Raymond Turns to Novotechnik for Position Sensors

Boston, Massachusetts – The Raymond Corporation approached position sensor company Novotechnik with an application for a rotary position sensor to track the position of the mast on their new 9000 Series Swing-Reach® lift truck. While the 9000 Series features energy saving technology, it also is designed to provide operators with smooth and precise motion control. This includes the movement of the truck and the movement of the mast.

The new Swing-Reach trucks can elevate up to 45 feet (12.8 m), can handle loads up to 60 inches (152.4 cm) deep or 108 inches (274.32 cm) wide, and can operate in aisles as narrow as 66 inches (167.64 cm). The mini mast can be moved at a lateral speed of up to 8 inches per second. Raymond has hundreds of 9000 series trucks operating at customer sites.

The mini mast is part of a system that lets operators move loads up, down and laterally. It uses hydraulic cylinders and steel rails that are attached to lift forks to move the loads. Tracking the position of the mast is key to efficiently and repeatedly performing material handling tasks.

Novotechnik had recently launched its new RSM2800 Series of multi-turn angle sensor series. These sensors met Raymond’s requirements of non-contact technology for long life, an absolute sensor that is inherently accurate without the need to trim it to achieve the specified accuracy and the ability to count up to 12 turns. The turn count and position are measured electronically.

One additional feature of Novotechnik’s RSM2800 Series is the ability to continue capturing position and turn counts even without power. The sensors do this without batteries. The advantage is that applications that incorporate the RSM2800 can lose power or shut down, then

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resume right where they left off as if the power stoppage never happened.

The RSM 2800 Series features 12-bit resolution, compact size of 38 mm center-to-center between mounting flanges and repeatability to 1 LSB. It measures angles to 5760° (16 turns) and while employing non-contact technology is also sealed to class IP 65.

Novotechnik, as a division of the Siedle Group, manufactures and distributes a wide range of linear and rotary position sensors and related accessories globally. These include touchless and non-contacting linear and rotary sensors, multi- and single-turn potentiometers, and hollow-shaft potentiometric sensors as well as its complete line of standard and industrial grade potentiometers.

The Raymond Corporation is a global provider of material handling solutions that improve space utilization and productivity, with lower cost of operation and greater operator acceptance. Raymond offers the iWarehouse™ system, an enterprise fleet management solution for warehouse and distribution center managers to collect and analyze real-time lift truck data to maximize fleet productivity and reduce costs. High-performance, reliable, ergonomically designed Raymond lift trucks range from a full line of manual and electric pallet trucks and walkie stackers to counterbalanced trucks, Reach-Fork® trucks, order pickers and dual-purpose (pallet handling/case picking) Swing-Reach trucks.

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