

Press Release

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New elastomer diaphragms enhance pressure switch performance

A range of compact, low cost pressure switches are set to benefit from newly-developed diaphragm materials, which improve the life of the switches and enhance their performance, particularly in food handling equipment and steam generation applications.

The 901 range of pressure switches, from Aldermaston-based sensor specialist Impress Sensors, are ideal for monitoring overpressure, vacuum or differential pressure of both liquid and gaseous substances, including aggressive media. The switches can be used to monitor fluid levels and filters, as well as excessive or inadequate pressure and pressure differentials in closed systems.

The switches are available in a factory-set version, in which the pressure setting and switching differential are set by the manufacturer, or an adjustable version, the 901 Prescal, where the customer uses a scaled adjustment knob to alter the trip and reset pressure, without having to use a screwdriver.

The two latest additions to the 901 range are a saturated steam-resistant version and a food handling version, both of which benefit from newly-developed diaphragm materials.

Conventional elastomer diaphragms on pressure switches very quickly lose their elasticity when used in saturated steam, and so can alter the switching points. In extreme cases, the diaphragm can become brittle or even cracked, which could become a genuine safety hazard if left unchecked.

The saturated steam-resistant 901 pressure switch therefore has a newly developed FKM (elastomer) diaphragm, which makes direct contact possible with extremely aggressive saturated steam. The switch operates reliably in temperatures up to 130°C, and depending on the design of springs fitted, operates from 100mbar up to a maximum of 12bar, without material fatigue. The switch is therefore ideal for steam generation applications, including medical equipment, disinfection devices or professional kitchen equipment such as steam-pressure cookers. Coffee vending machines are another potential application area.

The food-handling version of the 901 has a special, FDA-approved EPDM elastomer diaphragm. This diaphragm, which can also be used for saturated steam applications, is ideally suited to almost any food processing application. The switch's dual benefit of being

FDA-approved *and* steam-resistant makes it a very attractive option for customers. Target applications include food and beverage processing, water treatment systems, bottling plants and drinks storage.

Sam Drury, Sales Director at Impress Sensors & Systems comments: “We are delighted to be able to offer these low cost pressure switches to our customers in the UK. Typically, the switches will be available on a 10-day lead-time. We are already selling units into the UK, including a manufacturer of industrial dishwashers and a manufacturer of medical sterilising equipment.”

The factory-set 901 switch can be set according to the customer’s specification at a fixed value between 5mbar and 12bar in the positive pressure range and between –5mbar and –900mbar in the negative pressure range. With the 901 Prescal switch, the switching pressure can be controlled using an adjustment knob. For pressurized connection, there is a choice of plastic or metal hose connectors or threaded couplings.

For more information, contact the sales department at Impress Sensors & Systems Ltd on 0118 981 7980 or visit the website at www.impress-sensors.co.uk

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Note to Editors:

About Impress Sensors & Systems Ltd

Impress Sensors & Systems Ltd (www.impress-sensors.co.uk) is a rapidly expanding UK manufacturer and distributor of instrumentation products based in Aldermaston, Berkshire. The company prides itself on its expertise in pressure measurement and its knowledge of general instrumentation. The company manufactures its own range of standard and custom-designed pressure instruments in the UK, and distributes a wide portfolio of instrumentation products from its European partners - BD Sensors in Germany and Metallux in Switzerland. Impress specialises in offering a customised service in applications where standard products may not satisfy the technical requirements and price aspirations of customers. The company boasts the necessary technical expertise in mechanical, electronic and application engineering that enables it to supply instruments tailored to the customer’s requirements.

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