

Clearing the Way: Smart Methanol Injection Solves Hydrate Blockages

Application Sheet #65

REAL TIME BENEFIT

25% reduction in
methanol consumption
and 100% decrease in
flowline issues.

SITUATION

- A customer in Western Canada was using a legacy chemical pump to inject methanol into a produced gas transfer line.
- The chemical pump was not accurate and did not deliver the correct amount of chemical. The pump required regular attendance to ensure it did not run-away causing a large variation from the desired flow rate.
- During a busy period, the operators left the pump unattended for several weeks. Due to poor reliability of the legacy pump, injection rates dropped off leaving insufficient chemical to treat the process. As a result, a large hydrate formed in the pipeline, leading to a blockage. The pipeline had to be excavated to repair the issue, at a cost of over one million dollars.

SOLUTION

- Sirius provided the customer with a Comet²™ chemical injection system, InSight™ feedback control and Connect for remote monitoring and control.
- Based on operator feedback while pigging the pipeline the chemical specialist could remotely adjust rates to either mitigate a potential blockage or reduce chemical consumption.

RESULTS

- The Comet²™ pump delivered the recommended daily methanol injection rate with high accuracy, ensuring effective hydrate prevention.
- Immediate feedback from operators pigging the lines, along with the ability to make changes to injection rates remotely, ensured any early signs of hydrate formation were eliminated.
- Methanol consumption dropped by 25% due to the accurate and consistent chemical rates.

- Pipeline hydrate problems were eliminated.
- Runtime on the gas line has improved significantly since installing the Sirius injection system, with no hydrate-related downtime.
- Confidence in the system to run unattended has dramatically increased.



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