

95% less lubricant

Ceramic grease achieves the impossible

Since mid-April, Burgenland has its first pellet producer. Besides efficiency, ecological aspects matter for FM Pellets. Two very good reasons for using Bathan ceramic grease.

In St. Martin FM Pellets produces pellets from saw residues to EN-Plus certified pellets (see Holzkurier Issue 18, p. 32-33). The company emphasizes short haul and regional value added. This resulted in the motto "From the region for the region". "Short transport routes are economic and ecologically meaningful", explains Heimo De Monte, one of the two CEOs.

DeMonte read about the ceramic grease Bathan KF7/60M in the Holzkurier. In comparison to regular greases, the manufacturer BVG AG promises 95% less lubricant consumption. At first, the CEO was skeptical: "If someone promises a reduction of 10 to 15%, it sounds plausible. 95% was unbelievable." However, the curiosity worked up, and he started to learn more about the grease.

First, he spoke to pellet manufacturers who are already using the grease. The feedback was positive in every respect. "95% reduction in lubricant consumption and longer

Bathan ceramic grease can be used without changing the hardware of pellet mills

lifetimes of bearings have been confirmed." The reason for the positive characteristics of Bathan KF 7/60M are small ceramic particles. They fill in microscopic irregularities of metal surfaces, and have smoothening effect. Smoother surfaces of bearings lead to lower operating temperatures, less lubricant consumption, and longer lifetimes. Exceptionally good results are achieved at Tschopp Holzindustrie, Buttisholz (see Holzkurier Issue 18, p. 35), one of the largest pellet producers in Switzerland. In all pellet mills, grease consumption was reduced from 180 kg to 9 kg, and lifetimes of roller bearings increased from 1000 hours to 4000 hours.

No risks when changing

For De Monte, warranty and costs were further barriers for changing from regular to ceramic greases. "Our pellet mills are new. In case of a failure, the manufacturer covers the costs – if we are using listed lubricants." Bathan KF7/60M is not on this list. Therefore, BVG's CEO,

Pellet silo of the first pellet production in St. Martin, Burgenland

Rüdiger Heller, promised to replace the rollers in case of premature failure. Cost wise, the ceramic grease is much more expensive. "Considering the massive reduction in lubricant consumption, extended lifetimes, lower cost of repairs and maintenance, and increased operating safety, conversion to ceramic grease has a distinctive economic advantage", Heller explains, and mentions Tschopp as a best case scenario. The company quantifies its savings due to conversion to ceramic grease with approx. 100.000 EUR/a.

For the environment

Besides practicability and economic advantages, the ecologic idea is firmly established at FM Pellets. For De Monte, 95% less consumption signifies 95% less transportation, and 95% less environmental load. Bathan is not from the region, but it is an important factor for reducing transportation volumes. De Monte is certain: "The next grease filling will be with Bathan KF7/60M."

Heimo De Monte, one of the two CEOs at FM Pellets

