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Press Release

On-site training by Techenomics helps manage asset health

Expertise shared so operators can do it themselves

The remit of Techenomics is to ensure equipment operators get maximum benefit from their lubricants in order to minimise equipment downtime and optimise productivity.

The fully integrated service, which incorporates rapid turnaround times, is not restricted to Techenomics' laboratory network, it also includes managing asset health on-site.

Whether it be equipment at a mine site, processing facility, industrial operation, power station or in a transport situation, the company's total fluid management services are aimed at benefiting clients.

This is always achieved using the company's proven, independent methods.
While the service is carried out by expert, fully trained staff, using state-of-the-art equipment and generally in Techenomics' accredited laboratories, it also incorporates on-site training.

Techenomics CEO Chris Adsett said this ensured equipment operators at mines or other sites, especially those in remote locations, can carry out their own sampling and maintenance programs.

"We are only too pleased to send our staff members who specialise in tribology, including oil sampling, analysis and interpretation of results, to mine sites to demonstrate to staff the correct procedures.

"This helps ensure effective lubricant management and contamination control. It also helps reduce costs and enhance the performance of lubricants."

As an example, the company sent an experienced, qualified Australian-based engineer to a remote mine site to work with staff and contractors over a 12-month period.

This program included the use of magnetic plugs and condition monitoring, including oil sampling and analysis at an on-site laboratory to provide a faster turnaround time for samples.

It resulted in Techenomics designing and setting up a detailed program to monitor magnetic plug results and the engineer provided training in all facets of the program.
On-site engineers were trained to continue a magnetic plug program with a system implemented to weigh debris from plugs and a debris weight number created to complement the visual grading.

Through the scope of this program magnetic filter monitoring tools were added in the open pit grader, dozer and in other final drives of the mobile fleet, helping the mine develop a wheel motor as set health program.

Oil sampling competency training was also implemented for the open pit, the fleet maintenance program and at the concentrator.

Other outcomes achieved were:

- Develop, implement and train on how to dilute the viscosity of specific machine brand motor oils to allow for effective on-site testing;
- Develop, implement and train on how to take soot samples correctly, including the use of soot test kits;

- Develop, implement and train on how to take grease samples and the use of grease thief kits and test kits;
- Site wide audit on oil handling management practices and contamination control with a formal conclusive report and actions and recommendations;
- A trial to ascertain if lowering the four-ball scar and weld specifications could prevent failures in certain engines used on site;
- An HCM audit of the Truck Shop and Bulk Lube Storage facilities which helped improve fluid management procedures; and
- Data entry training on Techenomics' cloud-based Blue Oceans Condition Monitoring Platform and use of the database.

The company's engineer also liaised with all departments at the mine to ensure their condition monitoring programs were producing the expected maximum returns.
"As a result of the on-site efforts supported by Techenomics, the mine's team was able to detect problematic areas that were causing downtime, unexpected failure and costly repairs," Adsett concluded, "and this can be replicated at any mine site."

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