous actions to get rid of trapped air when the supply pressure is cut-off.

"Safety is always considered when we look at products and customer applications." adds Smith.

Overall safety in applications have been improved in several ways via optional configurations:

- The addition of a back pressure check valve built into the valve or one which can be retrofitted later on
- The addition of a manual pressure release valve for every cylinder where required

- A supply shut-off spacer per valve to allow the maintenance team access to the system or part thereof while the manifold is still pressurized
- Spacers with double check valves in working lines to enable intermediate stops or for drop prevention of loads in vertical applications
- Slide locking manual override function with double action and long distance visual indication

Power and control options includes; D-sub connectors, flat ribbon cables, terminal block box, pre-assembled leads, circular connectors and then follows all the options for serial transmission. Applicable protocols include PROFINET, PROFIBUS, DeviceNet, CC-Link, EtherNet/IP, EtherCAT, CANopen, AS-Interface, OMRON CompoBus/S and CompoNet. Digital as well as analogue inputs and outputs can be added to suit application requirements.

Smith elaborates with enthusiasm about the company's local production plans: "SMC answers to the needs of the industry calling for more control and flexibility with its EX600 manifold. The EX600 manifold emanates both control and flexibility, and can be implemented in most applications to realise greater centralized control and important savings in terms of reduced purchasing costs and manpower,"

"SMC prides itself on working closely with our customers and through our technical support structure we are able to provide solutions that improve productivity and reduce overall production costs. Once specified, each manifold will be assembled from local stock and tested according to stringent specifications to ensure that it is ready-to-use when it arrives on-site. Thanks to the intelligent fieldbus specification in terms of communication and diagnostic messages, downtime is significantly reduced to offer greater efficiencies in a very competitive market."

### **SMC to launch in-house production facilities**

To enable shorter delivery times and availability of non-standard stock items, SMC's local production facility in Midrand will be fully operation by July 2016. The state-of-the-art production facilities will initially focus on cylinder production, manifold assemblies and air preparation combination sets. Here cylinders with bore sizes ranging from 6mm diameter up to 300mm diameter with complete flexibility of rod end types will be produced.

Delivery of these items will take place on a three tiered basis:

1. Regular orders within three days
2. Larger orders within two weeks
3. Breakdowns with a same day service

"SMC's local production facilities will also be used to produce standard stock items to bridge stock gaps often caused by bigger, unexpected customer orders. Customers will enjoy the benefit of availability of such items without the long lead times. Further to this, when presented with an old, odd cylinder that has failed after years of use, SMC has the resources in place to assist in getting these customer machines up and running again" adds Smith.

Finally, when identifying a pattern in repeat orders of non-standard cylinders, SMC will proactively adopt this as a 'local standard' and produce these in larger quantities for these customers hereby reducing delivery time.

“Intelligent solutions and a customer-centric approach is at the core of what SMC stands for. We strive to proactively partner with our customers to ensure mutual success.” concludes Smith

**Photos:**

- Ernst Smith – Product Manager, SMC Pneumatics South Africa
- SY Valve Series

*SMC is the world’s leading pneumatics provider and has been voted for three consecutive years as one of the most innovative global companies by leading business magazine, Forbes. The company prides itself on working closely with its customers and through its technical support structure is able to provide solutions that improve productivity and reduce overall production costs. The company opened their first South African office in April 2015 under the leadership of well-known pneumatics expert, Adrian Buddingh.*

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