

European Brewing Giant Maintains Profitable Production with Emerson's Reliability Technology

RESULTS

- More than € 200,000 saved each year in production, replacement parts, emergency labor
- Multiple technologies direct optimum repair schedules and labor savings



APPLICATION

Bottle filler carousel bearings on assembly line of large brewery

CUSTOMER

InBev. Leuven, Belgium

CHALLENGE

The flagship brewery of the largest beer producer in the world is based in Belgium. With only 600 employees, this facility runs 24/7 to produce, bottle, and distribute 170 million gallons of ales, beers, and other malt beverage products across Europe every year. The constant demand means unexpected downtime on a production line can mean unrecoverable profit loss.

Maintaining a variety of specialized machinery across the brewing, bottling, packaging and shipping processes demands precise maintenance planning and equipment monitoring. But bearings do wear out, compressors fail, electric junctions degrade, and pumps break down. The trick is to plan for the shortest interruption in production, with the least amount of damage to vital machinery.

"We saved tens of thousands of euros on emergency labor costs, parts, and production loss, especially production loss."

Kurt Sas, Maintenance Manager

SOLUTION

Kurt Sas, Maintenance Manager for InBev Brewery in Leuven, Belgium, contracts with Coservices, a predictive maintenance services firm and Emerson Process Management partner, to maintain plant assets. Coservices uses CSI technologies owned by InBev, including CSI Machinery Health Analyzers, the CSI 5200 Minilab, and a CSI 7100 Machinery Health Scanner. Coservices uses AMS™ Suite: Machinery Health™ Manager software to prepare customized reports showing the complete machinery health of each critical component of the facility's production lines.

This highly efficient reliability program regularly employs all of the CSI technologies to keep the plant operating smoothly. Vibration data from more than 5000 points is collected with the portable analyzer, some with permanent cable sensors installed to allow quick and easy monitoring where points are inaccessible. Fifty lubrication samples are tested each month using the CSI 5200.

One example of InBev's successful reliability program centers around a bottle-filling carousel. Vibration monitoring indicated a growing problem on a 75-centimeter double bearing of the carousel. Failure of this large bearing would bring down an entire production line for a whole day, costing the brewery more than € 20,000 in lost production, replacement parts, and emergency labor. "This carousel is the heart of the whole production line," states Sas. Because the problem was detected early in its development, "We replaced the bearing rollers in scheduled downtime, not crash time, and saved a lot of money." Sas says the predictive maintenance program generates more than 100 problem notifications and catches ten or more potential failures similar to this one each year in bearings, gearboxes, and other critical machine elements.

Reports generated by AMS Machinery Manager software put an efficient repair schedule at the Sas' fingertips. "We're very organized," says the Maintenance Manager. Emerson's CSI technologies are helping Coservices provide the management of Belgium's largest brewery the confidence to keep the lines flowing, to catch trouble while it is still just brewing, and before it comes to a head.

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Kurt Sas, Maintenance Manager

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