



## **STERIline Steam Trap for Pharmaceutical SIP Applications on the Road to Success**

In 1999 the Intelligent Automation division of Invensys plc gave an award to GESTRA GmbH for outstanding innovations. The new steam trap STERIline SMK 22 for pharmaceutical SIP (sterile and aseptic) applications won the Chief Executive's Award for Design Excellence.

The new steam trap has been designed according to GESTRA's well-proven philosophy "innovation meets tradition". GESTRA is at the forefront of steam trap technology and looks back on decades of experience in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry gained with the MK type trap featuring a membrane regulator. In industrial process heating even very small condensate flowrates have to be rapidly discharged and automatic start-up venting should also be provided.

In the pharmaceutical industry steam is also used in production units to sterilize the installation before starting a new batch process. Here, too, rapid heating up combined with automatic venting and fast condensate discharge is absolutely essential - requirements very similar to those made by the chemical industry. It was therefore necessary to tailor the existing technology to the needs of the pharmaceutical industry for sterile conditions. A small group of design engineers teamed up with important key customers to develop within a few months an innovative new trap body which is distinguished by simplicity in construction and compact design, housing state-of-the-art control technology in the form of a highly sophisticated regulator. The STERIline steam trap SMK 22 has become one of the hottest sellers in the pharmaceutical industry and has just received the approval for Aventis Pharma.

Many customers still have complex control systems installed, which are expensive and liable to break down and could be superseded by the SMK 22. The new GESTRA trap not only replaces such systems but also makes onerous sizing calculations of apertures superfluous since the trap responds to any actual condensate flowrate.

Conclusion: Sterilisation processes become faster and more reliable and elaborate control systems can be replaced by one single trap: A paradigm of trend-setting technology transfer to open up new sectors of the industry.



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### **GESTRA - The Steam Experts**

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**Interested?** Please contact Mr Thomas Pöggel, GESTRA GmbH, Marketing,  
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GESTRA is a global leader in the design and production of valves and control systems for heat and process fluid control. Being a member of the Invensys group, we are capable of offering our customers complete and intelligent solutions engineered to function with maximum reliability.

Our products and services have many practical applications and are employed where

- steam is generated, distributed or used
- fluids flow
- energy saving is possible
- environmental protection and safety-oriented control systems are needed.

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