



PRESS RELEASE

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Qualiflow Unveils Industry's First Electronic Solution for Monitoring Manual Shut-Off Valves

Montpellier, France July 26, 2002 Qualiflow continues to lead industry innovation in advanced gas control systems with the introduction of its Manual Shut-Off Valve with Valve Position Indicator (VPI), the first manual valve that can be monitored electronically.

The VPI is connected to a PC or PLC, allowing electronic supervisors to determine through a computer whether the manual shut-off valve is open or closed. This can help supervisors to manage plant safety more effectively and with fewer visual inspections of valve positions, improving efficiency and equipment uptime.

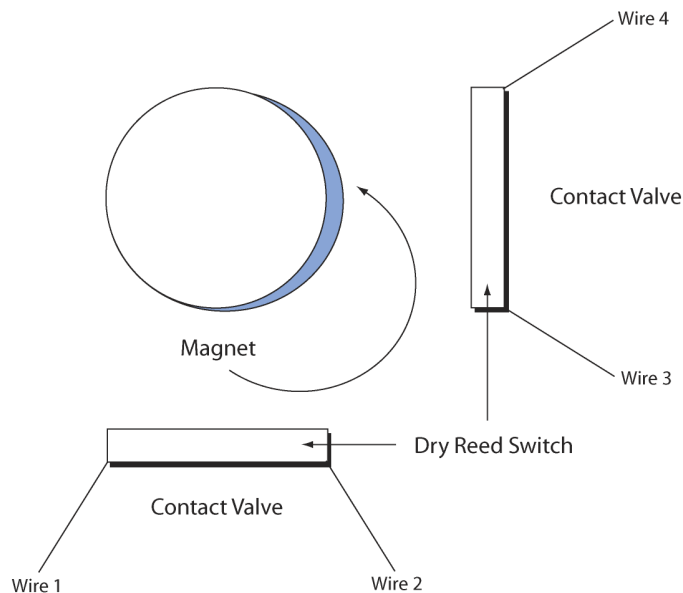
Our goal in creating this kind of manual valve with VPI was to help customers better manage one of the most basic, yet essential, processes in semiconductor equipment manufacturing, said Claude Jacquemin, Qualiflow chairman and CEO. The average facility has several manual valves and, periodically, someone has to check each one to find out whether it's off or on. Not only is this process time-consuming, but the possibility of human error allows for potentially costly mistakes. With our VPI-enabled Manual Shut-Off Valve, supervisors have constant access to real-time information about an ever-changing situation, enabling them to respond quickly if necessary.

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The VPI is designed to detect the position of the manual valve through two dry Reed switches. This dry contact, allows the connection of a controller to control the position of the valve.



The VPI feature is available immediately on Qualiflow bellows and diaphragm valves.

About QUALIFLOW

QUALIFLOW is a world-leading supplier of innovative solutions for ultra-high-purity gas control. Based in Montpellier, France, QUALIFLOW was formed in 1997 as the result of the spin-off of ASM International's component and gas systems line of business.

With sales figures of almost 19.3 M in 2001, QUALIFLOW plans to become the global leader in gas components. The company has approximately 90 employees worldwide and maintains a network of technical centers in Montpellier; Tokyo, Japan; and San Jose, California. QUALIFLOW is traded under the code 7786 on the Paris Stock Exchange's Nouveau Marché.