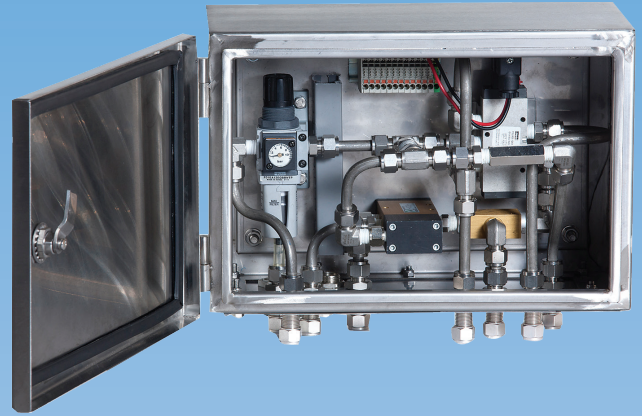


Full range of valve and actuation and control products for mining



Local leading supplier AR Controls supplies a range of valves to the mining industry in Africa. These include high-performance butterfly valves, concentric butterfly valves, triple offset butterfly valves, general and severe service ball valves, non-return valves, linear knife gate valve products and associated actuation and controls.

Established in 1995, AR Controls has been distributing DeZURIK products since 1998. Apart from its extensive product range, what gives AR Controls a leading edge in this highly-competitive market is its combination of technical expertise, aftermarket service and support, and regular site visits.

“We have established close working relationships with many of our customers and suppliers over the years, which continues to be an important focus for us in securing repeat business. The visibility and recognition of our brand that continues to give us such a good name in the industry,” van Niekerk comments.

Rapid growth

It is this combination of stockholding and infrastructure that has seen AR Controls enjoy rapid growth and expansion since it was established. “We are positioned ideally to capitalise on any opportunity, and aim to increase our market share and footprint significantly.”

This includes a strong focus on niche markets in Africa, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. “Our international expansion is made possible due to our dual role as both a manufacturer and a stocking distributor,” van Niekerk explains. It is also due to excellent supply-chain management that AR Controls is able to leverage globally.

Van Niekerk attributes the significant customer loyalty that AR Controls

enjoys due to its ethical business and management practices, which includes a strong corporate social responsibility element and community involvement, together with health and safety and environmental awareness, such as reducing its carbon footprint.

Panels and enclosures

In terms of the latest developments at AR Controls, van Niekerk highlights its new range of IP20 pneumatic panels and IP66 pneumatic enclosures, designed and manufactured for single or multiple valve operation. “These can be custom-made according to individual client requirements. Our engineers will prepare general arrangement drawings and pneumatic diagrams to be submitted to the client prior to manufacture.”

Van Niekerk adds that these panels are essentially ‘plug-and-play’ solutions, and are perfect for valves in hazardous or hard-to-reach installations. In upgrading a manual valve by installing a pneumatic actuator and panel purchased from AR Controls, valves that traditionally take excessive stroking times or present hazardous working conditions can now be stroked easily by the operator.

Although upgraded to an actuated valve, it does not need to communicate with the control room, which means no feedback requirement necessary. The operator is still required to operate the valve by means of the pneumatic panel.

Affordable solutions

“These panels help organise the working environment, as they are neatly tagged and labelled. In addition, corrosion-resistant panel materials are readily available, such as stainless steel. AR Controls offers affordable solutions with competitive lead times,” van Niekerk highlights.

The enclosures available from AR Controls protect the pneumatic components from harsh operating environments, theft or unauthorised entry, thus ensuring a longer service life of the internal components. They are highly configurable, and can be remotely mounted, or mounted directly on the valve.

“We mount electro-pneumatic positioners in our enclosures for applications where remote mounting is required for modulating valves. This requires the additional purchase of a transducer coupling,” van Niekerk adds.

Electrical components are wired neatly to easily accessible terminal strips inside the enclosure for the client’s convenience. These enclosures are also ‘plug-and-play’ solutions that just require the connection of air and power supplies. The enclosures are ingress protected to IP66.

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