

UPCOMING FEATURES

DECEMBER | AD CLOSE: NOVEMBER 5 | MATERIAL DUE: NOVEMBER 9

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FOCUS ON E-NEWSLETTER:

This monthly e-newsletter is sent to a targeted database determined by the subject matter of each technical report.

The December e-newsletter will cover Solids Handling and deploy December 10.

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TOPIC: COST ENGINEERING FEATURE REPORTS

Summary: To identify optimal process designs in the chemical process industries (CPI), the close interaction of process engineers and cost engineers from the beginning of a project is key, as the ability to impact cost and functional capabilities is highest in these early stages. The choices the design team takes throughout project development usually include a number of factors. In some situations, the decision is taken based on the lowest initial cost. In other scenarios, there may be important differences between the evaluated alternatives in terms of capital, operations and maintenance and decommissioning costs. In these cases, other techniques are better suited, such as: evaluation matrix, value-improvement practices, cash flow analysis, or life cycle cost analysis (LCCA). This article focuses on LCCA as a tool for selecting alternatives that add the most value to a project, describing a basic methodology for implementing a LCCA, with some examples of application in the CPI.

Related equipment and services: Engineering and construction, process design software, cost estimation software
Relevant industries: All sectors of the CPI perform cost analysis.



TOPIC: BIOPROCESSING FEATURE REPORTS

Summary: Bioprocessing is substantially growing in prominence in the CPI, as companies are increasingly seeking to improve their sustainability footprint through the use of renewable, bio-based feedstocks. Part 1 of this month's two-

part Feature Report on bioprocessing will discuss some overall best practices for tackling the unique economics and decision-making required with bioprocessing operations. Part 2 will cover the different separation technologies used in bioprocesses, and provide guidance on identifying the most appropriate equipment for different bioprocessing separation techniques.

Related equipment and services: All types of process vessels, including tanks, reactors and columns; software tools used for process design, simulation and modeling; project-management tools

Relevant industries: Bio-based feedstocks and bioprocessing techniques are used frequently in many CPI sectors, including specialty and fine chemicals, food and beverage, pharmaceuticals, and increasingly for bio-based plastics and other bio-polymers.

TOPIC: ROBOTICS IN THE CPI

NEWSFRONT

Summary: Robotic equipment has long been a mainstay in discrete manufacturing, but has increasingly been finding uses across a wider set of industries, including the CPI. This article will describe recent developments in the use of robots in the manufacturing of chemicals and fuels, and in the operation of chemical process facilities.

Related equipment and services: Robots, drones, automation equipment, software, security systems

Relevant industries: All sectors of the CPI may employ robotic equipment

Editorial material for consideration should be sent to senior editor Scott Jenkins (sjenkins@chemengonline.com)

TOPIC: HYDROGEN HANDLING

FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Summary: Hydrogen gas is heavily used for the production of chemicals, such as ammonia, and for the production of fuels, such as high-octane, low-sulfur gasoline. In recent years, hydrogen gas has also been explored as a source of zero-carbon energy, such as in fuel cells. This one-page reference will outline the key properties of hydrogen gas in industrial settings, and some of the key considerations for handling hydrogen safely and efficiently in process plants.

Related equipment and services: Industrial gas-handling equipment, gas sensors, gas-solid separation devices, pressure-swing adsorption equipment, explosion-protection systems

Relevant industries: Ammonia, fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, pharmaceuticals, petroleum refining

TOPIC: PRODUCTION OF ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL FROM ACETONE

TECHNOLOGY PROFILE

Summary: Isopropyl alcohol is a three-carbon alcohol used widely as a solvent for coatings and in various industrial processes. It is also used in many household and industrial products, including antiseptics, disinfectants and surfactants

Related equipment and services: All general liquid-processing equipment would be relevant, including distillation apparatus, pumps, valves, tanks and so on

Relevant industries: Coatings, surfactants, household chemicals, adhesives

FOCUS: PUMPS

FOCUS

Summary: Pumps are used in a wide range of applications in the CPI, performing all kinds of tasks, from emptying and filling containers, performing clean-in-place (CIP) tasks, moving heat-transfer fluids, filling and emptying storage tanks, reactors and columns, to supplying cooling water and discharging waste streams. This month's Focus presents some of the newest pumps entering the market.

Related equipment and services: All types of pumps used in the CPI

Relevant industries: All sectors of the CPI use pumps.

Editorial material for consideration should be sent to senior editor Gerald Ondrey (gondrey@chemengonline.com)

TOPIC: INDUSTRIAL FOOTWEAR

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER

Summary: While all workers want to avoid any type of injury while on the job, standing for long periods of time can lead to tired, accident-prone feet. When it comes to industrial footwear, there are many product features that should be considered, especially in chemical working environments, including chemical compatibility and resistance, durability, stability and comfort.

Related equipment and services: Industrial footwear, including boots, insoles, socks and more

Relevant industries: Workers in operations roles in all sectors of the CPI must wear protective footwear.

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