




Innovative Solutions

Working together to solve customers' unique challenges

Working directly with customers to develop solutions that meet unique process requirements & specialty applications.

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Customer: NatureWorks, LLC of Blair, Nebraska

Plant type: NatureWorks is dedicated to meeting the world's needs today without compromising the earth's ability to meet the needs of tomorrow. NatureWorks is the first company to offer a family of commercially available, low-carbon-footprint Ingeo™ lactides and biopolymers derived from 100% annually renewable resources with performance and economics that compete with oil-based intermediates, plastics and fibers and provide brand owners new cradle-to-cradle options after the use of their products.

Industry: Downstream Hydrocarbon

Application: Reactor control / block valve

Background: NatureWorks contracted Plant Services, Inc. of Spring, Texas which specializes in Process Engineering, to specify and locate a suitable solution for an existing control valve application. NatureWorks was experiencing ongoing problems with their existing valve which was installed in 2008 and failed to meet process application requirements due to galling on the ball and seats resulting in poor reliability.

Requirement: NatureWorks required a valve that could be modulated to control back pressure and provide tight shut-off when closed. Their goal was to find a valve that would meet their specifications and provide tight shut-off.

Donald Marek an Instrument and valve design specialist with Plant Services researched numerous manufactures for suitable valve for this extremely severe service application: ValvTechnologies was the only manufacturer that was willing to produce a valve to the specifications required.

The customer was impressed with ValvTechnologies' coating technology and seating design of the V1-2 design as well as the QA/QC and stringent zero-leakage testing performed.

Solution: A 24" 300 lb metal-seated V1-2 valve was designed and manufactured by ValvTechnologies; a hydraulic Moog actuator, HPU system and automation was designed by Donald Marek and fabricated by Control Fluids, Inc. of Beaumont Texas. The Eads company, a ValvTechnologies distribution partner and integrator, provided the package as a complete system and facilitated the final Product acceptance test prior to delivery to NatureWorks, LLC.