

You Can't Have Just One: Snack Maker Hooked on Timken



Janie Taunton is shown with solid-block housed units.

Call them chips. Call them crisps. Crunchy, deep-fried potato slices are guilty pleasures on nearly every continent. So, when a major snack food manufacturer needed reliable bearings for fryers in its United Kingdom location, it was an opportunity for Timken to get a bite of the worldwide business.

For years, the manufacturer struggled with a competitor's ball bearing housed units. The bearings helped run conveyors that submerged potato slices in hot oil. However, the bearings' seals didn't perform well at high temperatures, forcing technicians to inspect and re-lubricate the bearings three times a week.

In April 2013, the manufacturer got a taste of something new: Timken® spherical roller bearing solid-block housed units. They installed one to test. Twelve months later, with re-lubrication every three months, the test bearing had remained in excellent operating condition.

Timken bearings afford "unprecedented levels of reliability and performance," wrote the customer.

That was enough for the facility to install Timken bearings in all fryers – plus notify the company's other frying facilities about how Timken could improve their performance, too. Specifically, their report stated that Timken bearings:

- Prevent over-greasing. When the Timken housed unit is packed with grease, any excess is shed through a breather. That way, technicians can fill the bearing housing only with the correct volume of grease.
- Resist corrosion. Manufactured from the latest food-grade materials, the bearing is highly resistant to cleaning products and other chemicals.
- Align easily. Spherical roller bearings make setup simple. The rollers' increased load-bearing surface provides a more uniform distribution of force, which increases longevity.
- Withstand extreme environments. Timken seals operate at up to 260 degrees Celsius and endure wet, abrasive environments.

Wrote one of the facility's engineers: "We only have to lubricate the bearings every three months and there is no need to inspect them, once fitted correctly, inside of this service interval ... which will allow us to concentrate our labor in other needed areas."

Janie Taunton, Timken senior sales representative in Coventry, praised the support of UK service engineering in securing this success for Timken. "They carried out the inspections, advised the fitters and offered technical advice and they continue to be a formidable partner in our pursuit of more business," she said. "We are working with the end user and our distribution partner Brammer to review other applications on-site."