DO YOU HAVE A SAND PROBLEM?

MAYBE it's in your production facilities (they often contain associated particulates). Or maybe at the startup of stimulated wells (they may produce sand until the well has stabilized). Or maybe in mature wells (flows can change causing some wells to produce sand).

"At typical velocities in field piping, these solids can erode standard wellsite equipment in minutes. Damage caused by sand erosion can result in compromised safety for field staff, uncontrolled emissions, lost production, downtime, expensive clean up and repairs," explains Chris Hemstock, one of three partners in Specialized Tech Inc., which has desanders that are installed upstream of the customers' surface equipment. Each unit is designed to tie directly into the wellhead in order to eliminate potential erosion points.

"Without effective desanding, wells must be flared until the sand content declines which results in lost production," he adds. "Extended flaring disturbs the local environment and land-owners, particularly in sour operations, this flaring is often unacceptable."

Calgary-headquartered STI provides a desanding service that is used during production to remove sand from gas streams before it can damage production equipment. In a nutshell, STI has a patented process that modifies the natural gas flow profile without changing the pressure and temperature, allowing the sand to drop out.

STI, which has field offices in Grande Prairie, Red Deer and Three Hills, Alberta, and Fort St. John, B.C., has four desanding models for different pressures and flow rates. They allow the following: * High-pressure sand recovery, which can conserve gas instead of flaring during cleanup; * Operation of gas wells with "less than perfect" sand cleanup after fracs; * Operation of gas wells producing formation sand.

Some of the features of STI desanders, all manufactured and assembled in Alberta, include:

* Pressure ratings – 9930 kPa & 19995 kPa.
* Registered ASME pressure vessels.
* Sweet and sour service (zero emissions in sour service).
* ISO 9001:2000 OHSAS 18001:1999 certified
* Recovers frac sand and formation sand.
* Allows monitoring of sand production.
* Does not contaminate storage tanks with sand.
* Eliminates flaring.
* Compact size and lightweight.
* No freezing issues.
* Minimal service/cleanout time.
* Gathering system and oil well desanding.
* Helicopter transportable.

During installation, STI provides orientation and training for well operators in the safe operation and servicing of each desander. "We also perform ultrasonic thickness (UTS) testing to verify that the desanders are not eroded. "We can also verify that no critical erosion has occurred on your equipment before installation," Hemstock explains. "As for cleanout, it only takes about 15 minutes to rake out the sand on sweet installations. And a vac truck does the cleanout on sour installations."

Hemstock, Bruce Berkan, also a P.Eng., and Kevin Price, three experienced oilpatchers, founded STI in 2001 to develop solutions to common problems in the oil and gas industry. An unmet need was desanding gas streams – no effective and efficient way to remove sand upstream from production equipment during production. Until now.

STI's largest unit, the model 475, is rated to 2,900 psi and will hold 220 kilograms of sand. Later this year the company will introduce a larger unit, rated to 3,450 psi and able to hold one tonne of sand.

With more than 1,800 desanding jobs successfully completed, STI, which now employs eight people, has proven itself time and time again. Interest, throughout Western Canada and south of the border, is growing.

Specialized Tech has the solution to your sand problem.

Visit www.specializedtech.ca to find out more.

GET THE SOLUTION TO YOUR SAND PROBLEM

save money save time

The Desanders allow gas wells to be flowed under sand producing conditions that would normally be damaging to production equipment.

FEATURES

- Pressure ratings- 9,930 kPa & 19,995 kPa
- Temperature ratings - 20F & -50F
- Registered ASME ABSA pressure vessels
- NACE / Sour service operations
- Allows in line testing
- No pressure drop
- Compact Size
- No freezing issues
- Minimal service/ clean out time
- Eliminates flaring
- Zero Emissions
- Removes sand and other particulates such as asphaltsand free precipitates
- ISO 9001: 2000 OHSAS 18001: 1999 certified

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