

Abrasive blasting

has definitely gone High-Tech

The days of open abrasive blasting by minimally trained operators are nearly gone. Now, environmental and safety regulations combined with demanding surface profile requirements mean that abrasive blasting is often being performed by limited numbers of skilled operators using specialized higher priced media. As contractors work to control their costs in this high-tech new world, they need to find ways to improve labor productivity and carefully manage their abrasive consumption.

Some contractors still believe that pushing as much abrasive as possible through the nozzle maximizes productivity. In reality, blasting with too much abrasive can actually lower productivity. As the amount of abrasive in the airflow is increased beyond an optimal point, the exit velocity of the particles at the nozzle is drastically reduced decreasing the amount of energy impacting the surface. Once that begins to happen, production rates decrease and abrasive is wasted. Avoiding this problem by not feeding



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enough abrasives or "running lean" does not fully utilize the capabilities of the system.

can "tune" the abrasive mix by observing results as the abrasive flow is adjusted. However, this process can be time-consuming and difficult to replicate. Axxiom Manufacturing Inc. introduces a new abrasive control valve, the MV2™ (patent pending) into its Schmidt® air blast product line. The MV2™, successor to the Schmidt® Microvalve,

Experienced operators

includes a new virtual position indicator (VPI). The VPI is an external indicator that accurately displays the position of the plunger relative to the abrasive orifice inside the valve. Additionally, graduations show the number of turns the metering knob has been adjusted. This gives the operator more precision and consistency when adjusting the abrasive flow for different application conditions, nozzle sizes, blast pressures, and abrasive size and types.



The improved design of the MV2™ also utilizes the motive blast air to "fluff" the abrasive sitting above the valve to produce a more consistent media flow. For longer life, the internal components of the MV2™ are made from improved abrasive resistant materials. Because of its reconfigured body and fewer wearing parts, the new MV2™ is easier to disassemble and rebuild than its predecessor resulting in parts and labor cost savings in the field. These and other design features make the operator more productive and reduce abrasive consumption.