

NEWS

XTEGRITY™ WINS INNOVATION AWARD!

On Thursday 25th June at the Elevator Awards 2015 (previously known as The Grampian Awards for Business Excellence) the Grampian Award for Innovation was awarded to Equalizer Flange Integrity Systems for its Xtegrity™ System.



The innovation of the Xtegrity™ system is the simple idea that every bolt is effectively doubled-up, an additional set of studs sit around the outside of the flange joint providing exactly the same gripping effect as the bolts themselves. Once installed the flange's integrity is secured and the bolts can be safely replaced using hot bolting methods. The Xtegrity™ system can also be left in place until such a time that the system can be shut down and the bolts changed out via traditional methods.

The system was developed in response to a global, industry-wide problem in the oil and gas sector. Designed and developed in Aberdeen it is a world first which is providing a unique new solution for dealing with heavily corroded or degraded bolts in flange joints on offshore and onshore installations.

The issue of corroded bolts causes a number of concerns for the industry. It is a particular factor in ageing assets – of which there are many in the North Sea – because many flange joints are now operating beyond their original design life.

Heavily corroded bolts are not only a major safety issue but can also cause significant and potentially very expensive problems. The heavy corrosion means that there can be uncertainty about true bolt strengths, particularly as in many cases that strength can only be loosely categorised by visual inspection.



Responding to what was a very clear need in the industry for a new, cost-effective, efficient and safe solution, the design and development team at Equalizer studied the various design issues which needed to be addressed and taken into consideration before developing the Xtegrity™ Flange Integrity System.

The Xtegrity™ system takes a completely new and innovative approach to the problem. It has taken away the need to remove corroded bolts by “replacing” them with a new set of bolts which clamp round the outside of the flange and are held in place with a floating frame.

Its unique design means it can replicate the same bolt size, quantity and specifications which were used during the initial flange joint assembly. Taking away the need to remove old bolts also reduces the risk of flange joint leakage.

The development of the new system has also revolutionised the time required to carry out repairs and maintenance on damaged and corroded bolts. Work which could previously take days or longer to carry out can now be completed in a matter of hours.

To meet the needs of a variety of industries, the Xtegrity™ system can be used in situations where alternative solutions cannot be used. It is designed to fit all standard flange joints and can be adapted for bespoke applications. It is lightweight and can be easily assembled in confined areas.



Alan Morrison, General Manager commented: “This is a great achievement for the company and we are very proud to accept this prestigious award. The Xtegrity™ Flange Integrity System has significant operational and commercial benefits with the potential to revolutionise the market because it has come up with a solution to an industry-wide problem of how best to maintain ageing assets in a way that is safe, cost effective and budgetable and which can significantly reduce or eliminate the need to shutdown in order to carry out the work.”

Contact Equalizer Flange Integrity Systems for more information

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