



An Interview with Rory Mackay: HIM Operations Supervisor at Alatas Americas

Originally from the Caithness-county village of Castletown, in the North of Scotland, Rory Mackay got his first taste of the oil and gas industry when he moved to Aberdeen in 2006, becoming an Assembly and Pressure Testing Technician for hydraulic hose company, Hydrasun. Hose & Coupling World had the pleasure of talking to Mackay, who after moving to Houston in 2013, now assumes the role of Operations Supervisor for the Hose Integrity Management Division at Alatas Americas in Manvel, Texas. Mackay shares his experience in the industry, tells us about the Alatas HIM database system, and offers insight into Hose Integrity Management in the oil and gas sector.

By Melanie Gogan, Editor



Alatas hose container in Dubai

Located in Manvel, close to Houston, Alatas Americas Inc., part of Alatas worldwide, provides offshore, marine and industrial service throughout North, South and Central America and Canada, including hydraulic service, crane service, non-destructive testing (NDT) and specialist inspections. Flexible hose assemblies (FHAs) make-up a large component of crane services, due to the nature of the operations performed. As Operations Supervisor to the Hose Integrity Management Division, Rory Mackay serves a unique role in assessing any asset with a large number of hydraulic power units (HPUs) and FHAs – be it at a drilling rig, an offshore support vessel or a production platform.

There is no such thing as a typical work day for Mackay. Whether he is meeting with Technical Support Managers and Engineers to advise them on the benefits of a comprehensive Hose Integrity Management (HIM) system, or leading a new project offshore or on-site, Mackay's role does not leave him in one place for long. In fact, his work has

taken him to Mexico, the UAE, Azerbaijan, Spain, Norway, the UK, and throughout the US. When he is not on the road, Mackay can be found assisting the Sales Department with requests for quotes, or supporting the Workshop Techni-

operate have multiple systems with hundreds, or even thousands of FHAs installed. Mackay points out, that more often than not, these companies have no formal register or record of what type of hoses they have, or how old they

out, "The purpose or application of these hoses has as wide a variation as the media being conveyed through the assembly." Location, media, temperature and pressure are just a handful of factors that contribute to a proper hose survey.

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cians with large orders, in the hydraulic hose fabrication process, pressure testing and hose kit preparation for dispatch.

One is left to wonder, what are the challenges of working in such varying environments? The location of the asset will often create its own set of challenges, explains Mackay. He adds, "The Gulf Of Mexico or

are. It is Mackay's role to complete an initial baseline survey and follow-up with a comprehensive Master Hose Register (MHR) that allows customers to plan suitable maintenance periods and change-out schedules on their FHAs. "We survey everything from 5", 7000 PSI cement hoses on offshore mud transferring equipment, to 3/16" braided fuel lines on diesel

In Mackay's experience, the most common and reoccurring mistakes that are discovered during surveys and large scale change-out programs, involve the misidentification of parts. This will often lead to under-rated hoses being installed to equipment, or the incorrect thread or flange types being identified on hydraulic hoses. This is just one of the challenges of working with hydraulic hose and fittings, explains Mackay. To this end, he points to a lack of general training in the industry. He remarks, "Trying

Probability of damage	P3	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 4	Class 5
	P2	Class 2	Class 3	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
	P1	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
	Scores	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
Consequence of failure						

Criticality Rating Chart based on Energy Institutes guidelines for flexible hose management

the Arabian Gulf between May and September has extremely high temperatures, whereas the North Sea in the UK and Norway has extremely low temperatures between November and March." Aside from the temperature extremes however, working in offshore operations presents various hazards that have to be constantly monitored and mitigated. Mackay comments, "Be it on a production platform, a drilling rig or a support vessel, the nature of the work and operations always presents its own unique set of challenges."

Hose Integrity Management (HIM)

Mackay supplies HIM services typically designed to support oil drilling and production companies on and offshore. The types of assets that these companies

generators... and everything in between," explains Mackay. Alatas Americas adheres to the SAE J1273 best practices for hydraulic hose assemblies, NAHAD recommendations and the Energy Institute (EI) guidelines on flexible hose management. It is by following these established guidelines surrounding fabrication, fittings and reuse, to name only a few, that Alatas stands by the highest level of service standards. In effect, understanding hose purpose or application is key to assessing a hose's viability and performance. For example, a vast range of different media, from domestic water and sour gas, to engine oil and drilling cement, affect an FHA's functionality. This factor, and many more, must be considered during any assessment. Mackay points

to find suitably trained and experienced personnel is a major issue across the field. This was true in the UK and the US regions where I worked. The only way around this, of course, is to develop your own training program."

Once a baseline survey is completed, Mackay gives each hose captured a criticality rating, based on the EI guidelines for flexible hose management. This rating allows Mackay to gauge how often a hose should be inspected and the frequency with which a change-out project should be planned.

Alatas' integrated HIM database system

Along with his role as Operations Supervisor, Mackay has devoted significant efforts in assisting in



the development of Alatas' unique online HIM database - a tool designed to provide multi-tracking functionality, informing customers of the specifications of all FHAs associated with their asset(s). Heav-

ily involved in development and design of the online HIM database, Mackay is committed to ensuring that the system is performing as it should, and providing easy navigation for customer and technicians alike. Mackay suggests that with the constant implementation of new government legislation, a proven auditable system for tracking FHAs is an invaluable asset.

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Dealing with the current climate

It is no secret there has been a huge downturn in the oil industry

because of the rapid decrease in the value of oil in the past twelve months, explains Mackay. This current climate has affected all supporting services in the oil and gas industry. He adds, "In the Houston area and over in Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Alabama, the downturn has decimated a lot of companies which are wholly reliant on offshore drilling."

Mackay's current line-up is a testament to a business that is pushing through the storm. With several scheduled 'rig-wide' hose baseline surveys on the books for Mackay, with the potential for large scale in-situ hose change outs following, there is no question that operations are still underway. Mackay

points to some strategies for getting through this challenging time: "Number one is quality. We see a lot of inaccurate data recorded in this business, so providing competent personnel to complete these complex surveys is perhaps our best differentiator against the competition. To be frank, the benefit we see from the downturn is getting some respite between projects, to further develop our in-house training and competence, to ensure we maintain high standards." Clearly, this pro-active approach, geared towards internal development, such as the integrated HIM database system, spells ongoing success for Alatas, now and in the future.

Rory Mackay

Operations Supervisor, Hose Integrity Management at Alatas Americas in Manvel, Texas



NEWS: PEOPLE



PEOPLE PROMOTIONS, AWARDS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dixon Valve & Coupling Co. to celebrate 100th anniversary milestone

Dixon, a US manufacturer and supplier of hose fittings and accessories, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. Headquartered in Chestertown, Maryland, with distribution and manufacturing centers around the globe, Dixon has grown to become a prominent supplier in the hose coupling industry.



Bob Grace, President

The company's success can be traced to the work ethic of Howard W. Goodall, who founded the company in March 1916. In his aim to grow his business, Goodall spent 30 years travelling across the country, learning about the mining, oil drilling, construction and railroad indus-

tries. The role of President was transferred to his son, Richard B. Goodall, in 1951.

In remembrance of his Father's determination, current owner and CEO, Richard L. Goodall was quoted as saying:

"We know about manufacturing hose couplings. We must continue to be the best at that... As long as we focus on people, product and service, everything else will fall into place."

Bob Grace is the current President of Dixon, a role he acquired in 2010. Under Grace's direction, Dixon has committed to developing new products, with a continued focus on US manufacturing. To support these initiatives, Dixon opened a 12,000-square-foot Innovation Center in 2012, where industry field challenges are sent for the development of creative solutions.

Motion Industries appoints Senior VP Hose & Rubber

Tony Cefalu was recently named Senior Vice President of Hose and Rubber, Shops and Service Centers for Alabama-based Motion Industries.



In this new position, he will continue to lead Motion's efforts for hose, rubber and gaskets, with the added responsibility for shops and service centers. Motion Industries services the petrochemical, chemical, iron and steel, mining and aggregates, food and beverage, pulp and paper, automotive, wood and lumber and pharmaceutical industries.

JDR's Robert Weeks wins Subsea UK, Young Talent Award

Robert Weeks, lead engineer at JDR Cable Systems recently won the award for Young Emerging Talent the the Subsea UK Awards in February. He was praised for his work on a variety of projects, including the design and development of the first JDR hybrid steel tube umbilical.



Andreas Gerstenberger new head of ContiTech's Industrial Hose Business

Andreas Gerstenberger was recently appointed head of ContiTech's global Industrial Fluid Systems business unit, and the Industry Hose segment. The business unit is divided into two product segments: Industry Hose and Oil & Gas, with development, production and sales centers aimed at the raw materials, food, chemical and pharmaceutical industries. In his new role, Gerstenberger will be located in Fairlawn, Ohio.

