



ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

Change to packing saves Swiss company \$millions

A chocolate producer in Switzerland has saved around £2.3 million (\$2.6 million) over the past year following its decision to change to an AESSEAL® pump packing system.

The company had been relying on braided packing, but this was proving unreliable, with the packing on four conching machines leaking uncontrollably and damaging the shaft sleeves, so that the king shafts on the four units were having to be replaced every 12 months. This was resulting in four weeks' downtime per unit. The cost of removal, repair, and reassembly was more than £44,000 (\$50,000) per unit, adding up to more than £175,000 (\$200,000) a month.

The packing was also having to be changed twice a year, which took around three days for each unit, adding up to a further 24 days of lost production annually, amounting to 672,000kg of chocolate, at a cost over the course of the year of more than £1.7 million (\$2 million).

AESSEAL® recommended replacing the competitor's packing with its trapezoidal cross-section packing (AESSEAL® 380TP), which has a number of benefits over the more common square cross-section, in particular reduced friction and heat generation, reducing the rates of wear of shaft and packing.

The result is that the company has been able to make significant savings since the AESSEAL® system was installed in March 2023, with the MTBF increasing from six months to 12 months and counting. Taking into account the cost of repair and maintenance, and the significant loss of production due to the extensive downtime, the savings over the course of the past 12 months have been put at around £2.3 million (\$2.6 million).

'Saving more than \$2 million in the first year'

Industry:	Food & Beverage
Product:	380TP
Application:	Conching machines
MTBF Increase:	100% (and counting)
Savings:	\$2,600,000 (and counting)
Reference N.O:	TD3103265



aes seal.com/info