



VALVE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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Houston is Site of Next Valve Basics Course, March 6-7

- ***Education seminar offers in-depth sessions on valve, actuator and control fundamentals***
- ***Hands-on learning is featured during the “Valve Petting Zoo”***
- ***The Valve Manufacturers Association developed this course to help industry newcomers***

(Feb. 3, 2012—Washington, DC) The next **Valve Basics Seminar & Exhibits**, an event that has drawn more than 500 people who want to learn the basics of industrial valves, is March 6-7 in Houston. The March session of the one-and-a-half-day program will be held at the Hilton NASA Clear Lake.

At the heart of the seminar is the Valves & Actuators 101 course, which consists of lessons that guide attendees through the world of valves and the systems they help control, starting with simplest types of valves and moving into the more complicated automated products, including actuators and controls.

The event also features the popular “Valve Petting Zoo,” a unique hands-on experience that enables participants to “touch and feel” examples of the many products discussed during the course. Attendees are led in small groups around to tables where valves, actuators and controls are displayed. At each station, an industry expert is on hand to answer specific questions about the products and further explain how they work.

Although the Valves & Actuators 101 course was originally created for newcomers to the industry, it also has been popular for those who need a refresher course or wish to expand their knowledge about the products used to control flow in a variety of industries. In addition to mechanical engineering students (whose attendance is sponsored by VMA’s educational foundation) and engineers in the early phase of their careers, the seminar brings together employees and supervisors of plants that use valves, actuators and controls; professionals who are entering a new area of the industry; personnel who specify and purchase valves and related equipment; distributors and sales reps who want to better understand the products they sell; as well as personnel from valve manufacturing companies.

Before the petting zoo occurs on the morning of the second day, attendees participate in variety of sessions that provide a general overview of the valve industry and address key areas such as standards,

basic piping information, and applications and operations. Attendees learn about the various valve types, including multi-turn, check, quarter-turn and pressure relief, as well as actuators (pneumatic, hydraulic and electric) along with controls and control systems. Near the end of the course on the second day, presenters lead an interactive session in which attendees apply their newly learned knowledge to determine which products are used in a variety of situations.

Also included is a tabletop exhibition that provides attendees time between education sessions to learn what is offered by valve, actuator and control manufacturers, suppliers to the valve industry, and valve repair and service firms.

Registration is still open for the March 6-7 event, however, it is filling up fast and prices go up after Feb. 10. The cost is \$565 for the first person from a company and \$530 for each subsequent registration. Those who complete the course leave with a certificate from the Valve Manufacturers Association, indicating they have earned 10 hours of continuing education. Breakfast, lunch, beverage breaks and a reception, as well as a comprehensive reference manual, are also included.

For those unable to attend the Houston event, the Valve Basics Seminar & Exhibits will be held in Denver, Oct. 10-11, 2012.

For more information or to register, go to <http://www.vma.org/?ValveBasics>. Contact Judy Tibbs (jtibbs@vma.org), VMA Director of Education, if you have additional questions.

NOTE: A small number of exhibitor opportunities are still available at the tabletop being held in conjunction with the Houston event on March 6. Exhibitors must be U.S. or Canadian manufacturers. Contact Judy Tibbs (jtibbs@vma.org) for more information.

About the Valve Manufacturers Association

Founded in 1938, the Washington, DC-based [Valve Manufacturers Association of America](http://www.vma.org) represents nearly 100 U.S. and Canadian manufacturers of valves, actuators and controls. Members account for approximately 80% of total industrial valve shipments out of U.S. and Canadian facilities. The North American valve industry supplies approximately 35% of worldwide valve demand, and VMA member companies employ 20,000 men and women in supporting jobs. VMA is the only organization exclusively serving U.S. and Canadian manufacturers of industrial valves, actuators and controls. Products manufactured by members are used in numerous industries, including: chemical processing; petroleum refining; oil and gas exploration, distribution and transmission; power generation; nuclear power; water/wastewater; commercial construction; and pulp and paper.

VMA is also publisher of the quarterly [Valve Magazine](http://www.vma.org), written for buyers, specifiers, users, distributors and manufacturers of industrial valves, actuators and controls.

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