

2020 Hydraulic Institute Fall Virtual Conference

Expanding, Engaging, and Evolving the Pump Industry

Hydraulic Institute (HI) is recognized as the global authority on pumps and pumping systems. Its primary mission is to value-add resources to the industry and develop pump standards, guidelines and guidebooks. In order to facilitate comprehensive and current resources for pump OEMs, suppliers and end users, HI holds annual conferences in the Spring and Fall. With the safety of its members and partners in mind, HI transitioned its Fall 2020 conference to a virtual event. The event offered a diverse platform for pump industry leaders to focus on expanding communities, engaging new partners and evolving the industry.

Pump Engineer had the pleasure of sponsoring this year's event and experiencing many of the virtual sessions the conference had to offer.

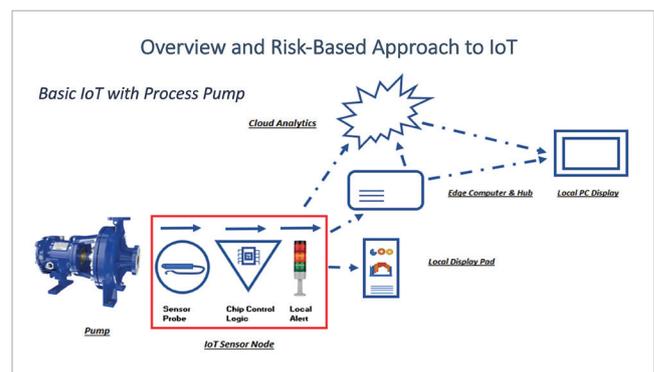
By Angelica Pajkovic

With sessions running from October 6th to December 3rd, 2020, the HI event has given individuals from around the world the opportunity to partake in a number of industrial pump focused presentations and workshops. Participants, including HI members, partners, industry veterans, and pump professionals, took advantage of the flexible programming offered in order to gain insight into the latest innovations in pump design, applications, installation, operation, efficiency, and maintenance.

As the event calendar consisted of an integration of new and familiar HI sessions, the conference gave each attendee a wide array of subjects to explore. Sessions ranged from pump knowledge workshops and Pump Systems Matter updates, to presentations on the state of HI and industry outlook webinars.

The positivity and enthusiasm was evident by the sheer number of participants present during each session. Attendees were excited to become involved in the conversation by asking insightful questions and provoking thoughtful dialogue on relevant industry matters.

“It was a very good idea to have not too many meetings at the same day. The setup proved to be efficient. I am, however, looking forward to the next face to face meeting.”



Simple list of typical parts of a wireless IoT system in a fluid handling process. Image courtesy of Tom Meir, M E I R Consulting, Pump Knowledge Workshop Instructor.

Dynamic Program

To ensure that current pump regulations were addressed and new tactics to achieve energy saving goals were negotiated, conference attendees took advantage of attending the Technical Affairs and Regulatory update sessions from the comfort of their office or home. Interspersed between the sessions, were a number of engaging workshops that offered advantageous insight into technical aspects of industrial pumps. Topics ranged from making Part-fabrications, forgings or castings, to cyber security considerations for IoT facilities planning and deployment.

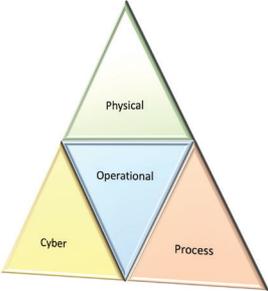
Inspirational and informative sessions, such as “How to Lead in a Virtual World” presented by Carson Tate, “Transformation Beyond Technology: Diversity’s Contribution to a Prospering Water Sector” led by Austin Alexander and Claudia Toussaint and “Mergers

& Acquisitions & Industry Outlook” by Tom Haan, simultaneously offered unique outlooks on the current global climate and ways to navigate through the challenging times ahead.

Overview and Risk-Based Approach to IoT

Having a “Risk-Based” Approach to any business system assumes a prevention mentality.

When working with IoT solutions, the customer or implementor must have a plan that connects all physical, cyber, process, and operational security systems together for a complete solution.



Prevention Mentality is what it sounds like: planning to keep the bad things out of the IoT system and therefore your process. It will be important to understand vulnerabilities your network installation currently face, and any potential threat vectors that may be new due to the new IoT installation. Prioritize efforts to secure devices and network components. Monitor and measure changes in network traffic and security to verify your results.

Memorable Moments

While all of the scheduled sessions were highly advantageous to the conference’s progressive agenda, there were a few moments which stood out over the course of the conference.

The sense of camaraderie amongst the attendees at both the virtual happy hour gathering, as well as the committee sessions, created a welcoming atmosphere for first time attendees of the event. Despite the inability to meet in person, the opportunity to see and converse

with one another allowed new connections to be made and old connections to be renewed.

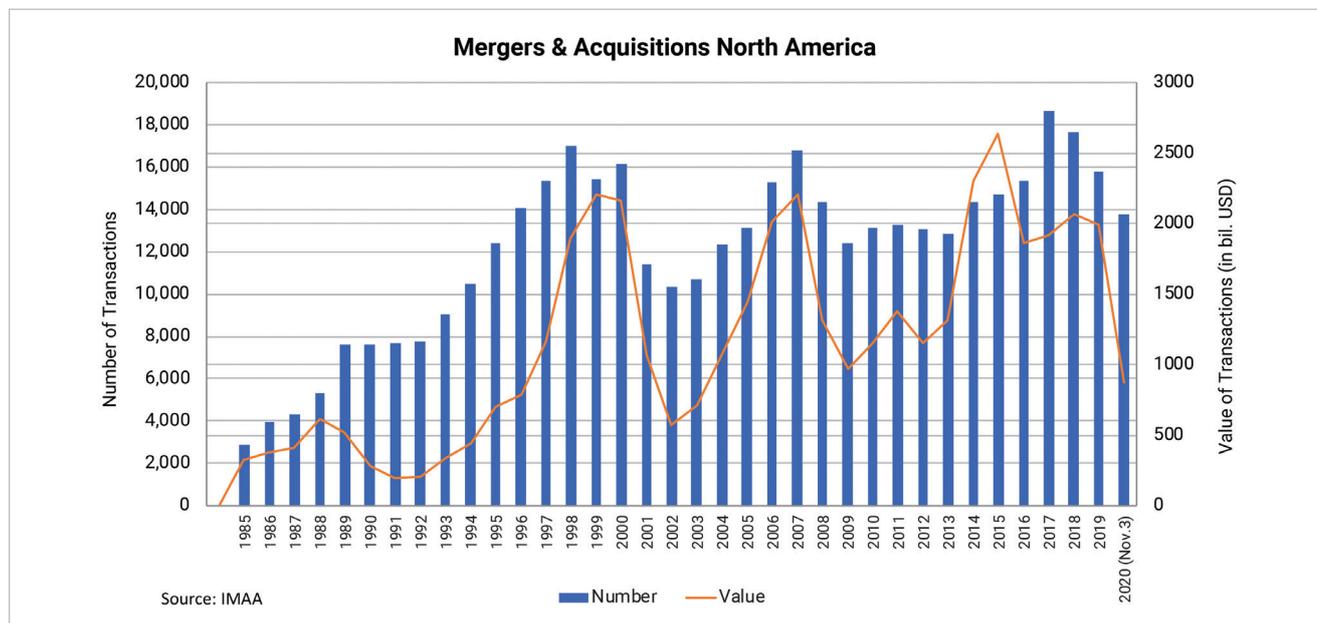
“In light of the current situation in the world today, I think that this was an innovative way to come together and meet on important topics. Hopefully, we can come together in person again soon,” said an HI attendee.

Overall the conference’s dynamic agenda ensured that all facets of the pump industry were represented and allowed participants to walk away from the event with new insights and goals for the industry.

Looking Forward

The next HI conference is scheduled to take place on March 22-25, 2021 in Orlando, FL, USA. Pump Engineer is looking forward to attending this upcoming event for the chance to continue growing and strengthen the connections we made virtually at this event. To become more involved with the conference, or for more information for upcoming events, please visit: <http://pumps.org/conferences.aspx>.

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Images Courtesy Tom Haan, Global Equity Consulting, LLC.

