

The Hetronic MEC-ACT remote control retrofit kit is easily installed and inexpensive.

Retrofit radio remote controls



Hetronic has introduced a simple kit to retrofit radio remote controls onto older loader cranes with simple manual/hydraulic controls. The MEX-ACT kit offers the benefits of quick and easy fitting, without the need to touch the cranes hydraulic system. Hetronic also says that the kit is inexpensive in comparison with other options for retrofitting remote controls.

The system offers a choice of either the company's Nova-M or Nova-L transmitter/controllers, with fully proportional operation and redundant double decoding security. The control signals are sent to a separate double acting actuator for each function. The installation of the actuators, involves no soldering or welding, the actuators simply clamp to the cranes horizontal control bars. The modular nature of the system allows it to be easily adapted to virtually any crane and will handle up to eight proportional functions.

Single key access

With construction equipment reaching automotive levels of sophistication at the same time as security becomes increasingly important, the days of the multiple keys for a machines are numbered. Southco has addressed this problem by developing the ability to offer key code flexibility, giving OEM's the ability to match all of the locks on a machine to the ignition key.

Southco says that it can engineer the lock cylinders to the same key profile, no matter what type of latch the customer wants. It can also provide the lock with or without the key so that the OEM or dealer can customise the latch with their own lock plug to provide the level of security that they require. Taking the concept to the extreme a fleet owner could have its own exclusive key for all its vehicles, no matter what type of machines or who the manufacturer is. This might apply to all the keys on every machine, including the cab and ignition keys or simply machinery chests - giving every service engineer a single key access to the fleet.



Southco offers a wide range of latches and locks all fitted with the same key

New energy chain cuts costs



Corus has replaced festooning on seventeen outdoor portal cranes with ready-to-install harnessed 'ReadyChain' energy chain systems.

Conversion to heavy duty energy chains on its cranes has drastically reduced maintenance costs at Corus Rail.

After evaluating energy chains (power tracks) in place of festoon systems on two Demag outdoor cranes, Corus Rail is refitting 17 more outdoor portal cranes and nine indoor magnet cranes with the recently improved Igus E4/4 HD energy chain. The bolt and bore connections on the new chain have been beefed up, with the bolt diameter increasing from 40 to 45 mm and its length doubled from four to eight millimetres. The result is

expected to increase service life significantly. The 'E4/4 HD' is also ideal for heavy loads in dirty environments (steel, cement, compost plants, docks, offshore plants etc.) and for long travels at high speeds. The thickness of the side wall has been increased from 22 to 29.5 mm, while the inside height and the outside height remain unchanged.

The location of the Corus plant in Workington, on the coast, means that the outdoor cranes must withstand heavy winds, saltwater spray, sand and heavy rain, not to mention the high temperatures of

the application. The festoons, required frequent maintenance through corrosion and general wear, while accessibility was also difficult, requiring scaffold or aerial lifts. With the energy chain solution, however, regular visual inspections now suffice, says Corus, to ensure that the chain has not been damaged and the cables are still correctly strain-relieved.

The energy chains are supplied already 'wired up' with a Chainflex special cable package, specially adapted for hostile outdoor applications and are installed on site by Igus.

The Igus E4/4 heavy duty energy chain with Chainflex special cables CF9 and CF10.



The benefits include minimal installation time, saving valuable production time. Richie Proffitt, an electrical engineer at Corus for 35 years: said "The 'ReadyChain' energy chain system works, it is reliable and maintenance-free."

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