

Variable speed actuators for Sydney wastewater treatment plant



Sid Boholano of Barron GJM Ltd., AUMA's subsidiary in Australia, works on one of the 46 SEVEN actuators at Hornsby Heights Wastewater Treatment Plant

Barron GJM Ltd. has supplied 46 AUMA SEVEN variable-speed electric actuators to Sydney Water Corporation for the modernisation of Hornsby Heights Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The 6.7-megalitres-per-day plant serves Sydney's northern suburbs.

The actuators were delivered in April 2017, and installed and commissioned by Barron GJM Ltd. They use Profibus DP to communicate with an upgraded SCADA system that forms part of the modernisation project.

Sydney Water has used the variable-speed capability of the SEVEN actuators to cut cabling costs by greatly reducing the starting current drawn by the actuator motors, most of which use 240-volt single-phase supplies.

Actuators for the large penstocks on the site, which have strokes of up to 2400 millimetres, have 415-volt three-phase supplies. For these, Sydney Water appreciates the soft-close functionality of the SEVEN actuators. Over most of their travel, the actuators run at high speed for maximum responsiveness. For the last two per cent of the travel, speed is reduced to avoid any danger of jamming the penstock.

Barron has worked with Sydney Water since the 1980s, installing thousands of AUMA actuators in networks, treatment plants and pumping stations. Of these, a couple of hundred are variable-speed actuators. ■

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