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# Chemical company saves thousands

**Steam savings of 36%, equivalent to tens of thousands of rand are being achieved in one section of Karbochem's factory in Vereeniging, thanks to a new type of steam trap.**

Production superintendent Willa Rademeyer says the claims are based

on steam usage records his section has kept for the past year.

Many factories spend hundreds of thousands of rand on steam every year as an energy source. The problem with steam is that it condenses, forming water in steam equipment and making heat transfer ineff-

icient. Steam traps are designed to remove condensate from the line while keeping the steam.

Unfortunately, some steam always gets lost when the condensate is discharged by the steam trap. The challenge is to minimise steam loss and remove all the condensate at the same time.

Mike Louw, MD of Industrial Steam Products, explains: "The Maxiflo is a new type of steam trap because it has no moving parts. When condensate builds up in the line, it passes through a needle-like tunnel orifice in the trap. Because the tunnel orifice is so narrow, steam loss is minimal, even at low condensate loads."

The device has worked well for Karbochem. Rademeyer says ISP indicated a steam saving of 15%. "The units have lived up to their promise," he says.

In addition saving significant costs, the units require little maintenance. The trap collects debris from the pipe which needs periodic purging using a blow-down valve built into the unit.

Traditional steam traps are valves which opens automatically to eject condensate. Some steam is always lost when the valve opens. If the trap fails for

any reason, it will fail in the open position - losing even more steam.

Regular maintenance of traditional steam traps is also necessary to check for leakages.

The units are made from stainless steel and, unlike other steam traps, have no moving parts.

Says Rademeyer: "We cannot guarantee a 36%

saving in all applications - efficiency depends on the steam usage pattern. However, following our success, other parts of the factory have started installing Maxiflo units and are also achieving notable savings."

"Although our steam usage is relatively low, our savings have been phenomenal."

Circle No: 823

## Chemdata out again

THE third edition of Chemdata, the Directory of South African Chemicals, has just been published by CSIR Information Services, in a joint venture with Keeble-Prins. It is the only directory of its kind and contains details of approximately 8 500 chemicals and about 300 suppliers in the chemical industry.

Chemdata is published as a service to the South African chemical and allied industries.

### Valuable

The information it contains will be of value to companies in locating alternative local sources of supply and spotting the opportunities for new ventures in the local manufacture of chemicals.

The information in Chemdata is the best

chemicals and suppliers and ample cross-references.

Information is gathered by means of questionnaires sent to sources in the chemical and related industries and actively followed up by the Information Services staff.

### Free listing

Every company active as a supplier of chemicals is entitled to a free listing in Chemdata - an excellent vehicle for free advertising.

Chemdata is regularly updated to remain a reliable source for the industry. In addition to the two previous editions' listing of local manufacturers and importers of chemicals, this improved edition now also includes local agents for overseas manufacturers of chemicals.

Apart from this, Chemical Abstract (CAS) will

## Symposium on high value-added chemicals

THE production of high value-added chemicals has recently been gaining increasing profile in the media as more leading-edge chemical companies seek to increase their profitable exposure to these lucrative markets.

Access to small tonnage, fine and speciality chemicals is rapidly becoming a major priority for SA's leading chemical producers as beneficiation emerges as a key component of industry profitability.

In response to this growing demand for practical information on innovative techniques to maximise downstream opportunities International Executive Communications in conjunction with leading industry experts have extensively researched the chemical industry to bring the chemical engineer a major symposium on Profitably Developing, Producing and Marketing High Value-Added Chemicals.

Examining in detail both the design and production aspects this forum will address the achievement of world class standards for South African producers of value-added chemicals.

Leading chemical companies which will share their practical experiences with conference delegates include Anikem, Aeci, Noristan, Fine Chemicals Corporation and Johnson Matthey.

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## Flak for aromatics plant