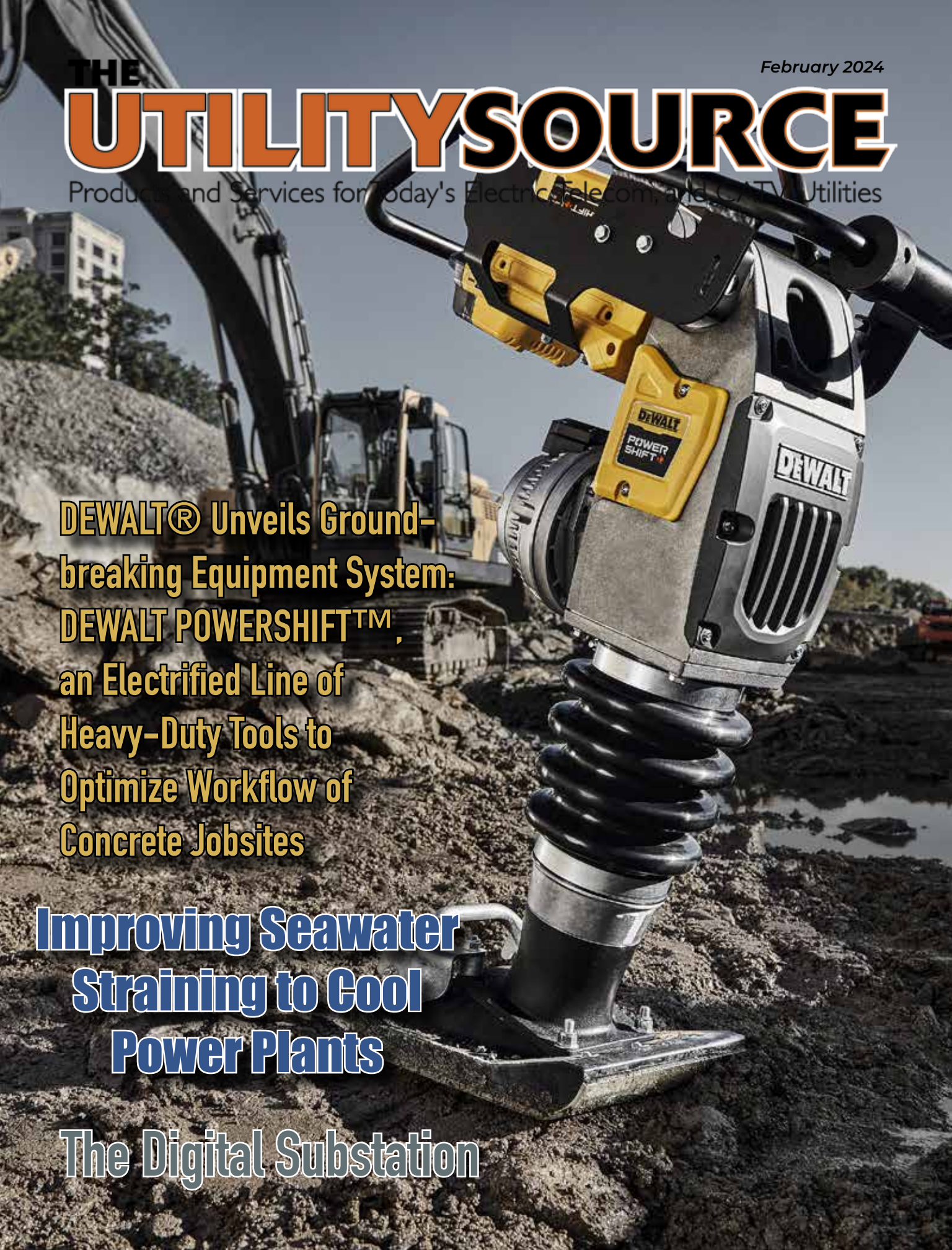
February 2024

THE UTILITY SOURCE

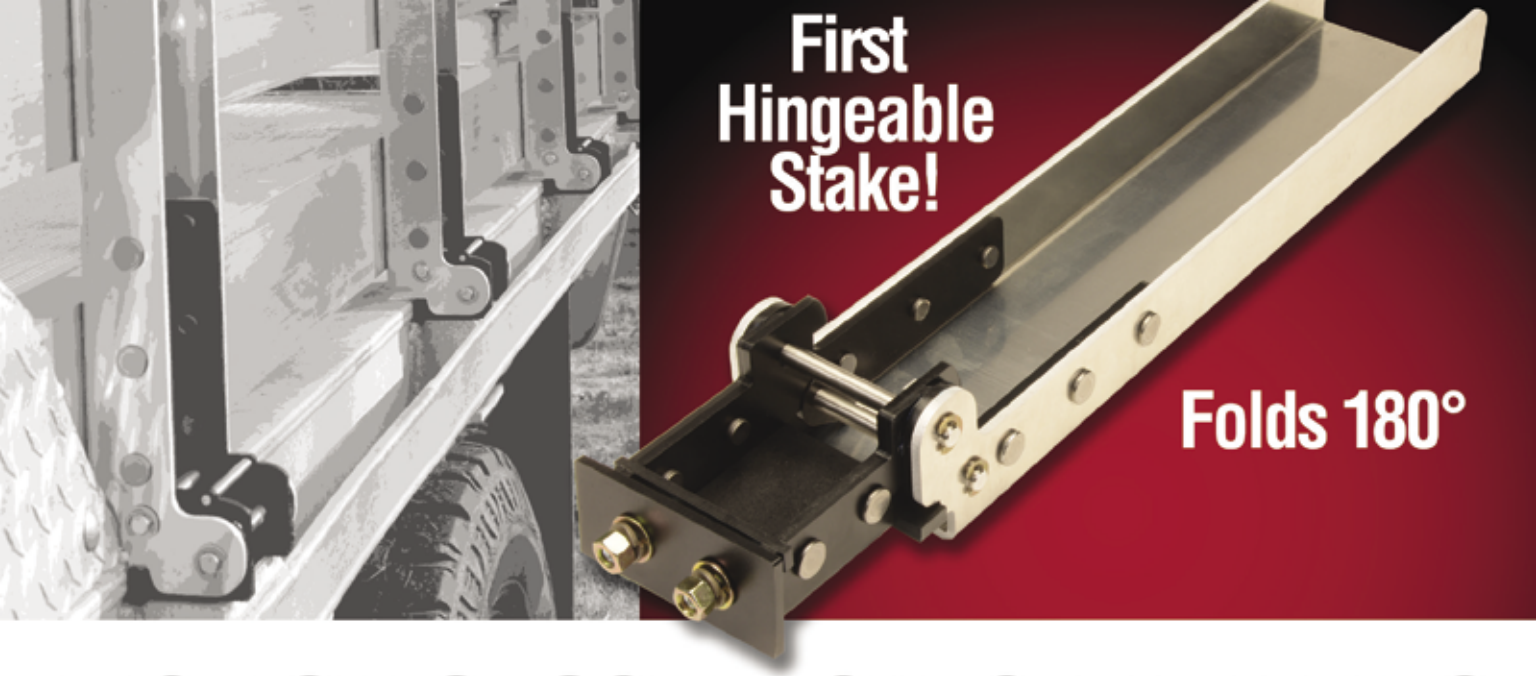
Products and Services for Today's Electric, Telecom, and CATV Utilities



DEWALT® Unveils Ground-breaking Equipment System: DEWALT POWERSHIFT™, an Electrified Line of Heavy-Duty Tools to Optimize Workflow of Concrete Jobsites

Improving Seawater Straining to Cool Power Plants

The Digital Substation



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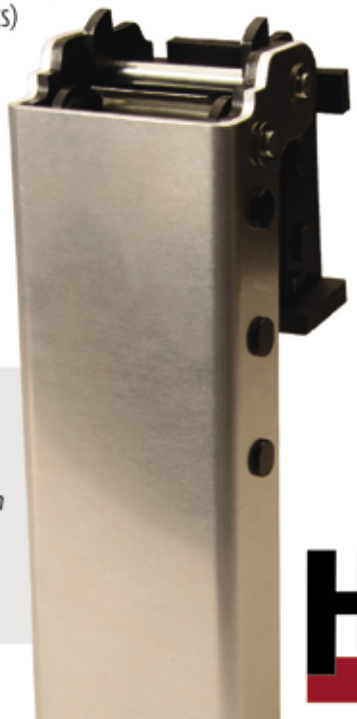

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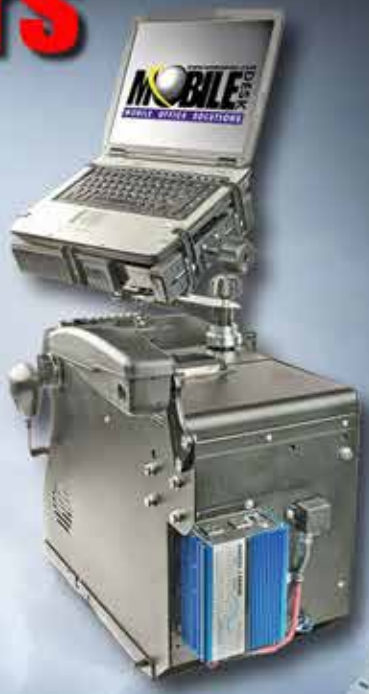

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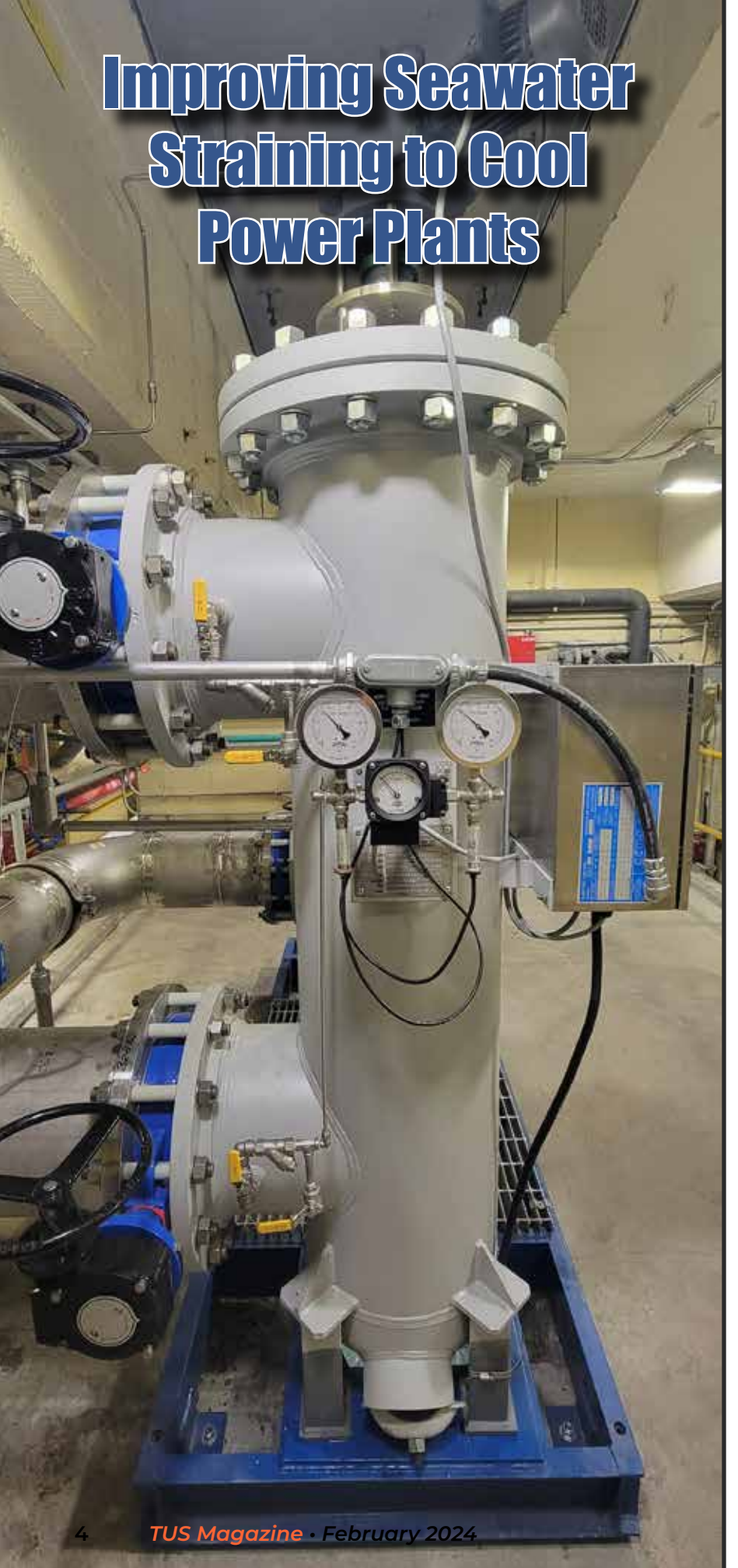
Improving Seawater Straining to Cool Power Plants



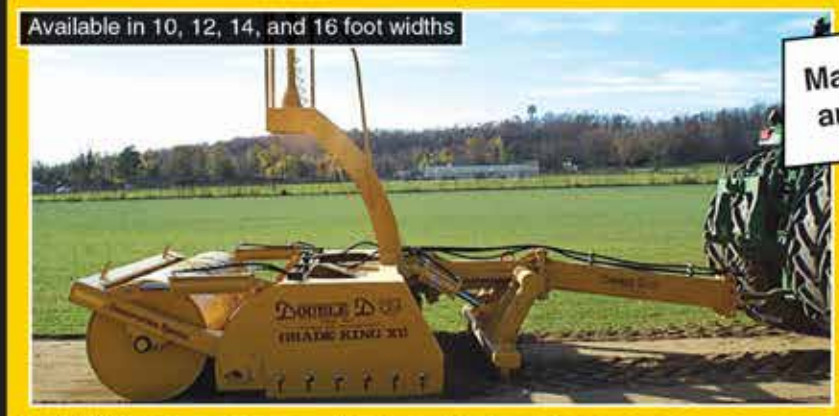
Automated scraper strainers that filter out both micron-sized particles and oversized detritus resist clogging and corrosion, minimizing maintenance and boosting production

Along the coasts and in many countries, seawater is widely used for cooling systems at power plants, as well as for some mining and industrial processes. The challenge, however, is that strainers must sufficiently filter out both small particles (sand, silt, suspended solids) and larger detritus (seaweed, aquatic life, marine debris) to reduce the risk of fouled processes and production downtime. In addition, the strainers must be designed to resist corrosive seawater. Fortunately, advanced strainer design and alternative materials of construction can dramatically reduce fouling and corrosion while cutting costs.

In power plants, once steam passes through a turbine, it must be cooled and returned to the water state before it can be reused to produce more electricity. For this type of application, once-through systems take in water from the ocean, circulate it through pipes to absorb heat from the steam in condenser systems, and discharge the seawater back to the ocean. Once-through systems are popular due to their simplicity and low cost as well as the abundant supply of seawater.

To utilize seawater for cooling, however, strainers are required to filter out a range of material from raw ocean water that could lead to blockage, excessive maintenance,

ROME



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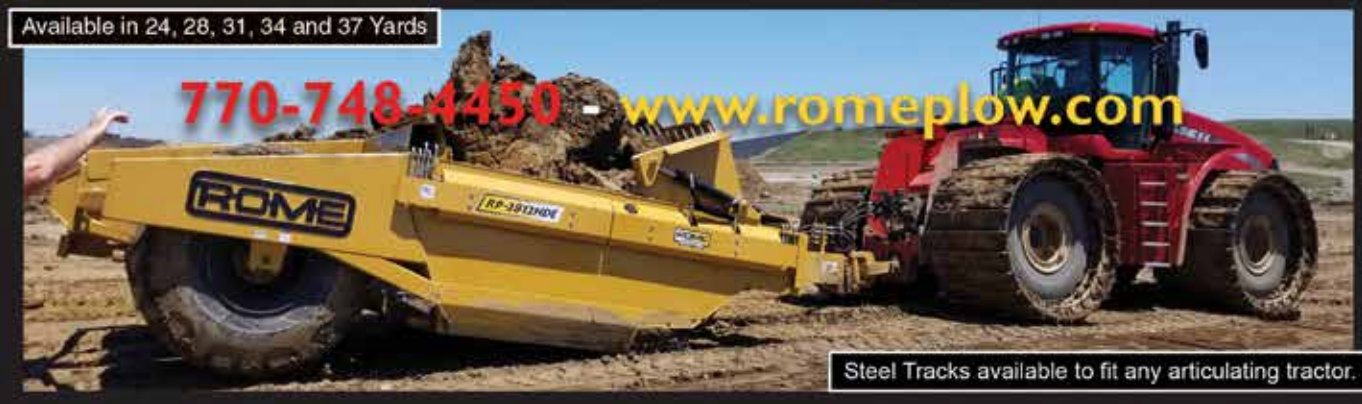
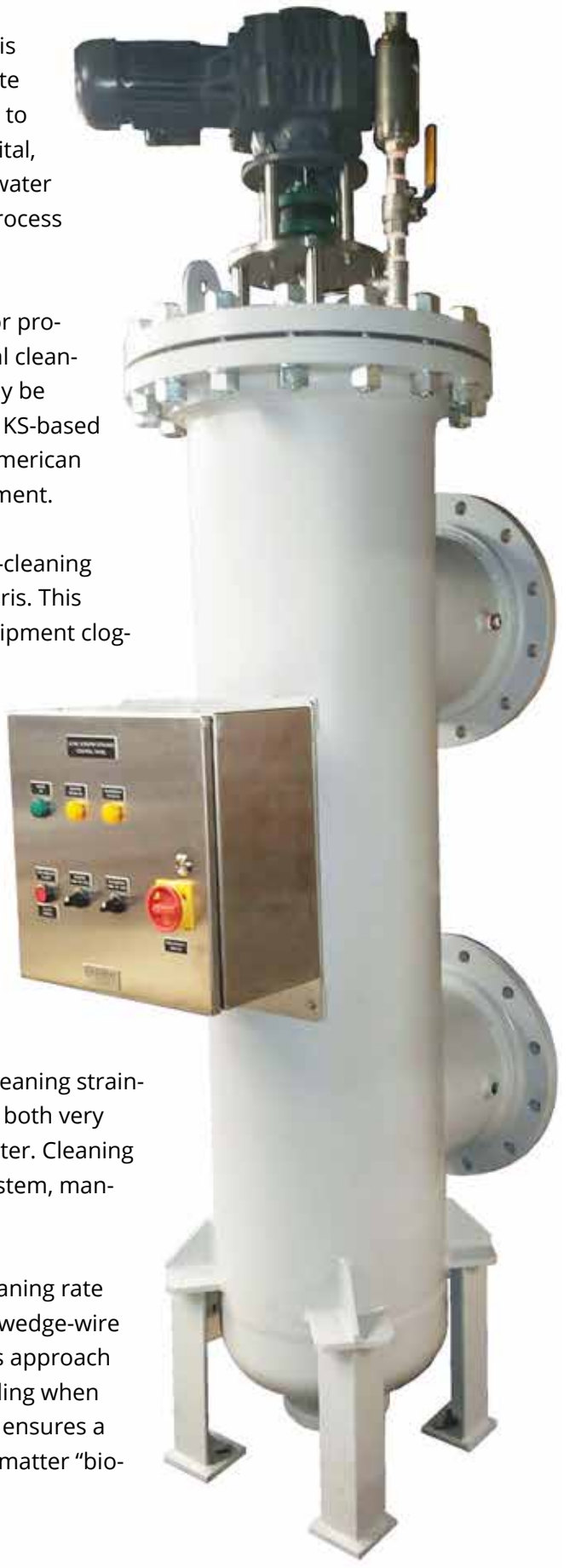


and production downtime. The central problem is that most available strainers do not filter out seawater debris at both ends of the size spectrum: from very fine to quite large. While multiple strainers can be used in sequence to filter out a range of debris sizes, this requires extra capital, equipment, space, and labor. The corrosiveness of seawater compounds the difficulty of maintaining strainer and process cooling equipment.

"If a facility draws raw water from any natural source for process cooling, it must be sufficiently strained, but manual cleaning can become excessive if bigger debris must regularly be removed," says Keith Williams, PE, President of Lenexa, KS-based Associated Equipment Sales, which represents North American manufacturers of heating, cooling, and hydronic equipment.

In response, the industry has developed automatic self-cleaning scrapers that filter out both tiny particles and large debris. This virtually eliminates manual maintenance as well as equipment clogging and fouling issues downstream, which helps to minimize production downtime.

"For [power] plants using process cooling water from natural sources, I often recommend utilizing an automatic scraper strainer from Acme Engineering that is designed to remove particles down to the micron level while still allowing you to pass surprisingly large debris. I've found that this is usually not possible with traditional equipment," says Williams.



The automatic scraper strainer from Acme Engineering, a North American manufacturer of industrial self-cleaning strainers, is a motorized unit designed to continually remove both very large and very small, suspended solids from cooling water. Cleaning is accomplished by a spring-loaded blade and brush system, managed by a fully automatic control system.

Four scraper brushes rotate at 8 RPM, resulting in a cleaning rate of 32 strokes per minute. The scraper brushes get into wedge-wire slots and dislodge resistant particulates and solids. This approach enables the scraper strainers to resist clogging and fouling when faced with large solids and high solids concentration. It ensures a complete cleaning and is very effective against organic matter "biofouling."

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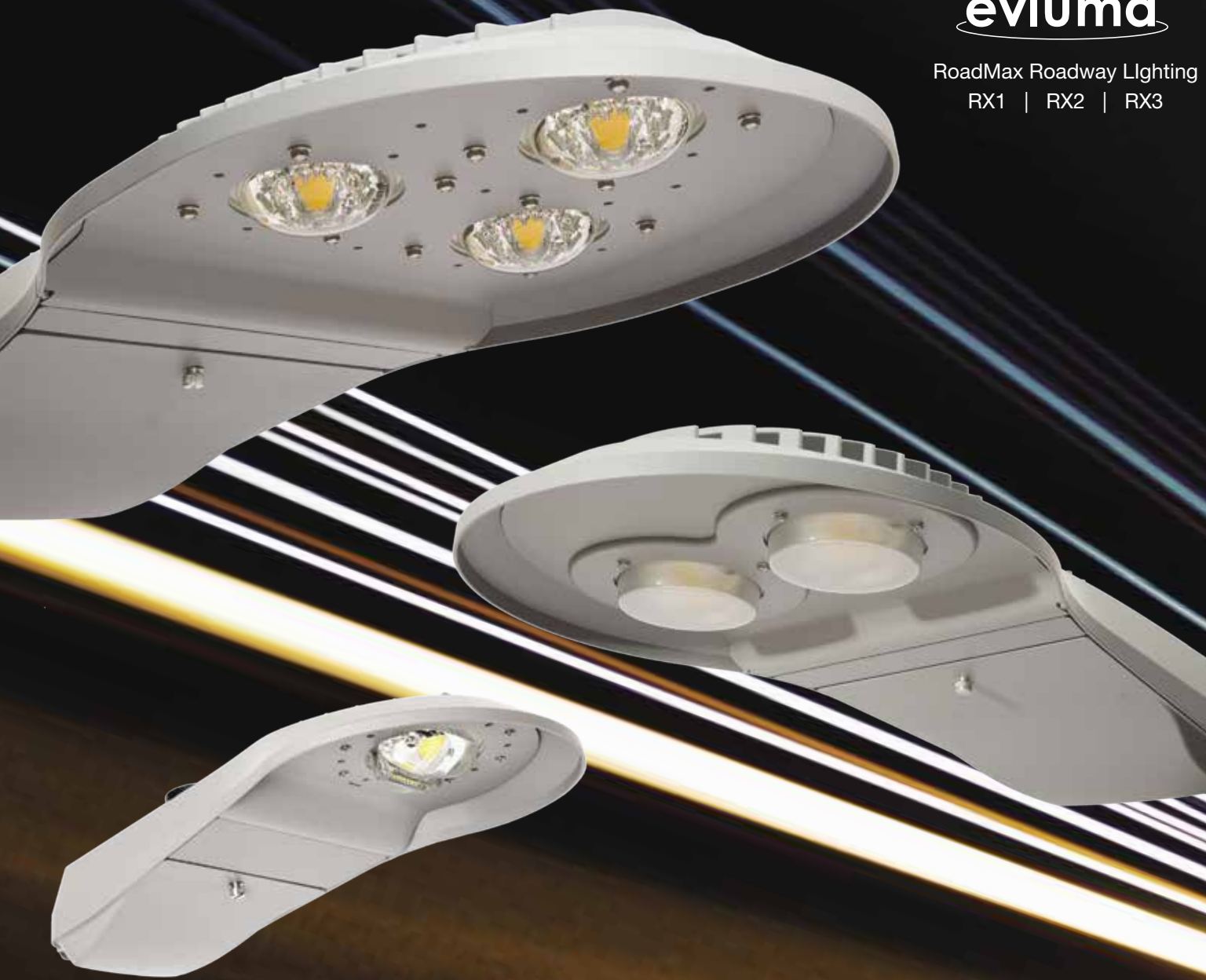

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Blowdown occurs only at the end of the intermittent scraping cycle when a valve is opened for a few seconds to remove solids from the collector area. Liquid loss is well below 1% of total flow.

According to Williams, the scraper basket also allows the strainer to bypass extremely large particles and debris automatically. “In my experience, very few manufacturers can pass such large particles while removing such fine particles,” says Williams.

“Unlike a manual strainer, you do not have to open and clean it. No one has to manually blow down solids. Since it is automatic, it is essentially a set and forget type of system that lets you walk away and focus on other aspects of your facility,” he adds.

He points out the ultimate benefit of utilizing an effective automatic strainer.

“Using an automatic strainer minimizes the required maintenance to keep it operational and helps to maximize production uptime. The larger the facility, the greater the benefit,” concludes Williams.

Of course, seawater can be highly corrosive to the strainers used to protect power plant process cooling equipment. Typical strainers constructed of carbon steel or even stainless steel quickly deteriorate when exposed to salty, corrosive seawater for extended periods. For this reason, costly duplex stainless steel (with chromium content up to 22%) and super duplex stainless steel (with chromium content up to 25%) are often utilized for greater corrosion resistance. However, even with the added expense, virtually continuous exposure to seawater can still lead to corrosion issues.

As a much more cost-effective alternative, Acme offers the option of using exceptionally corrosion resistant Fiber-Reinforced Plastic (FRP) for external strainer construction, including the pressure vessel

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itself. The internal mechanism is still manufactured with super duplex or similar steels.

FRP is a composite material made up of polymer supported with fibers for added strength. FRP is already widely utilized for the power plant piping used to carry seawater for once-through process cooling. Due to the FRP's strength, the material can also be used to build to ASME BPVC Section X standards, which establishes requirements for the fabrication of fiber-reinforced plastic pressure vessels. Acme has already utilized FRP for pressure vessel applications up to 300 PSI.

The industry can save approximately half the cost or more when the strainer's seawater intake vessels and piping for process cooling are built with FRP, and only the internals are constructed with super duplex.

Since FRP is far more corrosion resistant to seawater than carbon steel or stainless steel, yet costs just a fraction of expensive duplex or super duplex stainless steels used to resist corrosion, it is becoming a popular construction material for power plant strainer and process cooling equipment.

Although coastal power plants have long used ocean water for cooling, maintaining strainers has been challenging due to the size range of particles and debris that must be filtered out, as well as the corrosive effect of seawater. Using automated scraper strainers along with FRP construction can cost-effectively help to improve both equipment longevity and production.

For more info, visit Acme Engineering Prod. Inc. at acmeprod.com; phone Robert Presser, Vice President at: 518-236-5659; fax: 518-236-6941; mail Acme at Trimex Building, Route 11, POB 460 PMB 10, Mooers, New York 12958. In Canada phone: 514-342-5656; fax: 514-342-3131; mail them at 5706 Royalmount Ave., Montreal, Quebec, H4P 1K5.

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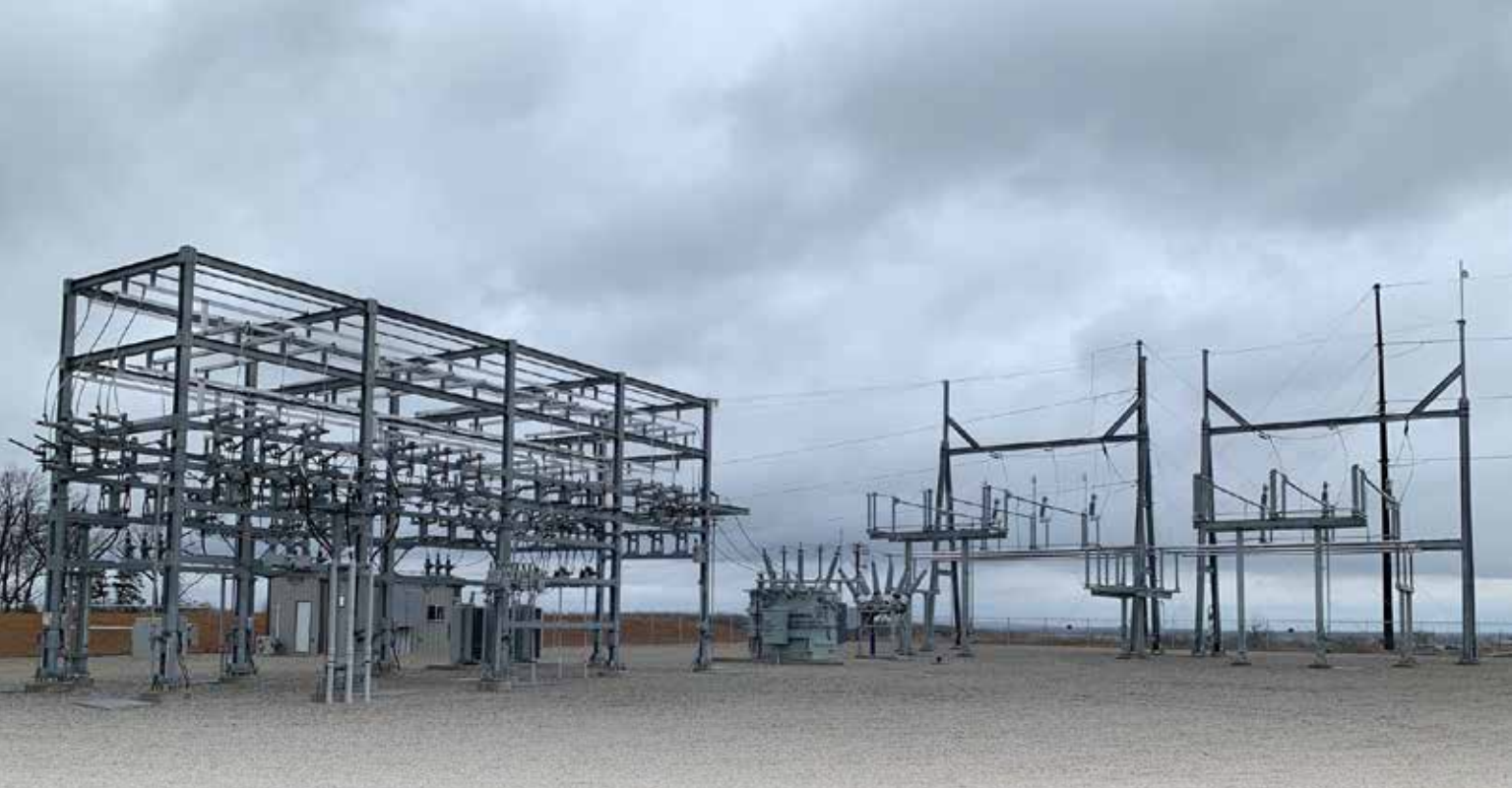


The Digital Substation

Thinking "Outside the Box" Could Play a Crucial Role in the Future of Substation Automation

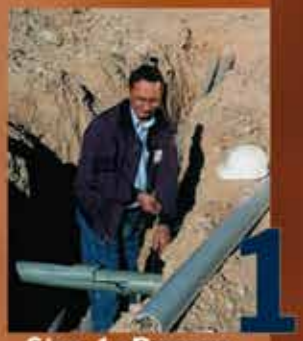
The future of power system substations may be redefined by the application of virtualization. At least that is what an increasing number of utilities are envisioning as they explore the opportunity for increased virtualization in substation design. In this future, there would be a significant reduction in the hardware used in substations. Instead, tasks will be carried out on cloud servers, marking a noticeable shift from the current reliance on extensive racks of hardware.

The appeal for utilities is the significant cost reduction for substation design and engineering, reduced usage of copper wiring, and the ability to easily replicate substation designs for future expansions.

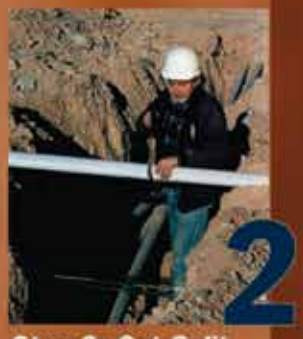
"Consider that today's substation can have 200 or more independent [hardware] boxes each performing a dedicated task," says Jeremy Anderson, Senior Vice President of Product Development at NovaTech Automation, a leading U.S. provider of automation and engineering solutions for power utilities headquartered in Quakertown, PA. "That's a tremendous amount of wire to pull, hardware to maintain, and it continues to become more and more congested. In a virtual digital substation, two or three servers run everything."

With a vision for an intelligent grid of the future that is adaptive and resilient requiring less hardware and leveraging more virtualization, the utilities industry has formed the Virtual Protection and Control Alliance (vPAC) to explore how to do this. The focus is to accelerate the creation of a standards-based, open, interoperable and secure architecture to host protection, automation, and control solutions for power system substations. NovaTech is one of its over 20 member organizations.

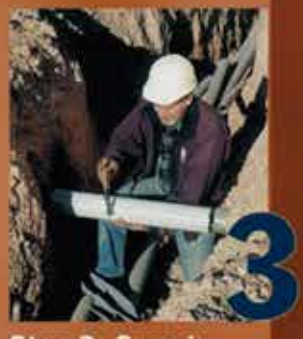
"From our standpoint, we wanted to help define the future of substation automation," says Anderson. With



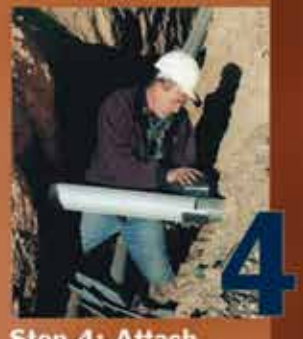
Step 1: Remove Damaged Conduit



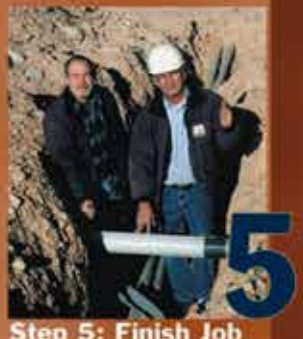
Step 2: Cut Split Duct Conduit to Fit



Step 3: Snap in Place



Step 4: Attach Adapters



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this in mind, NovaTech has spent the past year creating a virtual version of its Orion Substation Automation Platform to run on any server. The system is hosted on a host machine known as a hypervisor and servers powered by Intel CPUs.

The company's flagship product, the Orion is a communication and automation processor that can connect to nearly any substation device in its native protocol, perform advanced math and logic, and securely present the source or calculated data to any number of clients in their own protocol.

The Orion can be integrated with any equipment, including competitors, and is often connected to microprocessor-based relays, meters, event recorders, IEDs and RTUs. It is then connected to an existing enterprise network or SCADA system.

An emerging substation model
According to Anderson, there is a coordinated push by some large investor owned utilities in the United States and globally to move to what is being called the "digital substation." Still, not all utilities are ready to pull the plug on the traditional substation design quite yet.

"Most utilities aren't moving in this direction at this point," explains Anderson. "But they are certainly investigating it thoroughly with the plan to move in this direction in the coming years."

Cost savings is a leading driver of utilities' interest in virtualization.

"It is a lot less expensive to build multiple substations once a virtual design is established because you're not pulling tons of copper wire everywhere," says Anderson. "When it is based on the ethernet, you can buid a substation that is somewhat cookie-cutter in design and easily replicatable. This represents a significant cost saving in substation design and engineering.

The cost outlay for hardware is also reduced. "Consider that two or three servers that cost $10,000 each can potentially replace up to 200 hardware devices that average $10,000 per device. The savings are significant even if you factor in licensing fees for virtual machines," says Anderson.

Recent supply chain challenges are also increasing the appeal of hardware agnostic solutions.

"The pandemic certainly tested the supply chains in our sector," says Anderson. "There were massive issues around the world trying to buy hardware, especially custom-built devices. With virtualization, if a server ever fails, it is easier to find a replacement and the utility is not limited to proprietary hardware."

Designing the virtual system
In creating the virtual Orion, NovaTech wanted to ensure the system functioned identically to its current hardware-based system.

"The biggest challenge was taking a system that was developed over many years as embedded software for purpose-built hardware and make it run on any server," says Anderson.

He adds that in some ways it was easier than initially thought. "The virtual Orion looks and operates the same as every unit we have sold," says Anderson. "It just happens to run on hardware that we didn't build."

Anderson adds that NovaTech was intent on ensuring the customer experience was unaltered.

"Our customers know the Orion, how to program it, and how to interact with it. So one of our major goals was to ensure that whatever we do in this virtual environment, the Orion would operate identically from the customer's perspective."

The virtual Orion system is currently in beta test at a utility in Arizona with the full release planned in February. The company plans to debut it at the DIS-

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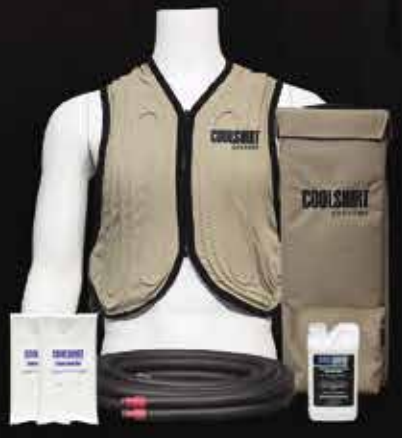

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Looking ahead

"We are still in the early days of the deployment of the virtual digital substations," says Anderson. "There are some early adopters, but I anticipate that we are at least five years away from broad-based market adoption."

However there is an opportunity to solve a more immediate issue in substation environments. As more IoT devices are installed in utility distribution systems, a single virtual Orion on a server could be used to collect and manage data from thousands of sources. When all these devices must be hardwired, it can take several racks of Orions to collect all the data.

A similar scenario could drive the use of the Orion beyond the substation environment and into any enterprise where thousands of devices are collecting data.

With cloud computing and virtualization changing the contours of many industries, momentum continues to build behind virtualizing more of the work of a substation. The blueprint for tomorrow's power system substation has yet to be fully written, but it is only a matter of time that we will see more virtual environments emerge through the collective expertise of industry stakeholders.

For more information on the vPAC Alliance, visit www.vpacalliance.com. More information on Orion substation automation solutions can be found at the NovaTech Automation website, www.novatechautomation.com/solutions/substation-automation, or by contacting (484) 812-6000.

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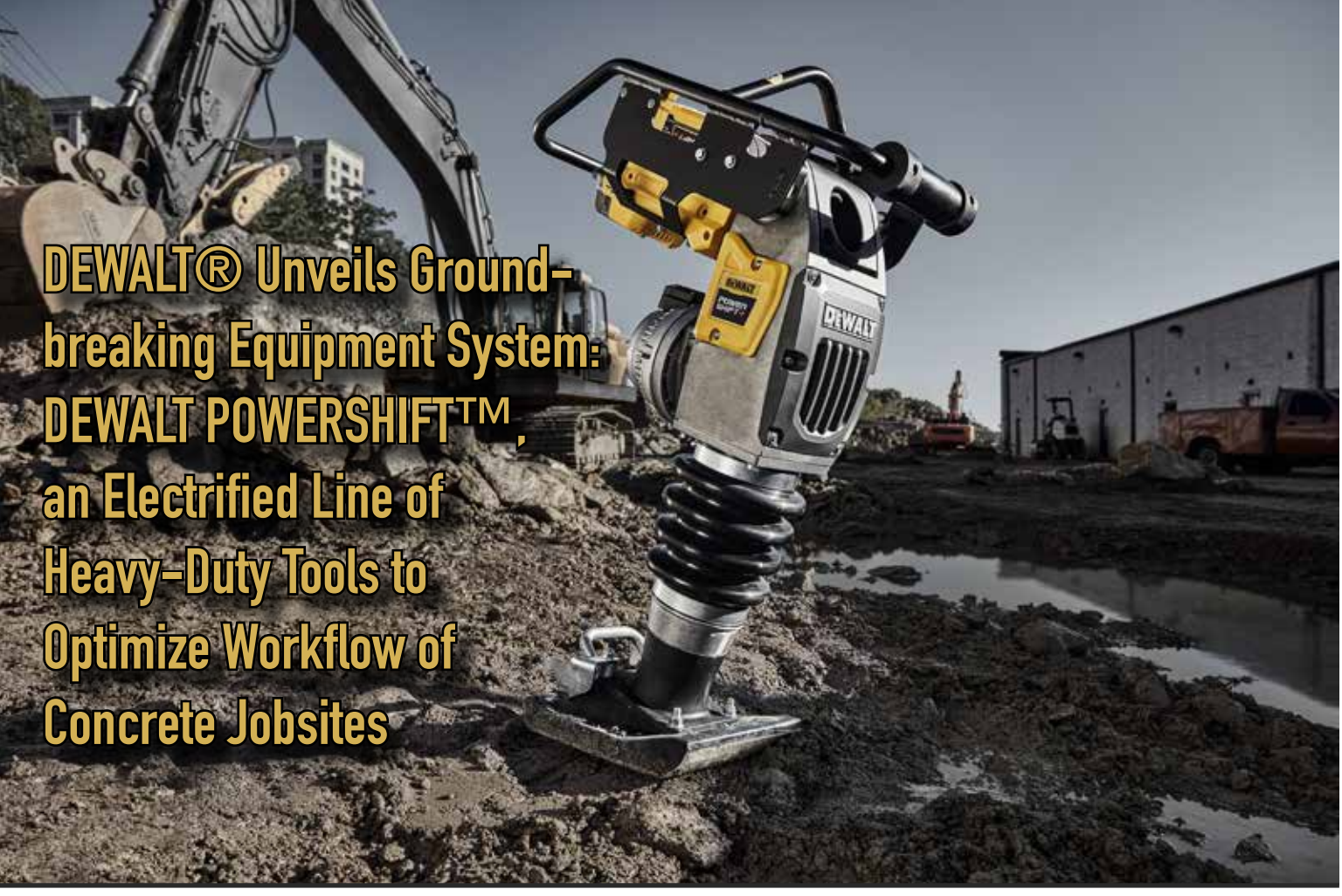


DEWALT® Unveils Groundbreaking Equipment System: DEWALT POWERSHIFT™, an Electrified Line of Heavy-Duty Tools to Optimize Workflow of Concrete Jobsites

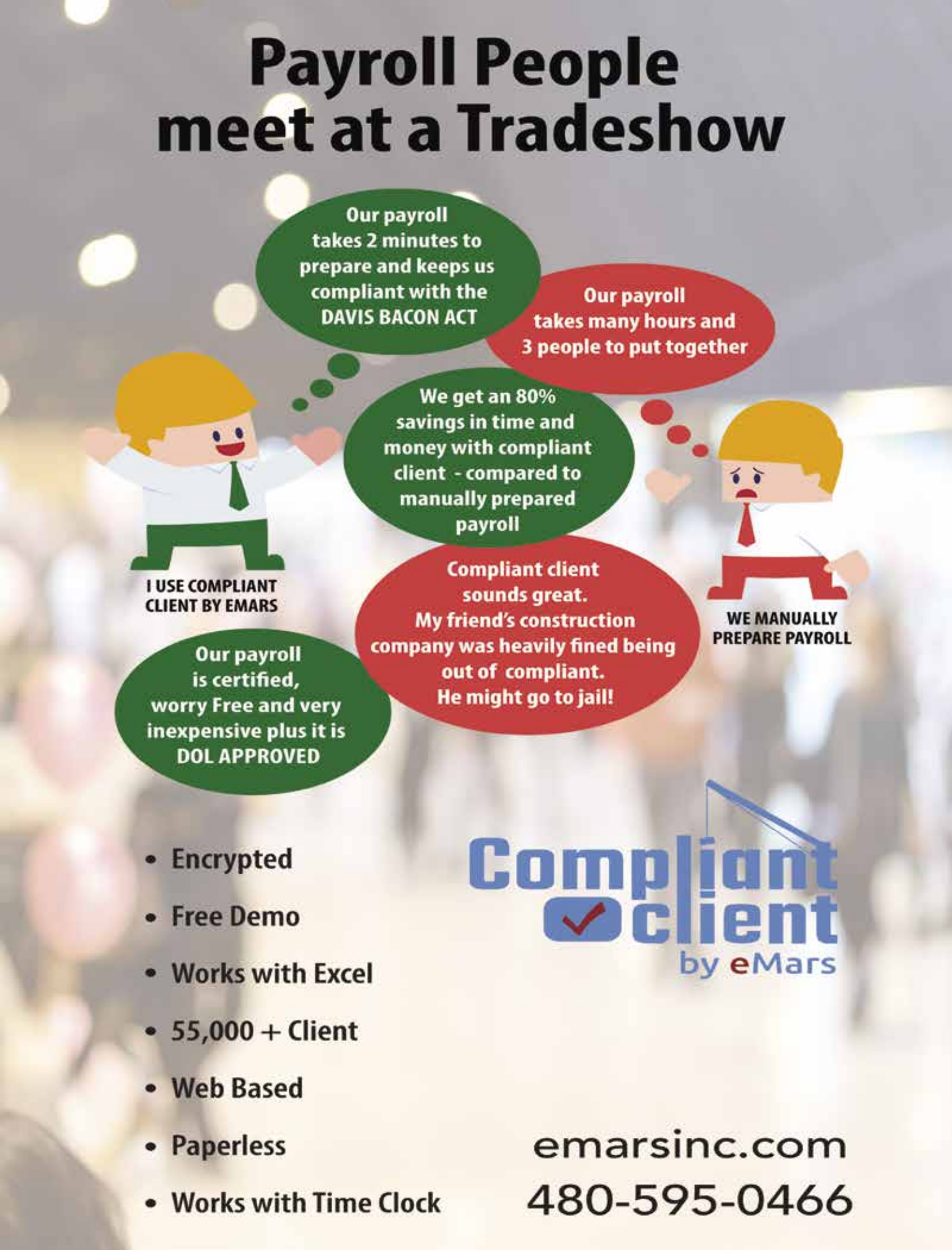
DEWALT, a Stanley Black & Decker brand and leader in total jobsite solutions, today announced the launch of DEWALT POWERSHIFT™, a groundbreaking equipment system to optimize the workflow of concrete jobsites through electrification. Designed to meet the critical needs of concrete professionals – power, runtime, and ergonomics – the electrified line will allow users to transition away from gas-powered equipment, without compromising efficiency and performance. The system, made up of six concrete tools, streamlines the full concrete application through use of the same DEWALT POWERSHIFT™ 554 WH battery and high-speed charger across all tools. It is backed by DEWALT's powerhouse portfolio of complimentary tools, accessories, and technology.

"As we kick off DEWALT's 100th anniversary year, our guiding principle of making pros more productive holds strong with the launch of DEWALT POWERSHIFT™," said Frank Mannarino, President, Power Tools Group, Stanley Black & Decker. "DEWALT POWERSHIFT™ is launching at a time when the industry is increasingly preparing for electrification, particularly as construction sites respond to statewide legislation aimed at phasing out gas-powered tools. As part of this effort, DEWALT is providing a solution that electrifies the concrete workflow to maximize cost and time savings, while minimizing the environmental impact for the user. These user advantages are paramount to innovating in accordance with our purpose to empower Those Who Make the World."

The DEWALT POWERSHIFT™ line launched at the World of Concrete Trade Show in Las Vegas on January 23 with the following products:

- Battery & Charger: High Power Density battery with 554WH of capacity weighing just 11.5 lbs. for long runtime and optimal ergonomics. High-rate charger can charge the battery in less than one hour.
- Plate Compactor: Provides 3,370ft lbs. of force through its 15.7-in. plate with controls that are mounted on an ergonomically designed folding handle for increased user control and comfort.

Payroll People meet at a Tradeshow



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- Rammer: Features 2,660 ft. lbs. of impact force with antivibration insulators and mounted controls on the two-position handle.
- Backpack Vibrator: Lightweight at only 25 lbs. with the DEWALT POWERSHIFT™ battery installed and features a durable roll cage with fully adjustable hi-vis harness.
- Powerpack Vibrator: Can be activated remotely through DEWALT Wireless Tool Control™ and carried with an over-body hi-vis harness for easy transport.
- Power Screed: Features fully adjustable handles for customizable height and width in addition to ambidextrous controls that can be mounted on either handle.
- Core Drill and Stand: Designed with close wall or ceiling clearance. As a part of the DEWALT PERFORM & PROTECT™ line of tools, the drill features anti-rotation technology to prevent over rotation in a bind up situation.
- Adaptor: DEWALT FLEXVOLT® to DEWALT POWERSHIFT™ adaptor allowing use of DEWALT FLEXVOLT batteries for additional runtime when using DEWALT POWERSHIFT™ equipment.

As a crucial component of DEWALT's total workflow solution, the DEWALT POWERSHIFT™ line delivers fully integrated connectivity with the DEWALT Site Manager app, providing users with data on asset management, tool location, utilization, and safety. In addition, Converge's AI-based platform ConcreteDNA, powered by data from DEWALT's wireless concrete sensors, interprets real-time data allowing users to observe compressive strength gain of concrete and to predict when it will reach critical strength.

Other new product innovation will be showcased at the DEWALT booth, including TOUGHSYSTEM® 2.0 DXL™, a new modular system made up of four 30-in. products – a worktop, two-drawer unit, deep drawer and dolly – that combine to create an organized mobile solution keeping users productive on the job.

Taking a Pulse on the Shift to Electrification

To better understand the opportunities and challenges of electrifying the jobsites of the future, DEWALT conducted a survey, "Power Pulse," which polled construction industry professionals, including decision makers and skilled craftworkers. The survey found that 89% of construction professionals are confident that their construction sites are adequately fitted for the transition to fully electric-powered tools.

Survey data among construction professionals ultimately disproved broad misconceptions around electric-powered tools' efficiency and runtime. While pros commonly cited power supply (44%) and tool durability (39%) as concerns regarding electric-powered tools, 68% of respondents who switched to these tools on jobsites say it has allowed them to complete projects up to two to three times faster compared to gas-powered tools. Furthermore, 72% of electric-powered tool users say they are either satisfied or very satisfied with the transition to electric-powered tools on their construction site.

Other key findings of DEWALT's Power Pulse Survey include:

- Gas is No Longer Reliable: Construction employees reported experiencing more issues or breakdowns with gas-powered tools (59%) compared to electric-powered tools (45%).
- Availability and Education Barriers: Construction professionals cite the lack of availability of electric-powered equipment for their line of work (38%) and insufficient knowledge of their capabilities (36%) as the primary reasons for not using electric-powered tools.
- Going Green Can Pose a Challenge: Fifty-three percent (53%) of construction professionals say they have passed on a bid due to the inability to commit to sustainability regulations or lost a bid due to challenges with sustainability regulations.
- Wide-Ranging Benefits: Compared to gas-powered tools, the most significant benefits of electric-powered tools for construction employees are safety (46%), ease of use (44%), greater time-savings (42%), as well as less maintenance and lower operating costs (36%).
- Wear-and-Tear of Everyday Work: The physical strain from using heavy equipment is the biggest stressor across jobsites, with 47% of skilled workers and 46% of construction management citing this factor, respectively.

DEWALT POWERSHIFT™ will be available through commercial and industrial channels fall 2024.

To learn more about DEWALT POWERSHIFT™, please visit: ***www.dewalt.com/world-of-concrete-2024*** •

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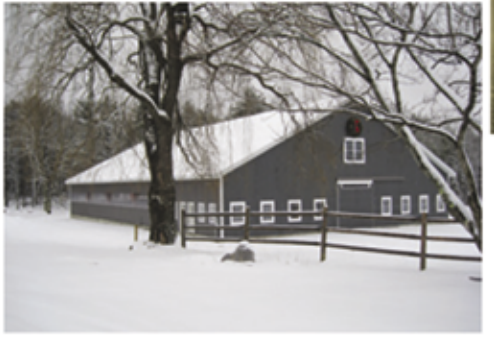

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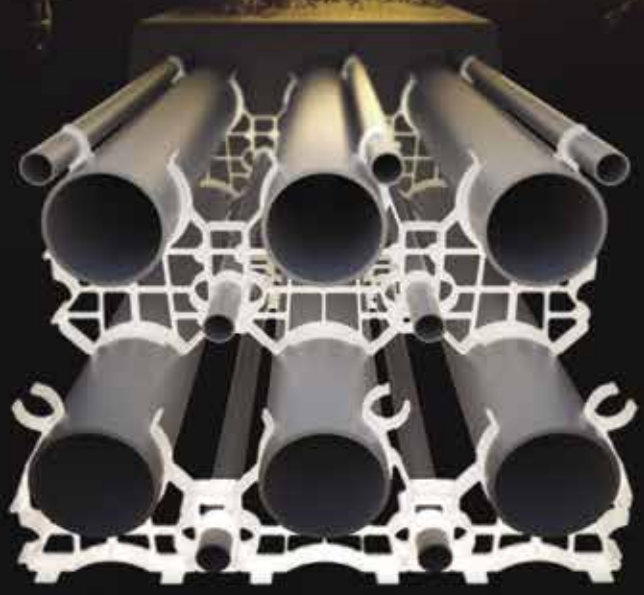

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