

The Industrial Pipeline

IPEX Industrial Piping Systems Newsletter

Helium and Duratec® Airline System: The Only Way Is Up

Party City® is an international party supply retailer and one of the largest users of helium in the United States. As a result of helium's small molecular structure, it is often difficult to efficiently convey and contain as it can diffuse through various piping and fitting materials allowing it to escape into the air. These losses, over time can be very costly. For Party City, once they realized that their current piping system that connects the helium tanks at the back of their stores to the inflators at the front, had begun to leak, solutions to eliminate the leaks were considered.



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National Manager, Helium Sourcing at Praxair

Gary Connors, National Sales Manager-Helium at Praxair, explains: “IPEX provided some Duratec samples and introduced the product to Party City. They liked it and said let’s try it. Duratec offered big savings, too, compared to copper. The assembly of the product is pretty easy, and there’s no soldering involved. I like the product”

One solution considered was copper pipe, but copper pipe is expensive, and installation is time consuming. Greg Peters, Director of Helium Sourcing at Praxair, suggested that Party City consider Duratec® Composite Airline System to replace the piping in the Party City stores.

Duratec is constructed of three layers, an inner and outer layer of PE-RT (Polyethylene of Raised Temperature) sandwiched over an aluminum core. The result is lightweight, non-corroding, and impermeable to compressed air and inert gases. Duratec pipe comes in long 100-foot or 300-foot coils, which significantly reduces the number of joints during installation. Duratec compression fittings feature unique double O-ring seals to ensure long-term joint integrity.

Connors initiated two trials in Party City stores with Duratec. After a month, there were no signs of leakage. Connors adds, “the average install takes about 1.5 to 2 hours in the facilities. With copper it would be many, many hours.” By September 2018, over 500 Party City stores will have their nylon pipe replaced by Duratec. Because the installs can be done quickly while the stores are closed at night, there will be no downtime for any of the stores.

Duratec Composite Airline System is an innovative compressed air and inert gas distribution system designed to be leak-proof, installed quickly and easily, and maintained cost-effectively. As a result, Duratec saves you time and money. **To find out more about Duratec® Composite Airline System, please visit ipexna.com.**



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Duratec® Composite Airline System is a registered trademark.



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