From The Editor | June 26, 2015

10 Tech Discoveries From ACE15

By Kevin Westerling
@KevinOnWater

The Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE), hosted by the American Water Works Association (AWWA), is always an exciting event, but ACE15 had a very "dry" feel compared to years past. If you haven't seen through the pun already, it wasn't' because the show lacked excitement (it didn't), but because it was held in drought-ridden Anaheim, CA. The epic, statewide drought was the recurring topic of conversation, especially for companies there to showcase water-saving products — and rightly so, as the situation necessitates both vigilant awareness (i.e., conservation) *and* technology solutions.

Although drought was a particularly dominant theme this year, ACE15 offered much more; as per usual, the entire potable water industry was covered. The event annually draws in excess of 10,000 attendees from around the world (this year no exception) with problems as varied as the water systems they represent: differing source waters, infrastructure conditions, regulatory requirements, budgets, and workforces. Lucky for them, there were more than 500 exhibitors on hand at the Anaheim Convention Center with potential answers.

Among the many, here are 10 products I found to have particular potential.

HYMAX VERSA

Krausz USA

The HYMAX VERSA is more than meets the eye. It may appear pretty standard — or at least similar to previous Krausz couplings — but it's brand new, and quite different. The major advance is VERSA's (you may have guessed it) versatility in that it can be either stab-fitted or clamped on, allowing municipalities to maintain a lower inventory rather than stockpiling both styles separately. The couplings are constructed of stainless steel for durability and corrosion resistance, and offer 3 degrees of dynamic deflection on each side to prevent damage and cracking from ground shifts. In addition to mechanical sealing, the VERSA offers hydraulic sealing via patented gasket technology that self-inflates and tightens as water pressure increases. Suitable for both potable water and wastewater, the novel design not only fixes current breaks, whether shear or circular, it also reduces the risk of future leaks and breaks.