
WARRINGTON, UK, MARCH 30, 2005

Distillery improves safety with motor upgrade

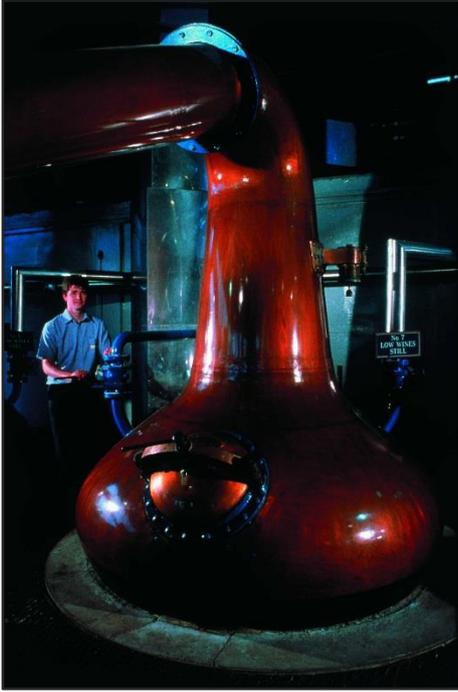
The Macallan, makers of Scotland's premier single malt, has fitted 39 ATEX certified motors from ABB at its Easter Elchies distillery at Craigellachie on Speyside. This follows a risk assessment and rezoning exercise to meet the new hazardous area regulations, which came into force on July 1st. All of the motors comply with the requirements for Zone 1, improving safety in areas made potentially hazardous by alcohol levels from the distilling process.

The motors, ranging in size from 0.55 to 5.5 kW, are used in a number of different applications such as pumping cooling water, charging and discharging stills, agitating tanks and transferring distillate and spirit. They were supplied by ABB's Drives Alliance and Motor Service partner EDC (Scotland), Renfrewshire.

The rezoning of the distillery provided The Macallan with an opportunity to replace all of its existing motors, improving safety as well as the energy efficiency of the process. Comments John Sutherland, The Macallan's company engineer: "Our previous motors dated from the 1970s. They were inefficient, with many of them having been rewound, and could not comply with the latest regulations. Apart from ABB's good reputation in industry, we had attended one of their seminars on the ATEX regulations and the package on offer was really what we needed."

In addition to the £35,500 spent on motors, The Macallan also invested a further £5,000 to fit variable speed drives from ABB on some applications, for which VSD certified motors for hazardous areas were selected. "Drives have proved very useful in some areas since they can be programmed to minimise hydraulic shock when charging the stills to a high degree of accuracy and allows us to maximise the properties of heat exchangers," Sutherland says.

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Caption: The Macallan has fitted 39 ATEX approved motors from ABB at its Speyside distillery.

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For more information please contact:

Layla Hewitt
Marketing Communications
Phone: 01925 741517
Email: layla.hewitt@gb.abb.com

ABB Ltd.
Daresbury Park
Daresbury
Warrington WA4 4BT

Emma Jenkinson
Armitage Communications
Phone 020 8667 2218
Email: emma.jenkinson@armitage-comms.co.uk