

# PROFILE

# Daniel Levin



## MEET DRESSER-RAND'S "EN-VISIONARY" EXPERT ON CONDITION MONITORING SOLUTIONS

**ASK DAN LEVIN ABOUT** his greatest interest, and he'll say it's spending time with family. He has three children, including a son serving in the U.S. Army and stationed in Iraq. He and his wife also enjoy traveling around the world.

But during the work day, Levin is interested in a different world – not one of countries, but one that ensures all types of energy supplies within them remain at their safest, most efficient and most reliable performance.

When Levin joined Dresser-Rand in 2008 as general manager of the Control Systems strategic business unit, he brought along nearly 30 years of sales and marketing experience in the rotating equipment and energy markets. During this time, he helped clients improve the reliability of critical assets through the application of upgrades, modifications and control systems.

Dresser-Rand's products are considered mission critical in many energy infrastructure applications around the world. Interruption in the supply of energy to manufacturers and other consumers could have enormous

implications. This is where Dan and his team make a difference. The condition monitoring solutions that they provide help ensure safe, efficient, reliable operation over the complete life of products. Machinery monitoring must provide more than basic data.

Levin and his Control Systems team are committed to providing monitoring equipment of the highest integrity, embarking on a new solution for assessing machinery condition. Their goal is to offer one integrated package with operation, performance monitoring, diagnostics, asset management, and simulation – and a new suite of condition monitoring products puts them right on track.

Called Envision™ condition monitoring software, this new suite of Dresser-Rand proprietary condition monitoring products addresses clients' complex needs and aims to keep Dresser-Rand ahead of the competition. From a single user platform, machinery performance can be viewed, adjusted and problems diagnosed. The system also offers seamless local and remote access. The product will be released in phases with human machine interface (HMI), performance and vibration diagnostic modules available first, followed by asset management and simulation modules. Through process simulation, engineers will be

able to assess changing conditions and "what if" scenarios. The complete maintenance history, service manuals and scheduled work could also be managed through one system.

Levin offered his perspective on Envision condition monitoring software and its capabilities:

**insights:** *When you talk to clients about condition monitoring, what do they identify as their greatest needs?*

**Levin:** Clients want one user interface, lower operational costs and meaningful diagnostics that include machinery performance management, not just vibration data. They want information that can be used to take responsible timely action, all from the same user platform. Remote access is also important for many applications. Clients managing offshore platforms put extremely high value on a system that provides diagnostic information to personnel located on-shore.

**insights:** *How long has the Envision suite been in place?*

**Levin:** This is a development project scheduled for release in the first quarter of 2010, but some of the individual modules, like Dresser-Rand's HMI have been in use and supplied to most of our clients over the last two years. Many of these include older versions of compressor per-

formance. We added vibration analysis more recently. As part of the development and product rollout, all of the individual modules and options will be incorporated into the Envision suite, with a new look, simplified operation and improved performance.

**insights:** *How many clients have used the system?*

**Levin:** Two beta-sites employ the full embodiment of Envision condition monitoring software, including D-R HMI, performance and vibration analysis. One of the installations has been operating since summer 2008.

**insights:** *Would this system be more beneficial for some applications than others?*

**Levin:** Envision condition monitoring software benefits are easily identifiable for all critical, non-spared assets, but because it's scalable it can be applied to nearly all applications. The fully optioned Envision solution will provide a comprehensive analysis for all types of rotating equipment, including steam turbines, gas turbines, engines, expanders, motors, reciprocating compressors, turbo compressors, and generators. It also works well with equipment built by other OEMs.

**insights:** *What makes Envision condition monitoring software better than other condition monitoring solutions?*

**Levin:** The Envision suite combines operations with machinery performance and diagnostics, which often requires two or more stand alone systems. For example, many controls feature a HMI for operation and a separate system for vibration analysis. Envision condition monitoring software combines these systems into one platform, and with a simple click of the mouse the user can move from operations to diagnostic screens. This is more economical and simplifies training. Finally, Envision condition monitoring software harnesses D-R's machinery knowledge. Other solutions struggle to provide monitoring relevant to a particular machine or process.

**insights:** *How does Envision condition monitoring software support your objectives to lower clients' operating costs?*

**Levin:** Envision condition monitoring software offers extensive diagnostic analysis screens. This way, problems can

be identified early, diagnosed and intervention planned at the optimum time – before equipment fails.

**insights:** *In addition to client benefits, what benefits will Envision condition monitoring software offer D-R?*

**Levin:** The Envision suite provides a means to better manage assets – for example using long term service agreements – to help clients lower total life cycle cost of their rotating equipment.

**insights:** *How do you see Envision condition monitoring software evolving over the next five years?*

**Levin:** We have plans to add new diagnostic modules like roller bearing health and oil particle detection, to extend the diagnostic capabilities for various types of machines like VECTRA® power turbines. Oil quality analysis will be added to automate this feature. Future modules will include a comprehensive asset management database and online simulation. In short, the Envision suite will continue to evolve. ■

