Case Study

BEARINGS & LUBRICATION

Industry sector:
FOOD & BEVERAGE

Application:
ROTARY BASKET PEELER

Actual saving:
£12,000

Payback period:
IMMEDIATE

INCREASED uptime due to REDUCED maintenance

Risk of injury REDUCED due to zero heavy machinery

ACCESS to ERIKS Technical expertise

Evolving relationship returns 100% reliability

INTRODUCTION

Irrespective of industry, the term 'reduced maintenance' is music to the ears of plant managers. But the quest is often easier discussed than conquered.

Driving down costs through reducing maintenance is a priority for all businesses, specifically with the demands of today's market.

Investing significantly in research and development, SKF's innovative technology, coupled with ERIKS' specialism and know-know has provided one customer in the Food and Beverage industry with a solution to an recurring and costly issue.

ISSUE

A well-known food manufacturer was, in the past, converting its support roll bearings from ball bearings to SKF's Triple Barrier technology.

Originally, this recommendation from ERIKS resulted in significant improvements in reliability.

However, when the bearings in question required replacing, the Mean Time To Repair (MTTR) was still excessive.

A task that could potentially take minutes, was running into multiple hours, leading to unnecessarily rising costs courtesy of downtime and the use of an assortment of heavy lifting equipment.

SOLUTION

To combat the unnecessary and excessive maintenance times, a further step in technology was introduced, facilitated by the swap-out between SKF Triple Barrier and SKF Cooper Split solutions.

‘provide you with greater design flexibility’

The advantages of the Cooper Split bearing solution are invaluable to trapped and inaccessible locations, and due to the innovative angled base, the need for heavy lifting tackle has been eliminated, in turn reducing the risks associated with health and safety compliance.

The widest assortment on the market, coming in six varieties (100, 01, 02 and 03 Series, split tapered roller bearing and split spherical roller bearing) Cooper Split bearings disassemble into smaller components making lifting, handling and mounting much easier, even in the most confined spaces and conditions.

Whatever your application, SKF Cooper Split bearings will provide you with greater design flexibility, quick and easy maintenance, and less downtime.

‘savings recorded of two days [in maintenance]’

RESULT

The project has been one of continuous improvement with evolution at the centre of the narrative. A good, solid solution was initially installed with the Self-Lube bearing units, but due to long maintenance times, approximately 2-3 days each time, the technology was deemed unreliable.

Triple Barrier units were then supplied and installed which, for the most part, provided the solution that was required. But once again, maintenance and downtime were the core of problems.

As technology evolved, Cooper Split bearings were suggested, and maintenance times have been significantly reduced - savings recorded of two days - with the new Cooper units quickly proven to be a more reliable solution.

The next phase will see Cooper constantly monitoring the units and will undertake a 12-month service plan as part of the new contract.

‘real evolution in technology’

David Oliver, SKF Channel and Platform Development Manager, commented: “The journey over the past 12-15 months has seen continuous improvement and a real evolution in technology.

“From the very beginning, the solutions provided have completed the required task, but as our technology has developed, there’s been an opportunity for the customer to effectively fine tune their processes.

“Since the switch-out, the customer has been overflowing with praise for the Cooper units.”

‘12-month service plan as part of new contract’

Robert Adair, ERIKS MRO Specialist, concluded: “A better partnership between ERIKS, SKF and the customer has developed through the journey of continuous improvement with innovation being key to this successful project.”

OUTCOME AND BENEFITS

- Significantly reduced maintenance of approximately 2 days per replacement
- Increased health and safety compliance due to reduced usage of heavy machinery
- New contact with the inclusion of a 12-month service plan
- Production output significantly increased