

Major Drug Manufacturer Avoids Costly Production Loss and Maintains Profitable Operation

RESULTS

- Catastrophic failure avoided on 400-horsepower compressor motor
- Throughput of pharmaceutical production run saved from costly interruption
- Quality of motor repairs verified



APPLICATION

Environmentally-controlled pharmaceutical production company producing pills for medicines and health products

CUSTOMER

2,000 employee pharmaceutical production plant

CHALLENGE

Pharmaceutical companies require tight environmental and quality control to produce the medicines and food supplements to meet world standards. In the high-stakes field of medicine and vitamin production, an unexpected interruption of critical machinery can result in hours or days of costly downtime, which can ruin an entire production run. In the pharmaceutical business, "if you're not producing, you're losing big money," says the Supervisor of Reliability for this large pharmaceutical production site. Because of this level of importance, great care must be taken before pulling a piece of critical machinery off line, and rapid repair and replacement is vital.

Of the three large compressors operating at this plant, two must be working at all times to avoid plant shutdown. One of two 400-horsepower motors on a critical two-stage compressor was exhibiting some noise. The operator called the maintenance team, who tested the motor with advanced CSI vibration monitoring technology and found a bearing "on failure". After verification by an Emerson expert analyst, the machine was shut down for repair.

"Emerson's CSI equipment is "a great troubleshooting tool; it's helped to prevent a lot of downtime."

Supervisor of Reliability

With the bare minimum of 2 compressors operating, the plant was in a precarious situation until the motor was repaired. Because of precise diagnosis of the bearing problems with the CSI 2130 Machinery Health™ Analyzer and AMS™ Suite: Machinery Health Manager software, total down time on this compressor was only three days, "with fingers crossed that one of the other two compressors didn't go down."

SOLUTION

Determining the exact problem to be corrected ensured a rapid repair process. The motor was efficiently rebuilt and replaced. When it was reinstalled, testing with CSI equipment verified the work was done correctly, and "the plant was back on track."

As the importance of predictive maintenance is demonstrated to management, additional and more frequent routes are being run on compressors, pumps, laboratory air handlers and other equipment used to ensure the plant's optimum throughput and profitability.

"It takes situations like this to show the effectiveness of a good program with quality test equipment."

Supervisor of Reliability

**Emerson Process Management
Machinery Health™ Management**
835 Innovation Drive
Knoxville, TN 37932
T (865) 675-2400
F (865) 218-1401
www.mhm.assetweb.com

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