

new products

LatchTool unveils unique hydraulic technology

THE LATCHTOOL GROUP OF COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO., introduced its patented PowerCylinder, a product that uses a new category of high-flow check valves and integrated hydraulics that could impact a number of industries.

For example, a 5-inch PowerCylinder weighing less than 12 ounces delivers 1½ tons of force with a simple 50-pound squeeze of a handle. The size and force of a PowerCylinder can be scaled up or down and is capable of production at a reasonable price. The company promises tools that give a grandmother the grip of a gorilla, airfoils and ailerons controlled by an electrical wire, prosthetic limbs with bionic strength, and much more. And, all of these products will come in a much smaller package and at an affordable price.

Bill Gallentine, a 78-year-old logger and self-taught inventor from Portland, Ore., dreamed of powerful hand

tools that could save time and effort for workers in the field. His dreams were of smaller, more powerful tools that would drastically increase productivity in hard-to-reach places.

LatchTool president Robert McPherson teamed the inventor with the engineer. Enter Myron Tupper, 82, an accomplished development engineer, also from Portland, and a retired GE Fellow with nearly 40 patents to his name.

The two combined to perfect a technology that may very well change the way that many products are designed and built. PowerCylinder is the power force that can simplify or replace complex hydraulic systems that now require separate pumps, reservoirs, and valve manifolds.

Countless applications could switch over to LatchTool's PowerCylinder where whole systems can be condensed into a single package controlled by a small motor at the end of a wire. And what new applications will emerge? The possibilities are countless, as prod-

uct engineers and designers begin to grasp the possibilities of fluid power in the palm of the hand.

Josh Hoyt, senior vice president, said the key to the success of PowerCylinder is the FastFlow valve technology. "This new technology shifts from a high displacement and low force to work characterized by high force at low displacement," Hoyt said. "The PowerCylinder is small and powerful, and it will be well-suited to a broad range of industrial and low-cost consumer applications. An army of designers will find many uses for this truly unique device," he added.

Hoyt earned a Ph.D. in underwater robotics engineering from MIT/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He also holds patents in the field of fluid power control.

For more information, go to www.latchtool.com, or contact Robert McPherson at (719) 488-8800, or bob.mcpherson@latchtool.com.

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Vol.127/No.1, January 2005, page 54;
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