

RESOURCES FOR ENERGY ENGINEERS

INDUSTRY NEWS

Compressed Air Challenge® — New Products and Expanded Activities

North American industry faces high energy costs and an increasingly difficult economic climate. The Compressed Air Challenge® (CAC), which promotes energy efficiency in industrial compressed air systems, is expanding its activities and participation to help industry surmount these burdens. The CAC has trained over 10,000 compressed air users since 1999. However, the United States has about 200,000 factories, most of which use compressed air. Add to this the substantial number of Canadian plants, and the opportunity becomes evident. Therefore, the CAC is not only broadening its reach through the new initiatives described below, but is expanding its opportunities for participation.

Training, Information and Tools

The CAC offers three training programs: Fundamentals of Compressed Air Systems, Advanced Management of Compressed Air Systems and, with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Qualified AIRMaster+ Specialist Training. The organization also has a full offering of educational materials, such as the *Best Practices for Compressed Air Systems, Guidelines for Selecting a Compressed Air System Service Provider and Improving Compressed Air System Performance: A Sourcebook for Industry*. New products include:

- **Web-Based Fundamentals of Compressed Air Systems Training** — A web-based version of the popular classroom training geared to increase participation in this valuable resource
- **Best Practices for Compressed Air Systems Second Edition** — An updated edition of the highly successful 2003 manual — available for order online at www.compressedairchallenge.org, click on “Bookstore”
- **Log-Tool** — An import tool that significantly enhances the usability of AIRMaster+. AIRMaster+ is a software package developed by the DOE which is designed to help you maximize the efficiency and performance of your compressed air system through improved operations and maintenance practices
- **Newly defined levels of compressed air system assessment services**, published in combination with an updated *Guidelines for Selecting a Compressed Air System Service Provider*

In addition to the above, the CAC’s online library is home to a wealth of resources, including fact sheets, tip sheets and case studies on a variety of topics.

The mission of the Compressed Air Challenge® (CAC) is to provide resources that educate industry about optimizing their compressed air systems and thereby increasing net profits.

Future Developments

The CAC is in the planning stages for a Production Floor Training program. The concept for this training is to bring the CAC’s message to the entire plant floor. It will help floor personnel understand the costs of compressed air inefficiencies and offer some ways to address them. The program will build upon training developed by CAC member Weyerhaeuser, Inc., and will be piloted by CAC Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, a CAC sponsor.

Streamlined Hosting Opportunities

In previous years, an organization interested in hosting a CAC training class needed to co-host with a specific CAC board organization and work with that organization to plan the class and obtain the training materials. Now, an organization may co-host a training class with the CAC as a whole, easing the planning process. Also, the training host may purchase the training materials under a password-protected area of the CAC website. The host may work with any of the qualified CAC instructors located throughout the United States.

Contact the CAC Today!

Participation with the CAC offers access to the best, product-neutral compressed air system educational materials available, and opens the door to exchanging information on industrial efficiency with leaders in the field of compressed air systems. For more information about the CAC and how it could help you provide valuable information to your customers, please visit www.compressedairchallenge.org, or email the CAC at info@compressedairchallenge.org.

Fundamentals of Compressed Air Systems WE (Web Edition)

The Compressed Air Challenge® (CAC) is pleased to announce the launch of Fundamentals of Compressed Air Systems WE (Web Edition) on February 22, 2010. This web-based version of the popular Fundamentals of Compressed Air Systems uses an interactive format that enables the instructor to diagram examples, give pop quizzes and answer students' questions in real time. The introductory rate for the course is \$795, and participation is limited to 25 students. Please visit the CAC website today (www.compressedairchallenge.org) to access online registration and for more information about the training. The deadline for registration is February 8, 2010.



If you have additional questions about the new web-based training or other CAC training opportunities, please contact the CAC at info@compressedairchallenge.org or call 301-751-0115.

Best Practices for Compressed Air Systems Second Edition — Now Available for Purchase Online at www.compressedairchallenge.org!

The Best Practices Manual was developed to provide you with the tools necessary to reduce the operating costs associated with the use of compressed air and to improve the overall reliability of the entire system. This one-source manual addresses improvement opportunities — from the air entering the compressor inlet filter to end uses, including hoses, quick couplers air tools, cylinders and/or other devices.



The Best Practices Manual also provides the “how to” information needed to implement recommendations which will achieve peak system performance and reliability at the lowest operating cost. The use of the recommendations will:

- Reduce energy and repair costs
- Improve system reliability
- Increase productivity
- Reduce unscheduled downtime

The 325-page manual begins with considerations for analyzing existing systems or designing new ones, and continues through the compressor supply from the auxiliary equipment and distribution system to the end uses. Learn how to use measurements to audit your own system, calculate the cost of compressed air and even how to interpret utility electric bills. Best practice recommendations for selection, installation, maintenance and operation of all the equipment and components within the compressed air system are in bold font and are easily selected from each section.

Best Practices for Compressed Air Systems, authored by Bill Scales, P.E. and David McCulloch, is a publication of the Compressed Air Challenge® and not affiliated with Compressed Air Best Practices® magazine.