

News from CompAir

Heineken Lowers Lifecycle Costs with Oil-Free Compressor

The Sopron Brewery is a member of Heineken with a history of producing quality, premium beers that dates back to 1895. As Europe's largest brewery, Heineken must monitor its sites' environmental performance closely and has set all of its 115 breweries the goal of reducing energy consumption by 15 percent by the year 2010.

For the Sopron Brewery, this means continuous investment in its production and packaging facilities, so when the time came to upgrade its compressed air station, CompAir's energy-efficient, oil-free compressor range was the logical choice.

Reducing Lifecycle Costs

The brewery was using a variety of makes of compressors, some of which needed replacing before integrating the units into a single station monitored by one master controller. Local CompAir distributor, Imex recommended the D37H **fixed-speed**, oil-less compressor and the Smart Air system to control the new station, with a separate D75H SR **variable-speed**, 10-bar unit for the packaging area. The brewery found that this solution was unmatched in its overall cost of ownership, with significant energy savings, guaranteed clean air and reduced maintenance.

Energy Savings

As the master compressor, the **D75H SR** has the highest running hours and uses switched reluctance technology to adjust the power input to suit the air required. The Smart Air controller monitors air requirements automatically and selects the appropriate combination of compressors, for further energy savings.

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Clean Air Supply

Product spoilage comes at a high price, in terms of downtime, rework and damaged reputation and, with compressed air used across the entire plant the brewery must ensure a clean and dry supply.

The CompAir oil-less compressors produce 100% oil-free air to eliminate any risk of oil contamination, leaving the Sopron Brewery free to address other important process improvements.

Lower Maintenance Costs

The brewery operates 24 hours a day, six days a week which means that its plant maintenance requirements are high and potentially, very costly. CompAir's local service engineers offer round-the-clock support including all parts and emergency visits to provide a planned approach to scheduled servicing at a pre-determined price.

Given the significant energy savings and reduced maintenance benefits of the existing CompAir units, the client is considering purchasing a third oil-free compressor this year, the D110H SR.

TECHNICAL DATA

The CompAir oil-less air compressors are water injected to provide lubrication and sealing, providing low operating temperatures for reduced power consumption and improved efficiency.

Compression takes place in two chambers above and below the main rotor, which reduces bearing loads to extend the compression element life, helping to minimise operating costs. These low operating temperatures and bearing loads enable maintenance-free sealed bearings to be used, so there is no need for lubricating oil in the compressor. The associated costs with oil filter changes and oil disposal are therefore eradicated.

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The D75H SR is controlled by Switched Reluctance (SR) technology. Combined with the latest features for control and monitoring, SR overcomes many of the disadvantages of conventional variable-speed drives and is 3% more energy efficient than a traditional inverter.

A simple mechanical and electrical design makes the motor highly robust and low energy losses in both the rotor and power electronics ease thermal management and enhance reliability and efficiency.

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