

# A-C Pump Cools Space Shuttle Lift-Off

Unlike those used in virtually any other fire pump application, the fire pumps on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral's Kennedy Space Center must serve a dual purpose of providing quench water as well as noise abatement. ITT Industries' A-C Pump unit was able to these difficult jobs.

The A-C Pump fire pump system used on the launch pad provides approximately 14,000 gallons per minute of quench water to prevent launch pad meltdown. This tremendous volume of water also suppressing the deafening noise that occurs with a Space Shuttle launch. The fire pump system for the Space Shuttle launch pad had to meet a long list of additional specifications as well. It had to have the ability to monitor individual engine cylinder temperatures, both locally and remotely. Special net positive suction head requirements had to be met, and stainless steel fuel systems built in. And the list goes on. For ITT Industries, meeting these unique objectives required more than a year of close collaboration with engineers at the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and thinking far outside the parameters of the primary applications for A-C Pump's fire pump system, which are sprinkler systems for buildings. According to Hansford Stewart, Marketing Manager for fire pump systems at A-C Pump, ITT Industries was the only manufacturer that was able to address NASA's hydraulic demands. Hence, when astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn embarked on his second flight to space at age 77, ITT Industries' fire protection pumps were on-site - cooling and quieting the historic event.

In addition to quenching the fires and noise of the launch pad, turnkey fire pumping systems from A-C Pump protect an increasing number of petrochemical facilities, commercial buildings and factories around the world.

