A new product has been launched by Vapormatt to assist the recovery of spent abrasive processing media from large vapourblasting booths.

Expensive design solutions such as excavating pits below the structure, to allow abrasive and water to gravitate to a collection point, are a thing of the past with the new Waterwave System.

Vapormatt have put their extensive expertise into the development of the Waterwave which, as its name suggests, produces a wave that progressively moves the spent abrasive media to the end of the booth where the pumping channel is located.

One of the main advantages of the Waterwave System is that it requires no pit or gantry for access as it can sit directly onto the workshop floor and stands only 300 mm (1') high. A further option can be provided with the same facilities in a booth structure which can be used outside if workshop floor space is at a premium.

Replacement of potentially health damaging dry blast booths, which create dust and sometimes toxic fumes during the blast process, has been identified by Vapormatt as a key advantage of the Waterwave System. As the highly effective Vapormatt and W.A.S.P. processes can be incorporated into the system, concurrent degreasing and paint stripping of large assemblies are completed with the minimum of fuss. This makes it an ideal tool for use in overhaul workshops for jobs such as paint stripping of undercarriage parts, flight surfaces, and other aircraft components prior to crack detection or repainting. Different medias can be used for different jobs, e.g., plastic for paint stripping, aluminum oxide for corrosion removal, and glass or ceramic beads for peening.

Two basic systems are currently available from Vapormatt. The “VM1 Waterwave” includes the recovery system, with all pumping and blasting equipment, floor gridding, and trolley rails. The loading weight and size can be adjusted to the customer’s requirements based on 2.8 m wide modules. (An enclosure to prevent overspray, such as plastic curtains positioned around the unit, can also be provided where no existing containment is available.)

The “VM2 Waterwave” includes the complete recovery system, as detailed above mounted inside an ISO container sized booth, maximum dimensions 2.8 x 15 m. The booth is fitted with: waterproof lighting, replaceable protective blast curtains, main entry and exit swing door, and personnel door.

A range of optional extras are available for both systems. These include: water heating elements, abrasive and water filtration systems; and an organic, biodegradable dosing chemical which can be used to enhance the machines’ degreasing capability also prevents oxides forming on cleaned areas.

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