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**IT WAS
THE RIGHT DECISION**
INTERVIEW WITH ERIK FUNIOK,
HOERBIGER



When purchasing a new cleaning system, compressing technology specialist HOERBIGER took the opportunity to switch to a new cleaning agent. In an interview with Klaus Tejral, FUCHS AUSTRIA, Erik Funiok, Manufacturing Engineering team member of HOERBIGER Wien, explains what made them start the cooperation.

» Dear Mr. Funiok, what are the parts you clean in your new system?

Erich Funiok: We use the system to clean compressor valves.

» Why did you choose to switch to another cleaning process?

Funiok: An important reason was our relocation to our present site in 2016. We took this opportunity to put our existing cleaning technology to the test. The cleaning process of the old system was water-based. This is easier to handle under chemical aspects, but in terms of corrosion protection, it's not best practice, because we have a lot of castings. This is why we looked around for alternative solutions. Operation of the new system, supplied by Dürr again, is vacuum-based and uses modified alcohol. Our main focus, however, wasn't the cleaning process - the parts coming from the old system were really clean. What we focused on was preservation in order to ensure longer shelf lives

for the customer. HOERBIGER supplies products around the world, to countries having very different climatic conditions. We carried out many corrosion tests with FUCHS SCHMIERSTOFFE GMBH in order to play it safe.

» What tipped the scales to change to FUCHS in the end?

Funiok: ANTICORIT MPC 5000. It helps us eliminating the parts' susceptibility to rust.

» What were the requirements the cleaning agent has to meet?

Funiok: In the first instance, the preservation aspect was crucial to us. We were recommended ANTICORIT MPC 5000 by the machine manufacturers. This is how I came in touch with FUCHS SCHMIERSTOFFE GMBH. I wanted to have the preservative agent and the cleaning agent from one single source. I would do it again exactly the same way.

» You are able to solve even difficult cleaning problems with the FUCHS cleaning agent and preservative agent?

Funiok: Yes. What is interesting, the new cleaning system allows us to clean even non-ferrous metal using modified alcohol. This hasn't been possible with the system using the water-based process. Variations in colour appeared on the surface after cleaning in the old system. As the new system covers the entire portfolio, we were able to leave a cleaning system at the old location. This was actually the decisive factor to opt for FUCHS RENOCLEAN.

» Why RENOCLEAN as cleaning agent?

Funiok: We are machining engineers, not chemists. Georg Bürkle of FUCHS' product management team helped us very much in this regard. We sometimes talked on the phone until eleven o'clock at night, because there were pretty a lot of questions, for instance on chemical issues. The low flash point featured by RENOCLEAN was also an important issue, in particular with regard to fire protection and insurance issues. We had long discussions on questions such as: Is the whole project a delicate issue? Will we have any problems with corrosion protection of parts after cleaning? Georg Bürkle encouraged us to continue our way. Looking back, it was the right decision.

» How important is technical support to you?

Funiok: Though the machine was in our plant for one week already, we waited until putting it into operation together with Dürr and FUCHS. The all-important thing then was to have a contact person who knows the deal, what to do and what kind of problems might arise. Georg Bürkle made us feel very confident in having done the right thing when opting for modified alcohol and for the new system, a Dürr EcoCore.

It's quite clear that people go where they get a maximum amount of information, help and support. As for cleaning agents, preservative agents and metal forming oils, you are the specialists.

» What type of soiling can be found on the parts?

Funiok: We are talking about emulsions, thread-forming and cutting oils, probably upstream preservation oils and waxes, chips and grinding residues. At the end of the day, the parts are not severely soiled. Our central aim was to have a preservation process that ensures even the most remote and difficult to access spot of a blind hole is reached. This hasn't been possible so far with the water-based solution. Now this system allows us to apply an extremely thin protective film of preservative agent anywhere.

» Did you meet any problems regarding the cleaning process?

Funiok: No. After one year of operation the residual dirt analysis was positive. The average is okay. And the requirements are more and more challenging. But now we can see what is really possible with the agent, with the system and what can be done with it.



Left-hand side: Franz Hönigsberger, FUCHS AUSTRIA SCHMIERSTOFFE GMBH. Right-hand side: Erik Funiok, HOERBIGER





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