# **VFD Vacuum Pumps Do's and Don'ts**

#### Ron Marshall, Marshall Compressed Air Consulting Keynote Speaker

The recording and slides of this webinar will be made available to attendees via email later today.

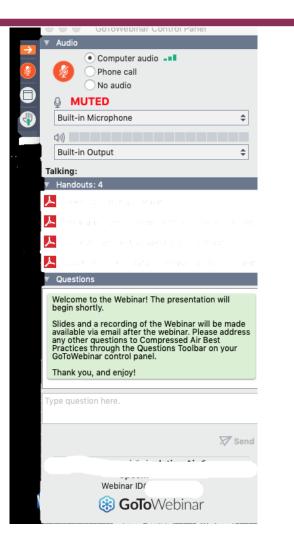
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## **Q&A** Format





- Panelists will answer your questions during the Q&A session at the end of the Webinar.
- Please post your questions in the Questions Window in your GoToWebinar interface.
- Direct all questions to Blower & Vacuum Best Practices® Magazine





#### Handouts







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All materials presented are educational. Each system is unique and must be evaluated on its own merits.





#### Featured Vacuum Presentations at the Best Practices 2022 EXPO & Conference



Sizing Vacuum Pumps for Reliability and Efficiency

Dayne Crowley, Product Manager, Gardner Denver Nash

**BLOWER & VACUUM** 



Optimized Maintenance and Water Usage of Liquid Ring Vacuum Pumps in Paper Industry

Dan Barnette, Vice President, E.W. Klein & Co.



How to Save 90% of Water Consumption on a Liquid Ring Vacuum Pump

Eddie Ostervold, President, E.W. Klein & Co.

> At the end of the webinar, we are having a fun contest for a chance to win a free full conference pass valued at \$675!



System Design: Dry vs. Wet Vacuum Pumps in Plastics

Tie Duan, Solutions Engineer, E.W. Klein & Co.



Food Processing Best Practice On-Site Utility Guides for Cooling Water, Nitrogen, Compressed Air & Vacuum

Roderick Smith, Publisher, Best Practices Magazine & Expo



Roundtable Discussion: Vacuum Audit Case Study and Need for Energy Incentives Targeting Vacuum Systems?

Ron Marshall, Chief Auditor, Marshall Compressed Air Consultants



## **Best Practices EXPO Contest**

John Spears, Pneumatics Technician, DENSO Manufacturing TN, played in our contest during our ASME PTC 13 Wire-to-Air Performance Test Code for Blower Systems Part 2 Webinar on 7/28 and won a free full conference pass to the Best Practices 2022 EXPO & Conference

Congratulations John!

At the end of the webinar, we are having a fun contest for a chance to win a free full conference pass valued at \$675!





## **VFD Vacuum Pumps Do's and Don'ts**

Introduction

### Blower & Vacuum Best Practices Magazine



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## About the Speaker



Ron Marshall Marshall Compressed Air Consulting

- Consultant MCAC
- 38 Years with Power Utility
- 27 Years Technical Support
- CAC Level 2 Instructor
- International Trainer UNIDO
- 600+ Projects Completed









#### Wanted Energy Wasters





BLOWER & VACUUM BEST PRACTICES

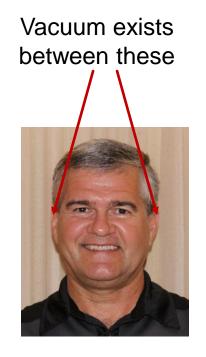


## **Clarification (Confession)**

- Most of my experience is in compressed air assessment
- I have lots of experience good and bad with VFD compressed air controls

That being said:

- I have found system costs usually relate to the size of the vacuum pumps and how they are controlled
- · I find a lot of vacuum leaks when assessing compressed air
- I am always curious how much these leaks cost and if anything can be saved







## Don't

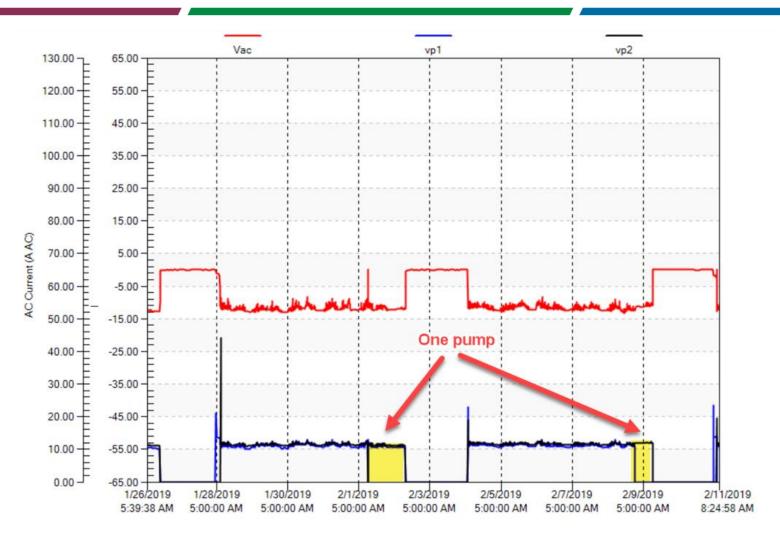
- Allow the system to run uncontrolled and uncoordinated
- Ignore the control range and VFD size
- Ignore system leakage







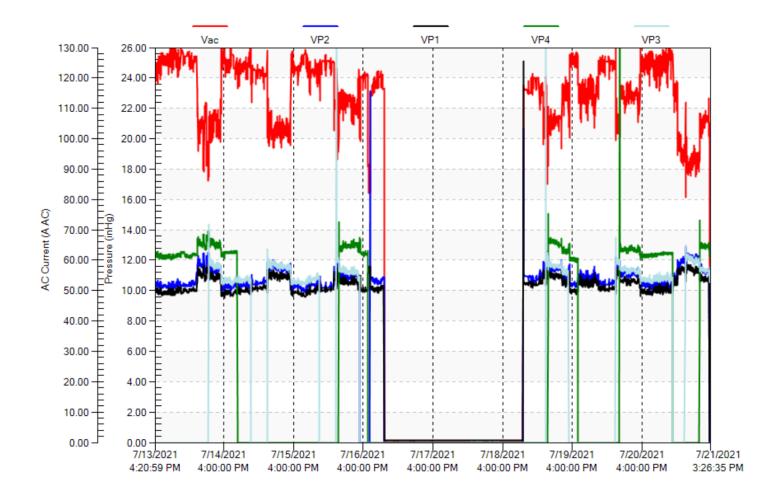
#### Uncontrolled







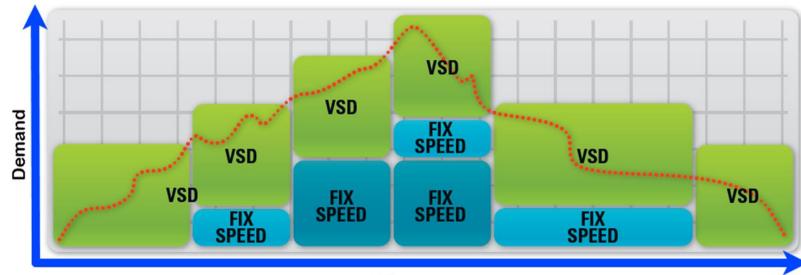
#### Manual controlled







# In multi systems the VFD control ranged must be equal to or larger than the base units.



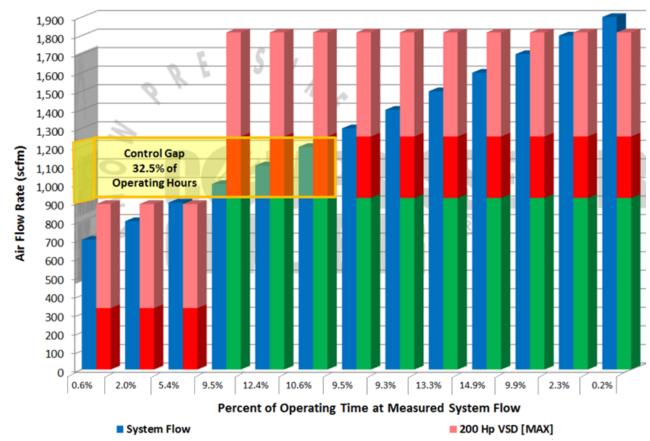
Time





## **Control Gap**

# Consequence of this is control gap where pumps will fight for control



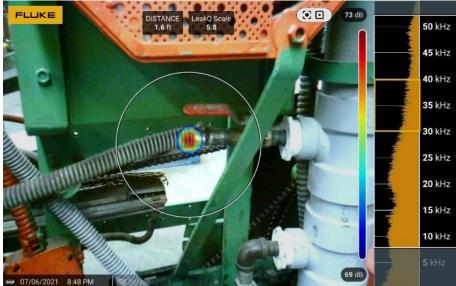




#### Leaks









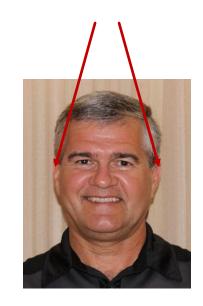


## Finding Vacuum (and compressed gas) Leaks

- Most basic tool are the detectors on the side of your head
- But these are almost useless in a noisy industrial environment
- Use ultrasonic detector to block out industrial noise







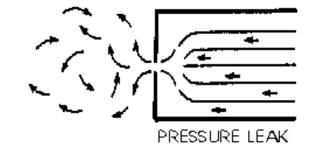




#### How Ultrasonic Leak Detection Works

- During a leak, a fluid (liquid or gas) moves from a high pressure to a low pressure
- As it passes through the leak site, a turbulent flow is generated with strong ultrasonic components, which are heard through headphones and seen as intensity increments on the meter
- It can be generally noted that the larger the leak, the greater the ultrasound level







VACUUM LEAK





## Vacuum Leak Consequences

- Lower vacuum level due to higher loading
- Poor performing processes
- Need for additional capacity
- Higher heat loading
- Higher electrical costs
- Higher maintenance costs







## Do

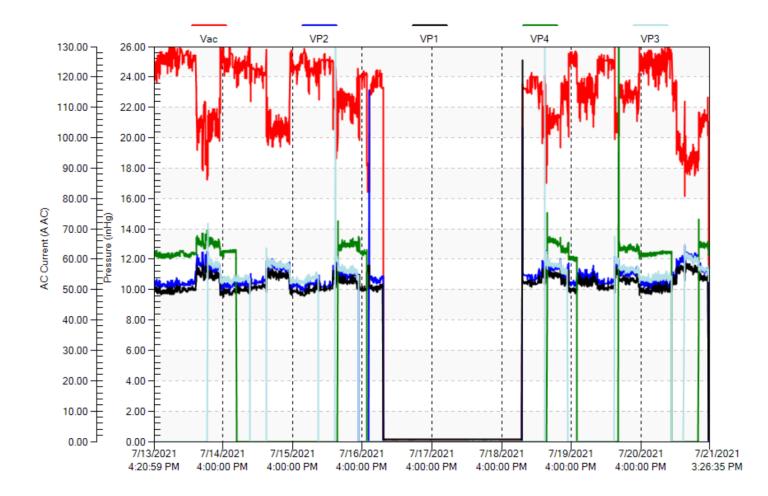
- Keep the vacuum level and low and flat as possible
- Set up the VFD as lead machine
- Size the control range to avoid control gap
- Fix leaks and eliminate end uses







#### Profile not flat – excessive level

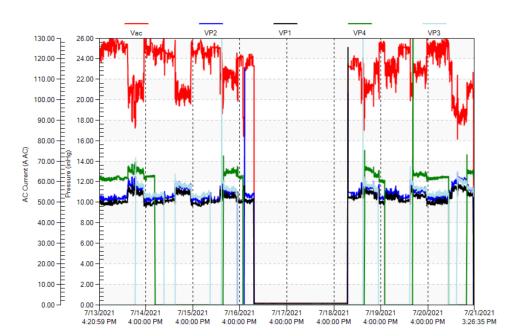






## Poor Power Turn-down

- Most PD fixed speed pumps have poor power turn-down – limited return on leak repair effort
- Poorly controlled systems consume about the same energy all the time
- Example system only needs 20 inches but floats to 26 inches and as low as 17 inches
- When flow goes down the vacuum level rises, making the existing pumps equivalently smaller
  - Scfm = Pabs / Patm x icfm
  - At 20"Hg vacuum= (30-20)/30 x 1000 = 333 scfm
  - At 25"Hg vacuum= (30-25)/30 x 300 = 166 scfm
- Vacuum level actually controlling pump capacity

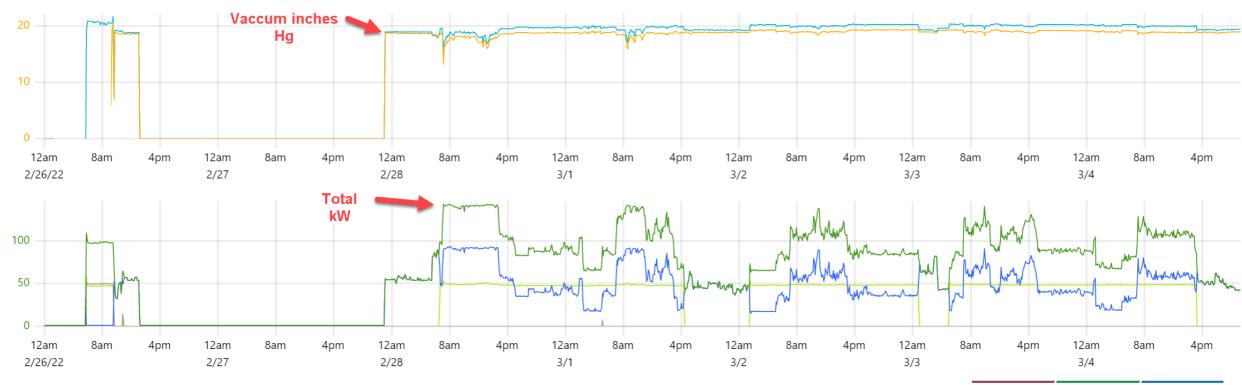






#### Solution: Variable Speed Technology Example (in October magazine)

- VSD pumps have very good turn down
- VSD controls vacuum level 20 inches much improved
- VSD 100 hp, base 75 hp



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### Solution: Variable Speed Technology Example

- VSD pump in this case almost equal to 3 x 75 hp
- VSD can be used for leakage testing







## Solution: Variable Speed Technology Example

- 100 kW VSD in this case almost equal to 3 x 75 hp
- More accurate vacuum level
- Lower noise level
- Reduced leaks
- 35% electrical savings worth \$26,000 per year
- Significant utility incentive







- If properly sized, VFD can help get system under control
- Stabilized vacuum at lower level saves \$
- Good turn down unlocks leak repair savings
- New VSD pump technology can save \$ and provide good return on leak efforts





## About the Speaker



Geoffrey Cresswell Busch Vacuum Solutions



• Product Marketing Manager, Busch Vacuum Solutions

- Rotary Vane Technology and Vactest Product Lines
- 10 years of centrifugal pump experience
- Worked with applications across many Commercial and Industrial market segments







# VFD VACUUM PUMPS – DO'S & DON'TS

Geoffrey Cresswell | August 18, 2022

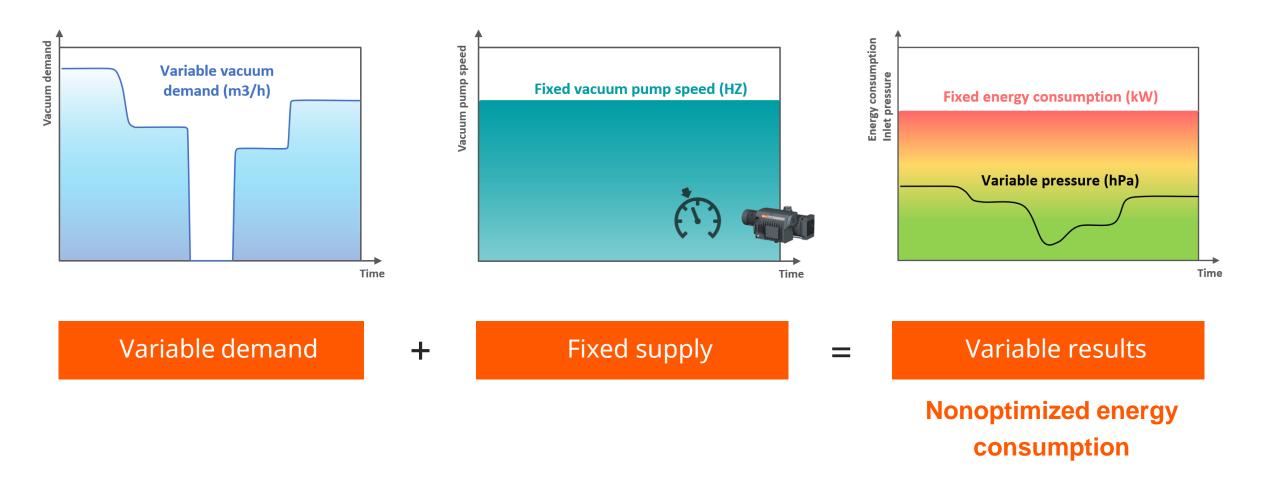
#### **Vacuum Performance Optimization**

#### 5-Elements of Efficiency



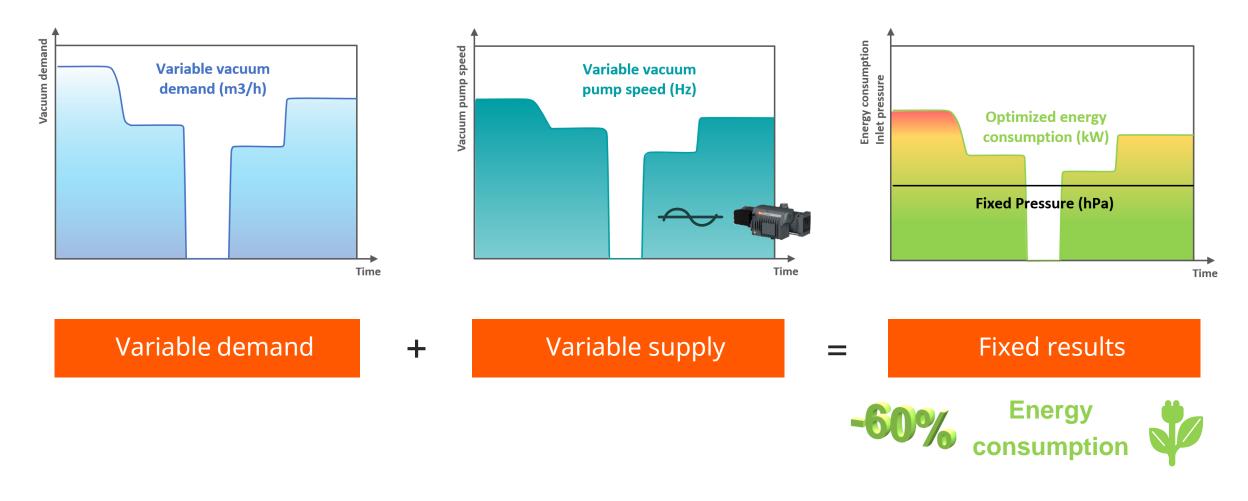


#### VSD on Vacuum Equipment Control Logic





#### Control Logic



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#### Using Variable Speed Drives (VSD) on vacuum equipment Busch Vacuum Solutions perspective

- For decades, Busch has designed and operated
  VSDs on pumps and central systems
- Step #1: determine if your application benefits from Variable Speed Drives
  - There are many ways to optimize your process besides VSDs!
  - If yes, we ensure you are really getting the benefits you expect.

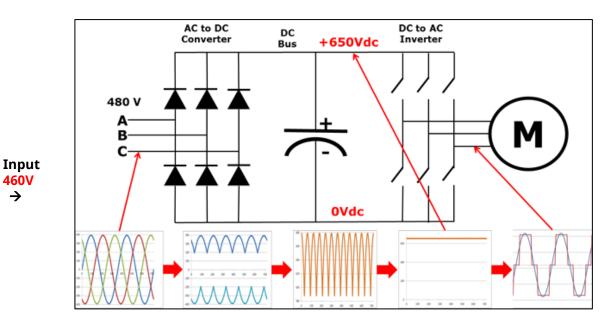
#### VSDs are not a one-size-fits all!



- Stage 1: Converts 3-phase alternating ٠ current (AC) to direct current (DC).
- Stage 2: (Bus Filter): Removes AC ripples ٠ from DC converter waves
- Stage 3: (Inverter): Convert DC to AC ٠

VSD output voltage and frequency determined by control logic and inverter stage via control scheme called Pulse Width Modulation (PWM).

#### VSD Sine Wave Processing



 $\rightarrow$ 



#### General Pros & Cons

#### PROS +

- Potential energy cost savings.
- Better process control possible.
- Improved monitoring capabilities to verify against design parameters.
- Reduced pump wear at lower speeds.
- Best suited for processes with significant demand variation.
- Helps qualify for Energy Rebates.

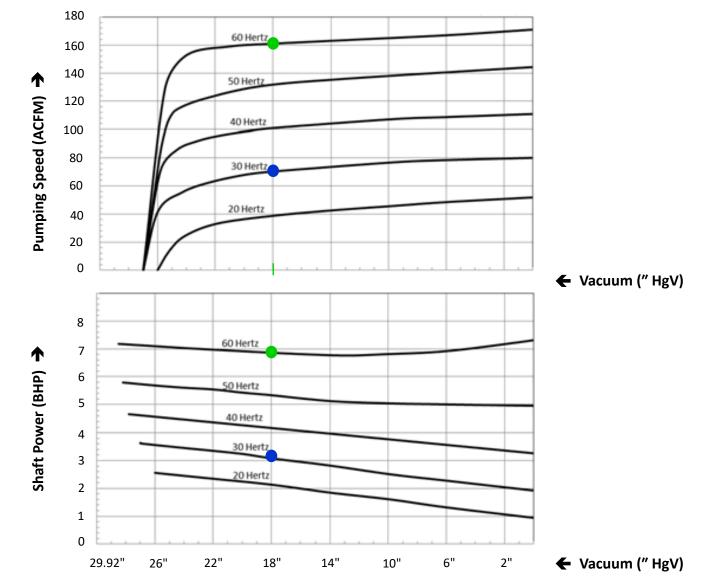
#### CONS –

- Higher capital cost.
- VSD could be misapplied and not save energy.
- Higher potential of structural resonance issues.
- Risks due to additional devices and controls requirements.
- Controls expertise needed for optimal performance could add to cost.

Source: US Department of Energy Variable Speed Pumping (Executive Summary 2014)

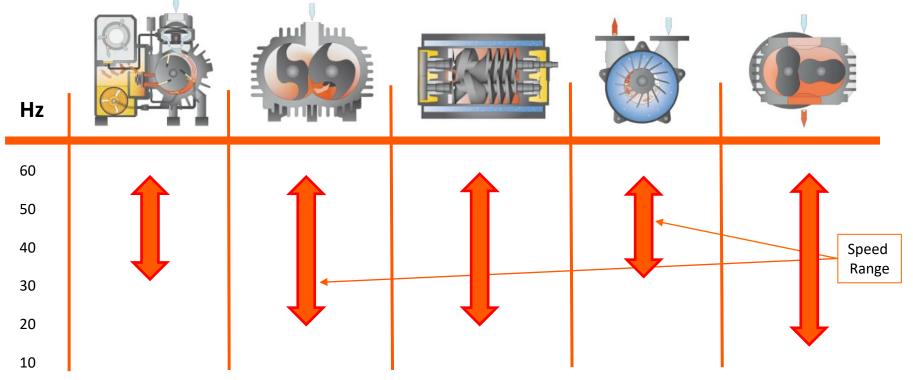


Performance curve basics





Tip 1 – Select the Pump first, then the controls!



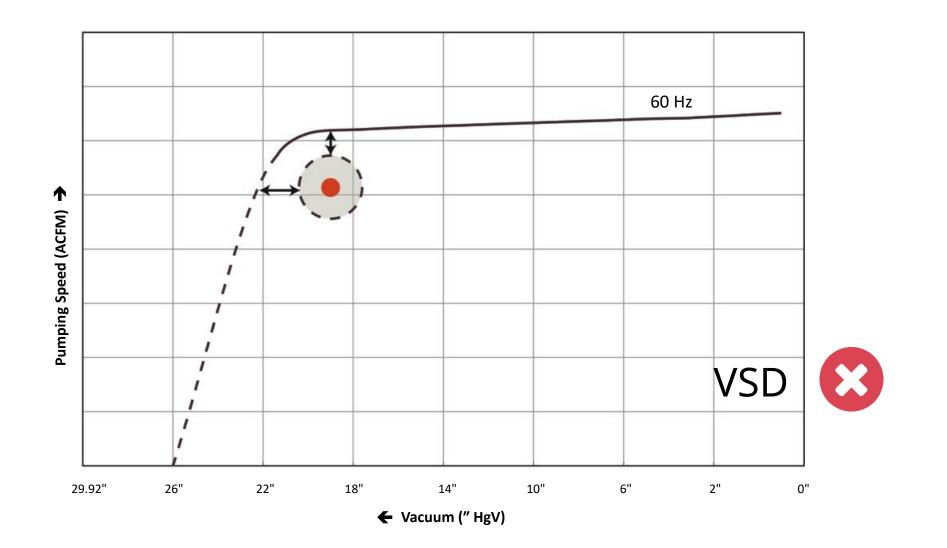
Why is this important?

- First, pick a pump technology most suitable for your unique process needs.
- Allowable speed regulation is dependent on pump technology used.
- Pump efficiencies (HP / CFM) are better at higher frequencies.



#### **Application Evaluation**

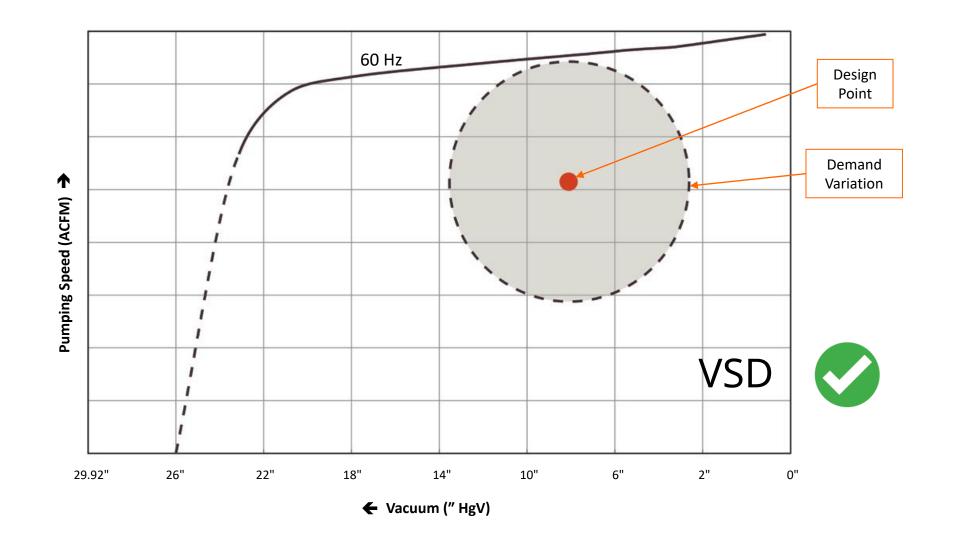
TIP 3 – Consider both VSD and Lead/Lag configurations



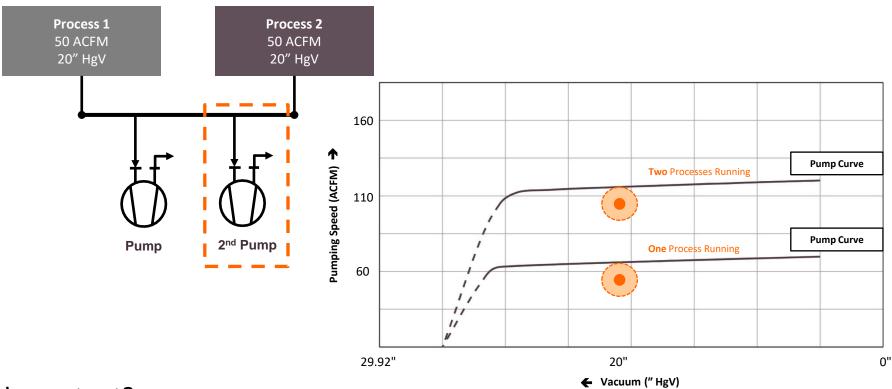


#### **Application Evaluation**

TIP 3 – Consider both VSD and Lead/Lag configurations



#### TIP 3 – Consider both VSD and Lead/Lag configurations



Why is this important?

- VSD is not the solution for all applications.
- Multiple fixed speed pumps offer simplicity, higher efficiency and redundancy.



VS[

#### TIP 3 – Consider all the options

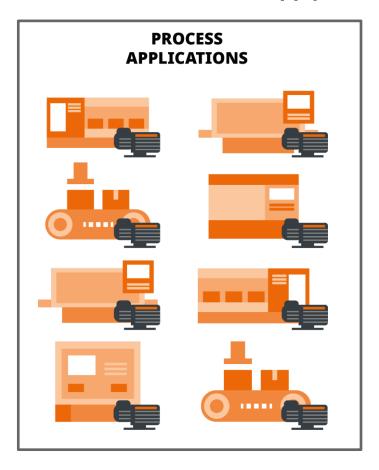


- Controls should be easily accessible for operators.
- Cost benefits to installing VSD and Control Panels outside of hazardous areas.

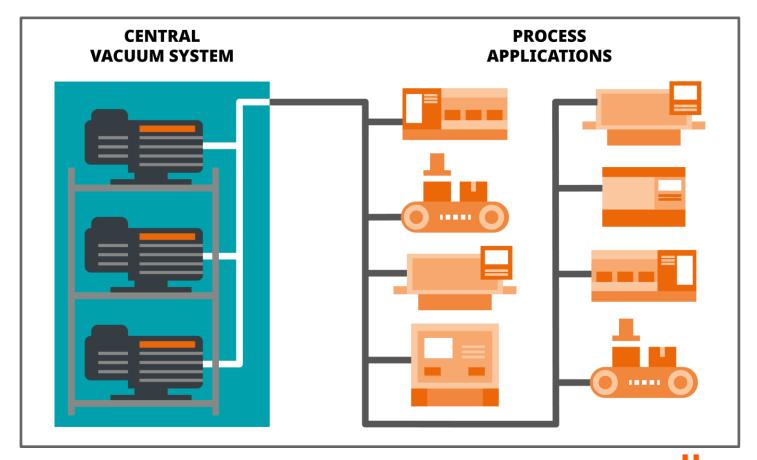


#### TIP 4 – Consider Central Vacuum Systems

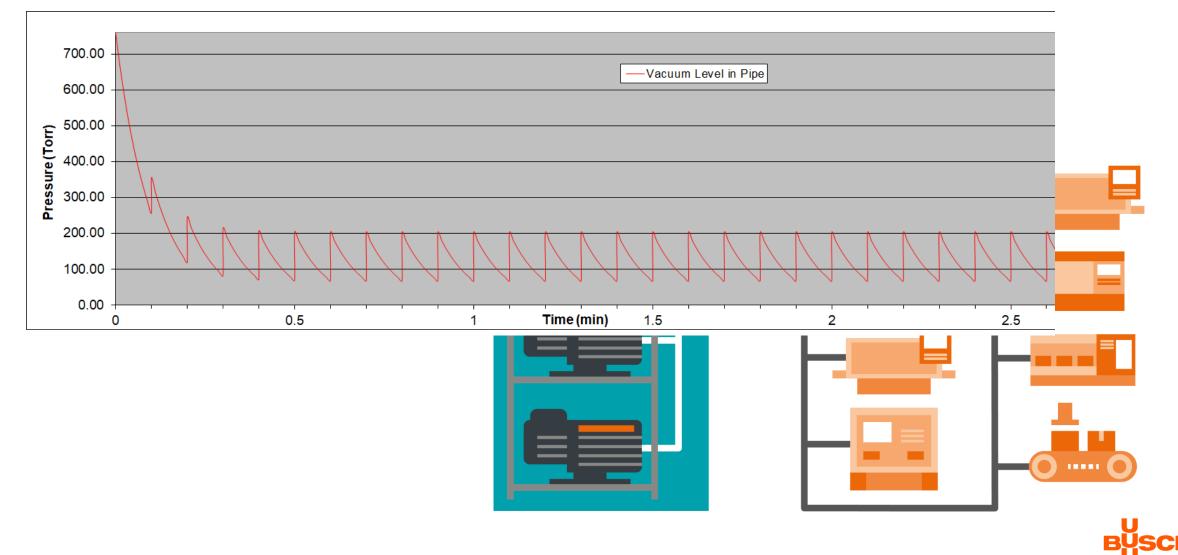
**Decentralized vacuum supply** 



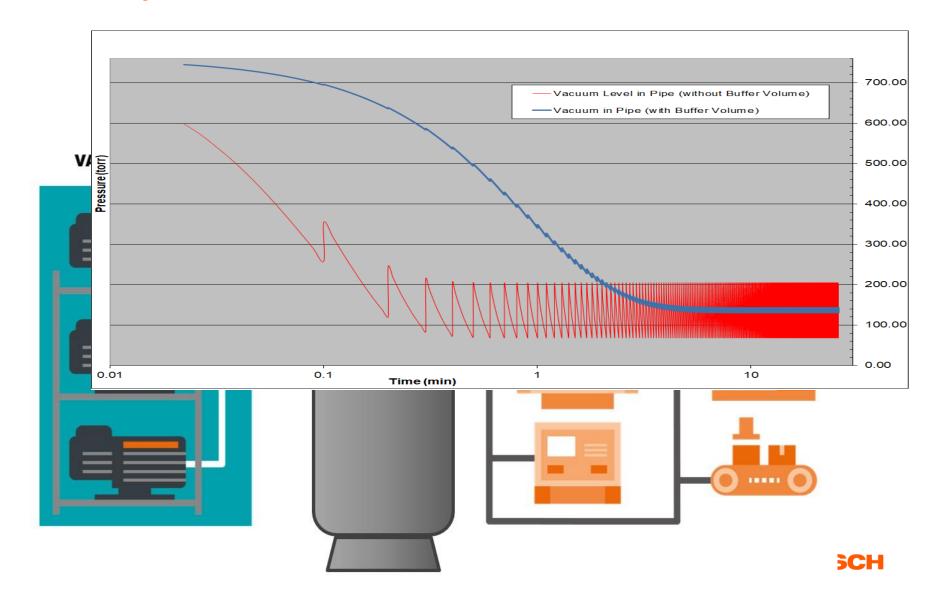
Centralized vacuum supply



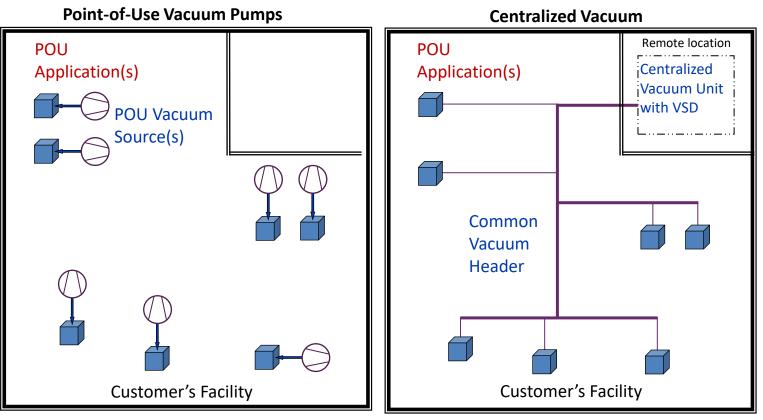
#### TIP 4 – Consider Central Vacuum Systems



TIP 4 – Consider Central Vacuum Systems with Buffer Volume



#### TIP 4 – Consider Central Vacuum Systems with VSD!



- Centralized VSD can "trim" system performance to match the demand.
- Reduced noise, heat and footprint in production area.



#### TIP 5 – Use the correct features and options

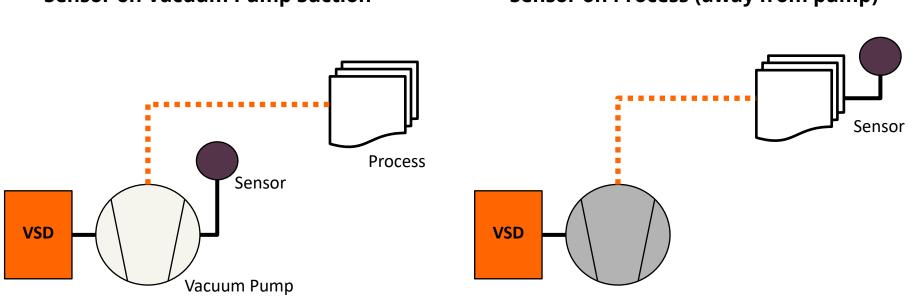
**VSD** with Sensor

Control Panel w/ VSD & Sensor



- Control Panel with Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) simplifies coordination of multiple pumps and optimizing efficiencies.
- USB connectivity makes communication, programing and monitoring easy.
- Many standard VSD enclosure types to choose from: NEMA 1, 12, 4, 4X etc.

#### VSD on Vacuum Equipment TIP 5 (continued) – Sensor Location



Sensor on Vacuum Pump Suction

Sensor on Process (away from pump)

- Sensor provides real time feedback to VSD from a location that is critical to the process.
- If sensor is installed at process, VSD can respond faster to demand changes.



#### Summary

#### VSD on Vacuum Equipment

- Remember the Tips!
- Vacuum process evaluation:



- Does my process flow requirement match my pump's capacity at 60Hz?
- Is there significant demand variation in my vacuum application?
- Am I using a closed loop pressure control system with automatic valves for pressure regulation?
- Can I benefit from Energy Savings or Rebates?
- Do I have process "idle" times? Are they substantial?
- Do I have in-house expertise to program and monitor VSDs or would I prefer a complete turn-key control panel?
- If a VSD is beneficial for me, do I have a preference on make/model to stay consistent with my existing plant equipment?
- Choose the appropriate pump technology before implementing controls!
- **Conduct a comprehensive vacuum optimization study** (i.e., Busch's 5-Elements of Efficiency program).



# Thank you!

**Geoffrey Cresswell** 

Busch Product Marketing Manager Rotary Vane Vacuum Pumps & VACTEST Vacuum Gauges <u>Geoffrey.Cresswell@buschusa.com</u>

www.buschusa.com

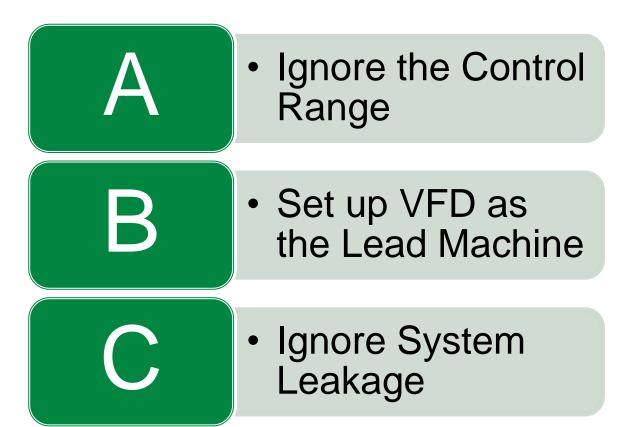


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Please submit your answer in the questions box.

#### What Should you do with a VFD Vacuum Pump?





\*By entering you are giving permission to announce your name if you are a winner

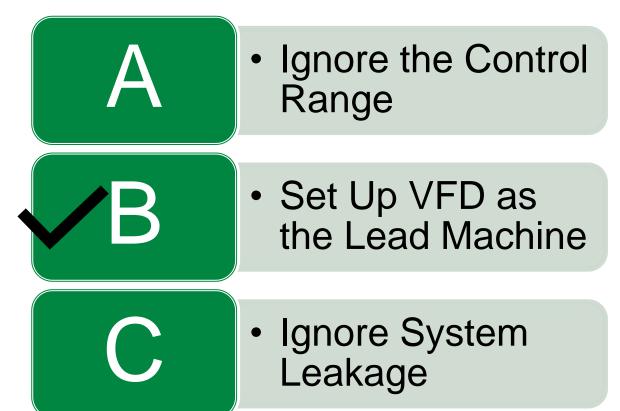


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#### Q&A

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#### August 2022 Webinar **Avoiding Production Downtime: Real Time ISO 8573-1 Compressed Air Quality Monitoring and Audits**



Francisco Lara Airtec Global Keynote Speaker

Thursday, August 25, 2022 – 2:00 PM EST Register for free at www.airbestpractices.com/webinars

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