



It is June 2020, and after nearly 6 months living with the uncertainties around the novel Corona virus, we at Concepts NREC continue to adapt strategies to keep our employees, families and communities safe and healthy. We and our global business partners are committed to providing top level turbomachinery engineering, software, products, training and education.

To ensure continued high-quality training and education, we have moved to an online platform to increase accessibility worldwide. Our machine shop and testing laboratories have remained open, and we continue to be very active. The rest of our staff have been working remotely from their homes, and we will slowly be reintroducing staff back into the controlled office environment when it is safe to do so.

We are getting a new picture of what our lives are becoming with COVID 19. All of the industry technical and sales related turbomachinery conferences have been cancelled for the remainder of 2020. Schools may well reopen in the fall and restaurants are opening across the country. About half of our states are seeing the number of Covid 19 cases increase as a second wave of infections hits. Countries are exchanging self-isolation for extensive testing and contact tracing, which we also have been slowly gearing up to pursue across the USA.

There is a big difference in the approaches, though. Isolation does protect us from catching and spreading the disease and allows the infection curves to drop while keeping the hospital facilities from being overloaded and perhaps from breaking down under the stress. Testing and contact tracing offer no immediate protection from others and may give the illusion that things are better, and we can take more risks. Contact tracing does allow outbreaks to be isolated faster, which can be most useful.

An interesting development surfaced recently based on testing and detailed study. Several groups have reported on how virus genetics serve as a good marker of where some of the infection has originated. England had thought that a single person was the original source and that all spread from that one. Genetic analysis has shown, however, that there are more than 1300 original sources and that any direct influence of disease from China was negligible. Likewise, it is now known that California had the virus introduced multiple times by different sources and, if contact tracing had been used carefully, that much of the spread could have been avoided. In another CA case, a patient and two healthcare workers became infected and proper isolation stopped any further spreading. So, testing and contact tracing are going to be a big part of our lives for the next year.

Other news: several large drug companies are already producing vaccines in bulk. This is being done in parallel with corroborating research to prove both the drug's safety and effectiveness. If they miss the mark, the vaccine will be destroyed, and the investment lost. If they make the mark, they will be early into the market. Maybe December, or somewhat later or earlier? We do not know with any certainty but options may well be coming.

Above all, stay safe and healthy.

Dave Japikse, CEO/Chairman  
Concepts NREC