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India inauguration core to Mack Valves' vision

Just weeks after the company celebrated its 75th anniversary and a year after Mack Valves was acquired by independent gas industry entrepreneurs, the new look valve manufacturer (internally called Mack 2.0) invited key industry figures to celebrate the beginning of what could be a positive future for the company. **Stuart Radnedge** reports from the inauguration of its new Asian production plant in Pune, India.

Australia's High Commissioner to India, Patrick Suckling (pictured above), made time in his busy schedule to join the abundance of CEOs and key figures from both the Indian and global industrial gases family to help celebrate the official opening of Mack Valves' manufacturing and testing facility.

Held on 30th October, the inauguration was a clear indicator of a company that has big ideas and even bigger plans for what the future holds.

Founded in 1939, Mack Valves is an Australian-based cryogenic, LNG and industrial gas valve manufacturer. The company also has a dedicated water distribution industry and defence

valves division, and has been through a number of growth cycles, all based on creating unique and customised solutions at the request of customers.

Having celebrated its 75-year anniversary just weeks before the opening of the new manufacturing plant in Asia, Chairman Ravin Mirchandani proudly outlined, "Mack Valves is in a unique position – as the inauguration of this new plant in India is the first major expansion for the company outside of Australia and we are doing so as we celebrate 75 years of serving our customers globally. Founded by Michael E Mack in 1939, Mack Valves began as a steam valve manufacturer for the Australian mining industry. During

the 1960s, at the invitation of the Royal Australian Navy, Mack commenced designing and manufacturing valves for Australian navy frigates, followed by support to the US Navy as well. Then, during the 1970s and at the request of Commonwealth Industrial Gases (later renamed BOC Australia), Mack commenced the design and manufacture of cryogenic valves to support industrial gas industry customers regionally in Oceania and Asia."

"Subsequently, Mack also manufactured highly specialised large engineered valves for oxygen service and also a range of large sized valves for the water distribution industry."

"It all began in Australia and we have gone on to make some very significant valves using unique materials like Monel, Inconel (superalloys) and HDB, which we are very proud of. Our basic DNA is that of a company that listens to its customers and is able to generate unique products for smaller requirements at the request of our customers. We have expanded our range of standardised cryogenic valves and regulators and today can supply the full set of valves for cryogenic and LNG tanks and tankers. Our vision is to provide our industrial gas customers a sustainable alternative globally and that is exactly why we invested in this new plant in India."

Having been acquired in 2013 by independent entrepreneurs with strong experience in manufacturing cryogenic and industrial gas equipment, Mack Valves has since expanded its management team to include Shaun Miller, Global Head of Business Development, and Craig Ehrke, new Managing Director. The team also includes Jim Keamy, who has 30 years of experience in the design and manufacture of highly engineered valve solutions.

The new manufacturing plant in India is a major expansion for the company and the plant will manufacture standardised cryogenic and LNG valve products, augmenting existing capacity at its plant in Australia. Large engineered valves, as well as defence and water

industry valves will continue to be manufactured in Australia.

Jitendra Parasher, CEO of Mack Valves India, spoke of his pride at getting to the stage of having a plant inauguration and paid tribute to the newest members of the Mack family. He said, "As I stand

"As I stand before you I have extreme feelings of pride... This plant (will) contribute to the regional gases eco-system"

before you I have extreme feelings of pride. My team has gone through a lot of effort and challenges over the past 12 months to get us to the stage we are at today. This plant is going to contribute to the regional industrial gases eco-system by optimising lead times for our

customers in the region."

Ehrke added, "This plant was built to support the operations of our industrial gas industry customers in the regions and is a fine example of the entrepreneurial spirit of Australian companies and our dedication to systems, process and quality products."

Those attending the event were then treated to a guided tour of the facility, with the newer members of the Mack Valves family speaking with passion and knowledge of just what their jobs entail on a daily basis and the processes that have to be adhered to when manufacturing high-pressure valves.

"We make small valves, and big valves, valves for cryogenic sectors, engineered valves – we make the full range of valves to fit a tank," Mirchandani enthused.

"We are not one size fits all. At Mack, you can have anything and any colour you want – as long as you want it. We



© Mack Valves | [L to R] Suckling speaking to Mack Valves' Craig Ehrke and Shaun Miller.

aim to provide all the flexibility and choice you need."

This perhaps encapsulates the past, present and future of the company. Despite its expansion and new look management team, Mack's 75-year history remains in their hearts. But with the inauguration of this new plant in Pune, the new look Mack Valves has definitely announced that it's here and ready for business. 



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