

TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING NEWS

Texas A&M dedicates DXP Pump Laboratory

A new full-scale pump facility dedicated Friday (Sept. 25) at Texas A&M University positions its engineering technology and industrial distribution department as a national leader in fluid systems education.

“Thanks to DXP Enterprises Inc., our students can study in a controlled, safe and realistic environment. The DXP Pump Laboratory consists of industry-furnished pumps, speed controllers and data acquisition system similar to those in commercial and industrial applications around the world. These capabilities position us as a leading educator in this important area, both for our undergraduate and continuing education students,” said Walter W. Buchanan, head of the Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution and holder of the J.R. Thompson Chair.



David R. Little (center), chairman, president and CEO of DXP Enterprises officially opens the DXP Pump Laboratory assisted by company executives and college representatives. From left, Jorge Leon, Michael Golla, Todd Hamlin, Barry Lawrence, Little, Walter Buchanan, John Jeffery, N.K. Anand, Jorge Alvarado.

The three-part gift to the Texas A&M Foundation from DXP Enterprises Inc. includes a \$500,000 laboratory endowment, \$75,000 in startup funds and laboratory equipment valued at \$75,000.

“DXP’s vision is to provide a state-of-the-art learning center that combines classroom and ‘hands-on’ practical learning opportunities for students at Texas A&M as well as our own employees, customers and suppliers. With the help of several of our key manufacturers, I believe the laboratory is equipped with an appropriate combination of pumping equipment, instrumentation and controls which will allow students to test and confirm basic and advanced principles of fluid technology learned in the classroom,” said David R. Little, chairman, president and CEO of Houston-based DXP Enterprises.

“There are curriculums developed for various levels of knowledge and experience, with instruction provided by the professional staff at Texas A&M. We partnered with the university not only because of their long association with the renowned International Pump Users Symposium and Turbomachinery Laboratory, but also because of the excellent reputation and tradition of their Engineering and Industrial Distribution programs. I am pleased with the progress we have made so far and look forward to working with Texas A&M to continuously improve the learning environment and the capabilities of this facility,” Little said.

“This endowment by DXP Enterprises provides a setting where undergraduate students can gain hands-on/minds-on skills and where practicing engineers, distributors and managerial professionals can continue their education and be trained on real-world equipment,” said Jorge Leon, program director of Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology (MMET).

The endowment is the first for MMET, one of four programs in the department.

“Engineering technology and industrial distribution students conduct consultative and managerial processes for the providers or users of these technologies. A world-class lab like this gives our students the hands-on education necessary to develop such skills, and the education programs continually sharpen our faculty’s skills in delivering an applied education,” said Barry Lawrence, program director of Industrial Distribution (ID). MMET and ID undergraduates will be primary student users of the facility.

Also present at the ceremony were representatives from five of the six corporate partners contributing a combined estimated value of \$330,000 in equipment and technical support to the lab: ITT-Goulds Pump; R&CW-Goulds Pump, centrifugal pumps and controls; Viking Pump, an IDEX company, gear and vane pumps; Wilden Pump and Engineering, a Dover company, air-operated double diaphragm pumps; SKF USA Inc., bearings and condition-monitoring rotating equipment; and EagleBurgmann, mechanical and cartridge seals.

In addition to a lecture area with multimedia capability, the laboratory is equipped with four modular-style fluid system trainers and a separate pump room dedicated to real-world simulation of a complete pumping system. Each mobile trainer provides unique training opportunities for inspection, processing or troubleshooting of commercially available pumps in a real-world fluid transfer application. Six pumps in the pump room connect in parallel to two 500-gallon tanks.

The pumps can be monitored remotely in real-time using an ITT-Goulds Web-based system. The combination of real-scale pumping system with Web-based condition monitoring equipment puts Texas A&M at the forefront of fluid systems undergraduate and continuing education for years to come, said lab co-directors Jorge L. Alvarado and Michael Golla.

“The pursuit and maintenance of our program’s excellence would not be possible without such great corporate partners as DXP Industries. We appreciate DXP’s generosity in establishing this endowment, which provides the margin of excellence that allows our students to get the experience needed in order to be successful in industry,” said Jay Roberts, director of development for engineering with the Texas A&M Foundation.

DXP operates nationwide as a leading provider to the industrial sector of maintenance, repair, operating and production (MROP) products and services; innovative pumping solutions; and precision supply chain services. The publicly traded company has over 90 service centers and more than 70 supply chain service locations as well as three regional distribution centers and five fabrication centers.

Written by [Exa York](#)