

Modern commercial laundry operations have become something of a science. Hoteliers have a variety of hardware, software and chemical tools at their disposal to accurately measure and track every component of the laundry process. These innovations are not only designed to assist hoteliers trying to save money

in operations but also allows them to be better stewards of the Earth's natural resources.

This month, *AAHOA Lodging Business* takes a closer look at a variety of new solutions, including stronger washer extractors and a coldwater chemical system, as well as monitoring software and

a tracking tool, that could help hoteliers save money on energy, water and labor in their laundry operations.

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UniMac Updates and Expands Commercial Laundry Offerings

UniMac in October unveiled its UY soft mount washer-extractor series, available in 20- to 275-pound capacities. These machines are suited for second-floor on-premises laundries or other installations where a poured foundation isn't an option.

"We are pleased to offer on-premise laundries another innovative product design that is backed by the industry-leading quality and durability UniMac is known for," Bill Brooks, national sales manager, UniMac, said. "UniMac continues to be progressive in adding to its full-line of products that meet the diverse needs of today's laundry operations."

UY washer-extractors feature one of two control systems, based on capacity. Both include multi-language capabilities and offer 99 programming options and eight liquid chemical connections.

The machines extract with a 350-400 G-force extraction speed. The result is maximum water removal from the load, which reduces drying times, saves on utilities and allows a laundry to run at premium efficiency by equalizing washer and dryer times and increasing throughput. Brooks said this efficiency can help hoteliers realize 15 percent water savings.

The new release followed on the heels of UniMac's redesigned UW 85-160-pound hard-mount washer-extractors, which have been the company's commercial laundry war horses for years, along with its



The 90-pound UY washer-extractor from UniMac

tumble dryers in an effort to provide a more consistent look across its product lines.

"We scaled up capacity, we really increased strength and implemented

a higher-tech design, which improved strength," Brooks said, noting the new frames are the strongest the company has ever built and robotically-welded to better handle

vibrations and unbalanced loads.

In addition to a smaller footprint, UniMac increased the UW capacity by 5- to 10-pounds, which increases productivity by washing more loads in less time. An improved door hinge and handle allows for smooth open-and-close operation.

"We have to build it stronger to be able to do the things that the new

controls of technology allow us to do," Brooks said. "Saving water, spray rinsing, higher G-forces – all of that has to do with the redesign."

As the price and scarcity of water become bigger issues in the next decade, hoteliers must continue finding ways to save water. As perhaps the leading consumer of water in most hotels, laundry operations are a

good place to start.

"It's so hard to predict the next 10 years," Brooks said. "To have the control we have and the flexibility, I think we are prepared for that future. Even if we have to re-program or add an external feature, the equipment we are building today is going to meet the needs of the next two decades." ■

Xeros and "The Internet of Things"

During November's International Hotel, Motel and Restaurant Show in New York City, Xeros unveiled a new cloud-based intelligent laundry monitoring solution that tracks the health of hotel laundry operations such as labor, water and energy. The new system, called Sbeadycare, helps hotels gain a clear understanding of their relative health as well as real-time utility costs.

Xeros installs NSF-certified meters on laundry machines to collect and upload real-time utility usage data to a secure cloud-based applica-

tion for analysis. Laundry operators are able to manage the health of their operations using the Internet and uncover opportunities for operational efficiency and improvement.

"In conversations with general managers about how much water they use in their laundries, they had no idea. It's important to us for people to be able to see the measurable value," Jonathan Benjamin, president, Xeros North America, said. "We have to give the people the tools to do so. We have to let people see not only their current state but what their future state might be."

Over the last 18 months, Xeros has

made a name for itself in the United States with a washer that uses polymer beads instead of water to wash linens. The new "Internet of Things," as Xeros terms its latest innovation, will augment the bead machine.

"We are a big consumer of water, and we don't necessarily have to be," Benjamin said. "That's what Xeros has been able to accomplish – give people an option that reduces dependency on water usage in hotels. Once we understand the scope and magnitude of what we are doing, then we can make intelligent business decisions on how to address it." ■

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