



press information

Group Communications

Research Trio Wins Atlas Copco's John Munck Award

Stockholm, Sweden, April 23, 2001 — A project team of three technology experts are the 2000 recipients of Atlas Copco's John Munck Award, presented for excellence in innovative technical thinking resulting in products with a proven commercial success. The team received the award for Atlas Copco's VSD (variable speed drive) compressor technology, which drastically reduces energy consumption.

Sverker Hartwig, research and development manager at Atlas Copco Rock Drilling Equipment; Chris Lybaert, general manager of quality air at Atlas Copco Airpower; and Ludo Van Nederkassel, engineering manager at Atlas Copco Industrial Air, participated in the different project phases of developing and launching a series of VSD compressors that perfectly match compressor capacity to air demand by varying the speed of the drive motor.

As air demand is reduced, the VSD compressor lowers the delivered flow and consequently the power consumption. This is the key feature of the VSD compressor, which reduces energy consumption to a minimum by avoiding completely unloaded power consumption and saves up to 35 percent of energy, or up to 22 percent on the total life cycle cost.

This newest concept in machine engineering is the perfect fit for those end users who have become increasingly environmentally conscious and energy minded.

John Munck was one of Atlas Copco's most successful engineers. He worked for the Group between 1930 and 1970 and held positions as, among others, Atlas Copco's Technical Director. The John Munck Award is presented each year to a product developer or designer, or to a team of those, for outstanding contributions to the overall quality of an Atlas Copco product.

The award will be presented at the Group's annual general meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, on Thursday, April 26.

The Atlas Copco Group is an international industrial company with its head office in Stockholm, Sweden. In 2000, the Group had revenues of \$5 billion USD, with 98 percent of revenues outside Sweden, and close to 27,000 employees. Atlas Copco companies develop, manufacture, and market electric and pneumatic tools, compressed air equipment and generators, construction and mining equipment, and assembly systems, and offer related service and equipment rental. More information is available on www.atlascopco-group.com.

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