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PumpAction..... ISSUE 40 MAY 07

CASE STUDY

Hydrovar Smart system fail-safe for award-winning Houston's Farm

Sales Engineer Peter Doran (TAS)

Turning on a garden sprinkler and being able to adjust the flow is often taken for granted thanks to mains pressure in urban areas and the wide range of pressurised pumps for rural and other areas. But when staff at Houston's Farm, Richmond in Tasmania turn on the sprinklers they are irrigating between 1 and 5 hectares of lettuce at any one time.

The farm currently grows and supplies approximately 30 tonnes of high quality baby leaf salads to supermarkets and stores around Australia, with their commitment to quality being recognised last year when they were awarded the prestigious 'Woolworths Supplier of the Year' award. This commitment to quality led management at Houston's to call upon local irrigation and water resource consultant, James Curran, to help source a new irrigation pump system as part of their farm upgrade.

James approached Kelair's Launceston branch with a firm requirement for a pump system that is extremely reliable, low maintenance and user-friendly. In particular, the control and drive system had to be a proven combination that is simple to operate, easy to fault-find and simple to learn how to use.

A quad-pump Lowara/Hydrovar Smart system was selected for the task, using the 'tried and true' combination of Lowara SV-Series vertical multistage pumps with ABB variable speed drives and Hydrovar Smart control systems. The Hydrovar Smart incorporates all the features of the legendary Hydrovar pump control system and enables the speed of the four 45kW, SV9206 pumps to be ramped up or down in order to maintain a constant pressure throughout the irrigation network. Protection against over-voltage, under-voltage, overload and dry-running are just some of the additional Hydrovar features that provide ongoing reliability and added peace of mind for the customer.

Thanks to the quad Lowara/Hydrovar Smart system, Houston's staff can now automatically adjust the flow of water to suit their daily irrigation requirements. With ap-

proximately 700 megalitres of water being used each year at the largest of Houston's three production properties in the Coal River Valley, these pumps play a major role in the yearly production schedule.

Farm Production Manager, Craig Denny said, "The new pumps have provided a huge benefit to the management of the solid-state irrigation system, as having instant, on-demand water removes the need to set a pump for the particular area being irrigated. The pumps are efficient, quiet and the Hydrovar Smart control system never fails."



Craig Denny, farm production manager



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