

# TECHO-BLOC SWITCHES TO THORDON SXL AND SAVES THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

In the masonry block manufacturing industry, time is, quite literally, money. When a machine goes down for maintenance, each second that ticks by is like a dollar sign eating away at the bottom line. In fact, it's not uncommon for downtime costs per hour to be well into the four digits. So when Techo-Bloc replaced bronze bushings with Thordon SXL — and, subsequently, increased uptime by more than 90% — the Company couldn't have been more delighted.

"I can't say enough about Thordon SXL," says Ian Havill, Director of R&D for Techo-Bloc. "The product has saved us a lot of money."



**Thordon SXL bearings replaced bronze and eliminated grease**

Founded in 1990 and based in St. Hubert, Québec, Canada, Techo-Bloc designs and manufactures high quality landscaping products such as paving stones, retaining wall systems, and masonry stones. Their products have a reputation for blending seamlessly and harmoniously with the natural environment — enhancing the visual appeal and durability of both residential and commercial buildings.

Manufacturing of the paving stones utilizes a specialized press that forms the concrete mixture into molds. The operation involves a central trunnion and an arm on two hydraulic cylinders that moves a filler box

filled with a concrete mixture back and forth over the mold filling the cavities inside. The trunnion operates continually, moving, starting, and stopping, in tens of thousands of cycles per month.

## **Downtime is Expensive**

For years, the company used 660 bronze as the bearing material for the trunnion, greasing it every three days or so. But there were problems: "Every three or four weeks we had to shut the machine down for servicing," says Havill. "The bushing would need to be changed. And this took at least two hours."

If the trunnion housing was found to be worn, even more time would need to be spent refitting the housing with a hardened sleeve.

A few hours of maintenance per month doesn't seem like much. However, in masonry block manufacturing industry, downtime costs are enormous. "We work at a corrected factor of several thousand dollars per hour," says Havill.

What Techo-Bloc needed was a bushing material that would withstand the rigors of a 24/7 manufacturing environment and run reliably for months at a time without the need for maintenance.

A tall order. Fortunately, Thordon SXL more than fit the bill.

## **Tough. Long-Running. Reliable.**

Thordon SXL is an elastomeric polymer bearing material. It has earned a reputation for unparalleled reliability in some of the most demanding industrial, marine, and hydro-turbine applications in the



**Grease free Thordon SXL installed in press for paving stone manufacturing**

world. SXL features grease-free operation, low coefficient of friction, and a remarkably long wear life. It's easy to work with, too.

Techo-Bloc replaced their 660 bronze bushing with SXL in the fall of 2006. "So far it has been working on over one million cycles. More than a year," Havill raves. "With minimal downtime."

In fact, the Company has reduced downtime on the machine by 30 to 36 hours per year. And since downtime costs thousands of dollars per hour, "The savings are huge."

To say that Techo-Bloc is a happy Thordon customer would be an understatement. "I'm so impressed with Thordon SXL that I've become almost evangelistic about it! It's really an impressive product." In fact, Havill is so impressed he is working with Thordon's Québec distributor, DMA-LCI, to test SXL and other Thordon products in other plant applications.

In many ways, Thordon and Techo-Bloc are an ideal fit. Both companies produce innovative products that are rugged, reliable and long-lasting! **Nw**