ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

CAPI™ boosts reliability at South African plant

Recurring shaft failures on pumps at a South African petrochemical plant were causing persistent and costly problems for the company, with frequent interruptions to production while the pumps were dismantled and the necessary repairs carried out. In one incident extensive damage was caused when a shaft broke inside the volute casing at the impeller.

In order to remedy the problem and improve overall reliability, AESSEAL® recommended the installation of its CAPI™ Type A Dual Seals, which employ qualification tested API 682 technology and are regarded as the most compact dual API cartridge seals on the market employing this technology. In addition, their robust and reliable seal face drive also reduces high stress points at equipment start-up. Their modular design allows users to select the right solution for their application, ensuring a simple purchasing process and rapid delivery.

The new seals were installed in September 2020 with engineering and technical support from AESSEAL® engineers. This involved the retrofitting of a dual mechanical seal and 53B support system, which was achieved without compromising the pump's existing footprint. The new system has improved the MTBF from around 12 months to more than three years, with savings in labour costs and spares estimated at around ZAR 85,000 (more than US$5,000) a year.

'Improved MTBF (above API682) of >36 Months'

Industry:	Petrochemical
Product:	CAPI™ Type A Dual & 53B system
Application:	Hydrocarbon Pumps
MTBF Increase:	200% (and counting)
Savings:	>$5,000 per year
Reference N.O:	TD3134020

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