



PRESS RELEASE

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Qualiflow Introduces Automated Solution for Monitoring, Controlling Valves and MFCs

DeviceNet Stick Allows Unprecedented Gas Control Capability

Montpellier, France April 16, 2002 Qualiflow, a leading supplier of products for high purity gas control, today introduced DeviceNet Stick, an innovative modular combination of hardware and high level software for simplifying the monitoring and controlling of multiple gas lines in a gas panel. This novel technology will be used in DeviceNet Stick in combination with the mass flow controller (MFC) Helotis and Piezo actuated valves.

DeviceNet Stick provides a next generation solution to high purity gas control, making fluid and gas control as easy as electrical connection, said Claude Jacquemin, Qualiflow chairman and CEO. This connection is particularly interesting because data and power can go through a standardized cable and connector. Utilizing only +24VDC nominal power, the requirement for different levels of power supplies such as -15V or 5V is virtually eliminated.

DeviceNet is fast becoming an industry standard for controlling and monitoring semiconductor equipment. DeviceNet Stick simplifies cable wiring architecture by eliminating the need for more electrical or pneumatic connections. Advanced maintenance is also possible by direct access to MFC parameters through the DeviceNet network.

DeviceNet Stick provides control and monitoring of MFCs, pressure sensors, temperature sensors, pressure controllers, valves and pump/purge control logic. In addition to monitoring and controlling pressure and flow, the DeviceNet Stick also allows change of state control or interaction between devices such as MFCs and pressure regulation valves. DeviceNet Stick also includes both local and remote alarm systems for monitoring.

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 a world leader in gas components. The company has approximately 100 employees worldwide and maintains a global network of technical centers in Montpellier, Incheon, Korea and San Jose, California. QUALIFLOW is traded under the code 7786 in the Paris Stock Exchange's Nouveau Marché