



ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

Major savings for Algerian food producer

A food production plant in Algeria is saving an estimated £175,000 a year following the installation of an AESSEAL® LabTecta®OP bearing protector.

The company was having problems with a faulty lip seal on a vinegar agitator with top entry. In normal operation, the rotation of the shaft causes droplets of pure vinegar to be projected towards a lip seal on the upper wall of the tank. The lip seal is the first and only barrier between the product and the bearing chamber. The problem was that the seal was persistently failing, allowing product to pass into the bearing housing, causing wear not only to the bearings but also to the clamping sleeve, causing vibrations in the equipment.

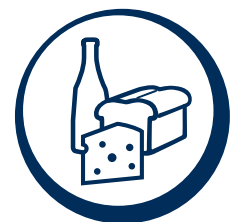
The seal was failing on average once a month, requiring the replacement of the bearings and other metal parts. This necessitated a two-hour shutdown of the plant, representing lost production of around six tonnes of product. AESSEAL® recommended the installation of its LabTecta®OP bearing protector, a cost-effective bearing protection upgrade specifically designed to prevent product from coming into contact with the bearings.

During a preliminary inspection, AESSEAL® engineers realised that it was impossible to fit the LabTecta® directly because the lip seal housing had a conical shape. With the customer's agreement they machined the housing in order to carry out a successful installation. The result was that the MTBF has increased from one month to 12 months, and savings in the cost of replacement parts and lost production are estimated to be £175,000 a year. In addition, the success of this very affordable product has allowed AESSEAL® to strengthen its position as the customer's sole supplier of mechanical seals.



'Saving \$225,000 each year'

Industry:	Food & Beverage
Product:	LabTecta®OP
Application:	Vinegar agitator
MTBF Increase:	1,100%
Savings:	£175,000 (\$225,000) each year
Reference N.O:	TD3109291



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