

WORLD PUMPS

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Water & wastewater

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Bearings benefit from water not grease lubrication



routine statutory shutdown at PetroSA's offshore FA Platform in Mossel Bay, South Africa, gave the company the opportunity to replace the old rubber bearings in the vertical main seawater lift pumps with pump bearings lubricated with water not grease.

The statutory shutdown is part of PetroSA's operating permit which allows opportunity for inspection and repair of critical equipment. In total, 20 Thordon bearings were supplied for their 39 m (128 in) vertical Ingersoll-Dresser pump which included 17 shaft line bearings and three bowl bearings.

The initial need to overhaul the pump came from the poor performance experienced with the rubber bearings and the company hoped initially to use the existing spiders even though they were worn from the previous rubber bearings turning in the housing. The local Thordon distributor, Alignment with

Laser (AWL), pump manufacturer Flowserve and Thordon engineering were able to create a solution that did not require new spiders. Using the existing ones, despite the fact that they had experienced wear, dramatically reduced the cost on the project.

Thordon SXL pump bearings are easy to machine and install. The bearings were machined at a local machine shop and dry ice was used for quick and easy installation of the bearings into the housing. PetroSA was on hand to see the first bearing installed, and to verify the fit of the bearing into the housing. With the success of this project, PetroSA

are looking at other applications to incorporate the grease-free SXL bearings.

Thordon designs and manufactures a complete range of polymer bearing and shaftline products for the marine, clean power generation, pump, offshore and industrial markets. The company supplies bearings that use water to lubricate them, rather than oil or grease. It is known for its high quality performance, eliminating oil and grease from bearing applications in ships, hydro-turbines, vertical pumps and many other industrial applications. ●

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PetroSA's offshore FA Platform in Mossel Bay, South Africa



Thordon SXL pump bearings