

Preventing Downtime for Hanger Bearings

Certified Bearing Specialist (CBS) Takes on Screw Conveyor Application

Dale Renner, CBS and sales representative at Bearing Headquarters Co., explains how his bearing expertise helped solve a customer's problem and saved significant downtime and cost.

"One of my customers in the ethanol industry was experiencing high failure rate with bronze hanger bushings. The application was on a screw conveyor in a highly caustic area of the plant. The screw conveyor was conveying wet corn mash which in itself is very abrasive and acidic. Due to the nature of the conveyed material, the hanger bearings were caking up and breaking down the lubrication process of the bearing. Thus premature failure of the bearings occurred. This particular plant runs 24 hour a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, except for scheduled maintenance shutdowns. Downtime due to equipment failure is not only a fear but one of the company's greater expenses. Downtime expense prevention is a matter the company takes very seriously. Weekly maintenance teleconferences are held among the maintenance managers where problems are shared and resolutions sought. This company has multi-plant locations and the equipment used

throughout their infrastructure is similar in nature. Thus the teleconferences are a good way to share critical information in hopes of preventing equipment failure and lost profits due to downtime.

"As a solution to their bearing problem I suggested that they replace their oil impregnated bushings with graphite bushings. Graphite bushings are self lubricating and do not require a scheduled PM program for lubrication. They offer many advantages over conventional bushings such as they operate at extremely high temperatures where oil based lubricants burn off or oxidize, they will not gum or seize, they will not congeal or solidify at low temperatures or cryogenic conditions, survives run dry applications, eliminates galling or seizing in hot dry applications, will not attract dust, they will not swell or wash out and will withstand a wide variety of hostile fluids. They are insoluble in most industrial fluids, works in acids, alkalis, hydro carbons, water and liquid gases and have a very low coefficient of friction. They are non-current conducting and are FDA-approved.

"Thus the problem of the bushings caking up due to breakdown of the lubrication process was significantly reduced. The life expectancy increased from three to 24 months saving the customer over \$4,553.00 in product and material alone, which is a minute figure compared to downtime cost savings. This information was shared with the maintenance managers and has become and approved product application endorsed by the company's corporate engineer."

For more information:
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BSA's Certified Bearing Specialist (CBS) program is the only bearing industry-specific program that identifies and quantifies the specific skill sets to certify an industry professional as a bearing specialist. The CBS program is all about developing the expertise to help customers and end users make the best bearing decisions. Take advantage of this complimentary access to a Certified Bearing Specialist. Please email your question to info@bsahome.org. An expert CBS will respond to your inquiry and it may appear in this article.

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Dale Renner has been working for Bearing Headquarters Company for almost 11 plus years and has been in the industry for 27 years. He is known for strong product knowledge and a hands-on approach with customers. Renner is a graduate of Elmhurst College, in Elmhurst Illinois and holds a B.S. in business administration. He is married and has two children and two grandchildren.

