

The immortal Bearing

Ceramic particles protect Pellet Mills

Good lubrication pays off, is an old saw. Bathan AG shows that quality is more important than quantity. The company promises 95% reduction in grease consumption – Holzhof Schmidt confirms these numbers.

– by Günther Jauk

When Rüdiger Heller showed up at Holzhof Schmidt two and a half years ago, he received the typical reaction: Skepticism paired with doubts regarding the substance of his statements. To be honest, he sounds more like fantasy than reliable facts: 95% reduction in grease consumption while doubling lifetime of bearings. This leads to considerable savings.

After long consideration and some internal persuading, Bernhard Tauchner, Operating Manager at Holzhof Schmidt GmbH, decided to try Bathan. Now, two years later, everything is working well with 95% reduced grease consumption. “Since changing to Bathan grease, rollers have a lifetime of 4’000 hours”, explains the operating manager happily, and confirms substantial saving, he does not want to quantify in detail. “I can only say that even without the prolongation of lifetime of rollers, the ceramic grease would pay off”, says Tauchner.

Microscopically Small

The secret behind Bathan KF7/60M are small ceramic particles. “The particles fill in friction valleys of metal surfaces, and lead to a smoothing effect. Smoother surfaces of bearings increase the load bearing capacity, reduce grease consumption and operating temperatures, and lead to longer lifetimes”, Heller explains the product features. The correct preparation of

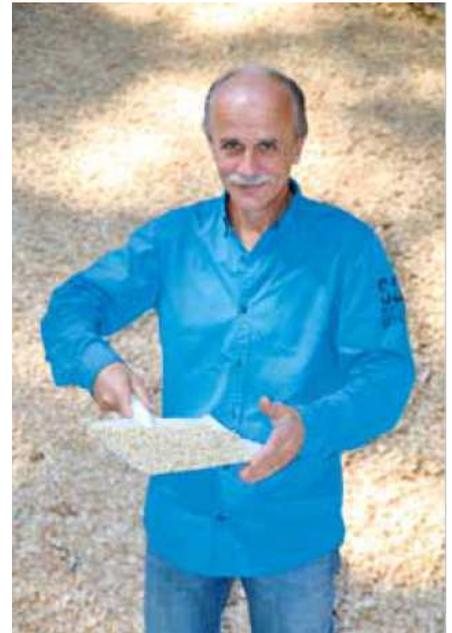
the roller bearing is another vital part of long lifetimes. “Best results are achieved when bearings are pre-lubricated with Bathan grease and assembled correctly”, Heller points out. Since lately, Bathan AG offers pre-lubricated rollers that are assembled according to Bathan’s high standards.

Important Piece of a Jigsaw

Schmidt started pellet production three years ago (see Holzkurier 2014/43, p. 21). The production capacity at that time was 15’000 t/a and the CEO Günter Schmidt did not plan to go big in pellet industry, but wanted to refine his saw by-products. In combination with a local heat supply system – now counting 230 connectors – the sawmill built another string to its bow.

The main business remains with saw wood products. With 65’000 scm, Schmidt supplies local carpenters as well as construction solid wood and composite lumber producers. The sale to individuals through an associated wood trade tops the range off.

To Schmidt regionality is essential. “We try to buy as much wood as possible in the proximity, and sell our products local. Short transportation not only saves money, but also the environment.” Explains the CEO. In this regard, Bathan also makes a small contribution. Consuming 95% less lubricants means 95% less delivery of grease. From once 2.5 t/a only 125 kg/a remain.



Operating Manager Bernhard Tauchner is pleased with Bathan grease



A small keg Bathan KF7/60M lasts >2 months at Holzhof Schmidt GmbH



The ceramic grease massively prolongs lifetimes of bearings