

28 flowmeters

■ featured columnist

Dramatic changes ahead for vortex flowmeter market

Dramatic changes are occurring in the vortex flowmeter market as worldwide vortex flowmeter sales are projected to increase at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.4 percent through 2010. In 2005, the vortex flowmeter market totaled \$176 million. In 2010, that number is expected to reach \$240 million.

One of the most dramatic changes in the vortex flowmeter market is the current formulation by the American Petroleum Institute (API) of standards for vortex flowmeters in custody transfer applications. These standards respond to the expressed needs of both manufacturers and end users of vortex flowmeters, and apply to both liquid and gas applications.

If approved, these standards are likely to have a very positive impact on the market.

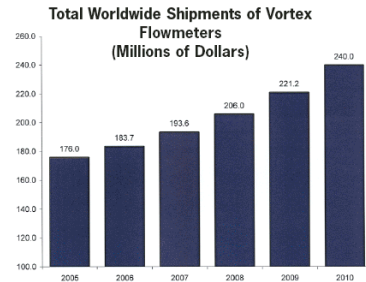
The past five years have seen major product enhancements to vortex flowmeters. Suppliers have responded to vibration issues by implementing software and electronics, including digital signal processing, which reduce the susceptibility of vortex meters to interference from vibration. Some manufacturers have introduced reducer vortex flowmeters, which have a reduced diameter in the center of the pipe. This not only simplifies vortex flowmeter installation, but also improves the ability of vortex flowmeters to accurately measure fluids at low flowrates. The growing availability of multivariable vortex flowmeters is also helping boost sales of vortex flowmeters, with more manufacturers entering the market.

I have not seen a time in the past 12 years when conditions were so favorable for the vortex flowmeter market. The formulation of standards, together with product improvements, are giving companies more and better reasons to buy vortex flowmeters. In addition, end users are becoming more familiar with the technology. This is a time of dramatic change in the vortex flowmeter market."

Dr. Jesse Yoder is President of Flow Research, Inc. (www.flowresearch.com), a company which specializes in providing market data and strategies on flow, pressure and temperature products. Flow Research recently released its latest 400-page study on "The World Market for Vortex Flowmeters, 3rd Edition."



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