



■ EFRC Workshop students and speakers at the end of the conference program at the GE Florence Learning Center.

EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RECIPROCATING COMPRESSORS

Fourth Annual Workshop for Student Recip Compressor Engineers

European Forum for Reciprocating Compressors (EFRC) sponsored the fourth workshop for technical students specializing in the field of reciprocating compressors. The event took place from June 6 to 9, 2006.

The workshop began in Winterthur, Switzerland, the hometown of Burckhardt Compression. After gathering in the morning, the 25 participants from seven different European countries visited the Burckhardt manufacturing facilities in the afternoon to witness how the compressors are made, from component machining to final assembly.

On June 7, after a bus trip through the Alps, the group reached Ferrara, Italy, and visited the Polimeri Europa petrochemical plant. There, the delegates had a chance to see reciprocating compressors at work in an application compressing various hydrocarbon gases at the pressures required by the different industrial processes.

The third day started at the GE Florence Learning Center with conferences held by specialists in reciprocating compressors disciplines: University of Pisa for theoretical calculations, Hoerbiger of Vienna for compressor valves, Prognost of Rheine for monitoring systems, TNO of Delft for vibration and noise analysis and finally the Technical University of Aachen for the assignment of tasks that the students will have to develop in the upcoming month.

The afternoon was dedicated to a visit of the GE Nuovo Pignone Florence plant where the students witnessed several large hydrogen compressors in the final assembly stage and the main components of a 33 MW hypercompressor.

The workshop concluded on June 9 with the return to Winterthur.

By organizing such workshops, EFRC intends to form a class of reciprocating compressor specialists that will, in the future, cover managing positions required by compressor operators as well as component and compressor manufacturers. ■

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