Intelligent Variable Speed Pumps

*Product shown with guards removed to show external mechanical seal detail
Meeting your Sustainability Objectives for New and Existing Buildings.

▶ Sustainable Building Challenges
Sustainable buildings, whether new or existing, are a higher priority than ever before. The need for better energy performance in buildings is driven not only by individual concerns for the environment but also by increasing legislative pressures. The challenges that face building services professionals include the need to achieve good Energy Performance while designing heating and cooling systems that meet occupancy comfort needs.

▶ The Implications of Poor Building Performance
Designing and operating buildings using practices and technologies of the past will have major implications for your business, regardless of whether you are a system designer, contractor, end user or any other profession involved with building services systems. Poorly designed and performing buildings lead not only to higher utility bills but also to unhappy occupants and high maintenance costs. Low building energy ratings will likely impact the sale or rentable value of the building. For organisations with highly visible CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) programs this can have a negative impact on brand image as well as customer retention and acquisition.

▶ Improved Performance in Heating and Cooling Systems
Traditional heating and cooling systems were designed such that at part load conditions, where heating or cooling demand is reduced, control valves would divert the flow of water around the heating or cooling load, leaving the system pump to continue producing full design flow even though the system didn’t require it. This design of system, incorporating constant speed pumps, results in significant energy wastage. Life cycle cost analysis identifies that typically 95% of the lifetime cost of the pump is energy cost.

In recent years the reduced cost and improved reliability of variable speed drives (VSD) has led to changes in design approach where the pump speed is adjusted in response to changes in demand and this in turn leads to significant energy savings. These energy savings are dependant upon a number of factors, one being the control strategy of the VSD and in particular the system location for the pressure feedback signal that will determine the speed of the pump for any given load condition. Other design and installation considerations are important when employing variable speed pumping in variable flow systems and these include space availability, VSD to pump optimisation and electrical interference issues. Armstrong IVS Sensorless pumps make variable speed pumping easy through complete integration of pump and controls.
Reduced Capital and Installation Costs
- Reduced capital cost—no differential pressure sensor to procure
- Reduced installation cost—no mounting of variable speed drive (VSD), reduced wiring and no system feedback sensor installation
- Reduced commissioning cost—no sensor positioning issues or installation errors to slow the process
- Reduced plant room space cost—controls are generally within the footprint of the pump

Increased Energy Savings
- All the savings of variable speed pumping at a reduced installed cost
- Controls are optimised to motor in factory, ensuring perfect integration and peak performance
- Control curve optimisation eliminates the energy lost due to incorrect sensor placement

Primary/Secondary Chilled Water Systems
Figure 1 shows a typical heating or chilled water system with constant speed primary pumps and variable speed secondary pumps in a duty/standby arrangement. The secondary pumps in a primary/secondary chilled water system distribute the chilled water from the primary production loop to the loads that satisfy the cooling requirements of the building.

Referring to Figure 1, the variable speed drive is programmed to maintain a pressure at the location of the differential pressure feedback sensor, typically installed across a remote cooling load and two port control valve. As demand for cooling decreases, the two port valves start to close and the differential pressure across the valve increases. The variable speed drive then slows the pump to maintain the set value. Because of the position of the sensor, the head/flow characteristic will follow a control curve (see figure 2) between min and max flow.
The installation shown in Figure 1 has variable speed drives remote from the pumps that will occupy valuable plant-room space and incur mounting and wiring costs. Two pressure sensors are shown such that should one sensor fail then the standby pump and variable speed drive will take over the duty. Again, wiring and mounting costs are incurred and the sensors may require periodic calibration.

▶ **Sensorless Technology**

Sensorless control is an innovative concept for circulating pumps. Pump performance and characteristic curves for ten different speeds are embedded in the memory of the speed controller during manufacture. This data includes power, pressure and flow across the flow range of the pump. During operation, the power and speed of the pump are monitored, enabling the controller to establish the hydraulic performance and position in the pump’s head-flow characteristic.

These measurements enable the pump to continuously identify the head and flow at any point of time, giving accurate pressure control without the need for external feedback signals. Patented software technology within the controller ensures trouble-free operation in all conditions.

Incorporating the pump’s hydraulic data into the controller and removing sensors results in true integration of all components and removes the risk of sensor failure.
The Sensorless Solution

In Figure 3 the pumps and remote variable speed drives have now been replaced by Vertical In-Line IVS Sensorless pumps. The pressure sensors are no longer required as the IVS Sensorless pump is preprogrammed to follow a control curve (Figure 2) between the head point at design duty and the head required at minimum flow. The control curve is fully site adjustable and gives the installer the flexibility to replicate sensor positions at varying distances from the pump. This feature removes the problems associated with incorrect sensor placement and allows optimum energy savings to be realised.

Available Pump Models

For pumps fitted with motors up to and including 7.5kW the integrated IVS Sensorless control is available with the following pumps:

- 4300 Split Coupled Vertical In-line
- 4380 Close Coupled Vertical In-line

For pumps fitted with larger motors, it is necessary to consider the pump maintenance challenges of integrated variable speed solutions. Conventional pump designs have an internal mechanical seal which can only be accessed for maintenance by removing the motor and rotating assembly. This labour intensive and costly process can be exacerbated by the need to remove a large variable speed drive from the pump assembly. Armstrong’s revolutionary split coupled pump designs feature an external mechanical seal that can be replaced without the need for removing the motor, VSD and rotating assembly. This feature makes large, integrated variable speed pumps a viable proposition in terms of maintenance, reliability and subsequently reduced system downtime and cost.

Therefore pumps fitted with motors from 11.0kW to 55.0kW are available with the integrated IVS Sensorless control on the 4300 Split Coupled Vertical In-Line

Note that all Armstrong IVS Sensorless Vertical In-Line pumps are designed for pipeline mounting, thereby removing the need for inertia base, anti-vibration mounts and flexible pump connections. This feature can reduce installed cost by 30–40% and save significant amounts of plant room space.

Figure 3 - Primary/Secondary Chilled or Heating Water System Incorporating Armstrong IVS Sensorless Pumps
**Product Features**

- Fast and easy installation - no pressure sensors required
- IP55 Enclosure rating
- Graphical user interface
- Supplied with customers’ design pre-sets
- Compact space-saving design - as compact as a standard pump
- BMS compatible - analogue / digital I/O and RS485 port with Modbus RTU
- Interchangeable with standard pumps
- Multiple control modes
- Bypass frequency selection to eliminate system noise and vibration problems
- Programmable motor pre-heat function to prevent condensation problems
- Built in RFI filter for EMC Directive compliance
- Built in DC link chokes to reduce mains borne harmonics

**Product Options**

- LonWorks BMS protocol
- BACnet BMS protocol
- Integral mains isolator
- EFF1 Premium efficiency motor

**Environmental Ratings**

- Temperature: 0 - 40°C
- Maximum Relative Humidity: 93% +2%, -3%

**Sensorless Control Modes**

The default mode of operation for IVS Sensorless pumps is to follow a system control curve similar to that shown in Figure 2. This mode of control is also known as ‘Quadratic Pressure Control’ as the control curve is a quadratic curve between two operating points $H_{\text{MAX}}$ and $H_{\text{MIN}}$. $H_{\text{MAX}}$ is the design duty head of the pump and $H_{\text{MIN}}$ is the head at minimum flow which is set to a factory default of 40% of $H_{\text{MAX}}$. Other control modes possible include proportional pressure control and constant pressure control. All settings are easily adjusted in the field for as-built system conditions.
**Constant Curve Control**

Where a Building Management System (BMS) or a remote feedback sensor is directly used to control the speed of the pump (using a 0 - 10V signal), the sensorless control can be switched off. The pump speed will now vary according to the BMS reference signal. The graphic keypad can also be used to vary the speed reference signal allowing manual speed control of IVS Sensorless pumps in primary or secondary systems.

The Constant Curve Control mode is used, along with an Armstrong IPS Controller with multiple sensors, for multiple pump control and/or for complicated systems where a single sensor or Sensorless control would not be suitable.

![Figure 4 - Constant Curve Control](image)

**Duty/Standby Operation**

Duty/standby operation is available, where pumps will alternate at pre-set intervals and the standby unit will start automatically, should the duty pump fail. Alarms can also be sent to BMS on duty pump failure. Series 4300 IVS units, may be wired on-site for duty/standby operation per the supplied installation instructions. Armstrong IPS controllers can also be used to control duty/standby units or multiple units with best efficiency staging control.

**Variable Speed Drives for Larger Pumps and Other Pump Types**

Variable speed drives are available for most Armstrong commercial pump designs. Controls are typically supplied separately as 'stand-alone' units for pump types other than those specified here. Armstrong IVS102 variable speed drives are suitable for mounting in plant rooms adjacent to the pumping units. Standalone controls can be supplied in an IP20/21 enclosure or an IP55 enclosure.

**Multi-pump, Multi-zone Controls**

For complex systems with a requirement for individual zone control, Armstrong offers a range of IPS controllers that can control as many as six pumps in parallel with up to eighteen remote system load sensors. IPS controllers can be used in conjunction with both IVS integrated VFD pumps or pumps connected to IVS102 standalone VFDs.
**Typical Specification**

Provide Armstrong Series IVS Sensorless pump to Armstrong Series pump typical specification with motor and control specification as per the following:

The driving motor shall be of squirrel cage induction type incorporating an integrated variable speed drive (VSD), vertical solid shaft with IP55 enclosure.

The integrated VSD shall be of the VVC-PWM type providing near unity displacement power factor (cos phi) without the need for external power factor correction capacitors at all loads and speeds. The VFD shall incorporate DC link chokes for the reduction of mains borne harmonic currents to aid in compliance with the Electricity Council's Engineering Recommendation G5/4 Stage 2 and to reduce the DC link ripple current. The product shall be CE marked showing compliance with both the EMC Directive 89/336/EEC and the Low Voltage Directive 72/23/EEC. RFI filters shall be fitted as standard to ensure the VFD meets the emission and immunity requirements of EN61800-3.

VFD and motor protection shall include: motor phase to phase fault, motor phase to earth fault, loss of supply phase, over voltage, under voltage, motor over temperature, inverter overload, over current.

Sensorless control software shall be embedded in the integrated VFD to provide automatic speed control in variable volume systems without the need for pump mounted (internal/external) or remote differential pressure sensor. The default operating mode under Sensorless control shall be ‘quadratic pressure control’ whereby head reduction with reducing flow will be according to a quadratic control curve, the head at minimum flow being 40% of the design duty head. Control mode setting and minimum / maximum head setpoints shall be user adjustable via an integrated or optional programming interface.

The VFD shall have the following additional features: Sensorless override for BMS / manual pump control or closed loop PID control, programmable skip frequencies and adjustable switching frequency for noise / vibration control, auto alarm reset, motor pre-heat function, a minimum four programmable digital inputs, two analogue inputs, one programmable analogue/digital output, one volt-free contact and one RS485 port with Modbus RTU for serial communications to building management systems.

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