



MAINTAINING COST EFFICIENCY IN FLEET MANAGEMENT



WITH THE START OF THE NEW YEAR AND NO SIGN OF THE RECESSION RELINQUISHING ITS GRIP ON THE UK ECONOMY, WHICH SECTOR SHOWS THE MOST PROMISE FOR PARTS SUPPLIERS? GERALDINE FAULKNER, EDITOR OF RECYCLING & WASTE WORLD, EXPLAINS WHY MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND OPERATION CONTINUES TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT'S FLEET OPERATORS.

News that the UK's economy is in better shape than any of the world's other leading nations, except for the US, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, does not mean that Britain is out of the woods yet.

In the middle of January, Philip Aldrick, economics editor at The Telegraph wrote that: "The Paris-based think-tank's latest composite leading indicators, which have a good record for predicting changes six months in advance, pointed to 'growth firming' in November alongside signs of a 'stabilising outlook in most major economies'."

However, this is contradicted by figures released by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) that said the UK economy contracted by 0.3% in the last three months of 2012. The BBC reported that if the figure is confirmed by official data later this month, it will mean the economy returned to growth for only a single quarter and would also suggest the economy saw zero growth for the whole of 2012.

Either way, it is not the healthiest of economic environments in which to run a business, especially one with a fleet of vehicles which requires high capital

investment. In times of economic uncertainty, more and more companies are relying on maintenance, repair and operation to maintain their vehicles and waste management is one of the sectors where this is proving to be the case.

A JCB spokesperson told RWW that: "During economic downturns we do generally witness an upturn in our parts business as customers do tend to hold onto machines a little longer than they would normally. Product support is extremely important to the JCB customer whether the machine is six months or six years old. Total cost of ownership is an extremely important consideration for customers at the time of purchase and JCB can offer numerous different solutions to help spread or even fix this cost over varying periods of ownership."

Cost efficiency has become the by-word for maintaining vehicles, but not, according to Paul Southwell, maintenance manager at Viridor, at the expense of health and safety and effectiveness.

"Cost efficiencies are a vital part of any viable business; however a balance needs to be met between minimising costs and ensuring health, safety and effectiveness. Viridor operates over 1000 vehicles across

the country and efficient operation is paramount," stated Southwell.

"Whilst vehicles typically have a depreciation cycle of between seven and ten years, a well serviced and operated vehicle can operate for much longer. We currently have a number of front-line vehicles around 10 years old which are still going strong. Successful extension of vehicle life cycle is essentially down to two main factors; the skill and training of staff and the availability of parts.

Nigel Emms at international truck manufacturer, Iveco, has noticed that businesses are running their vehicles for longer since the recession started in December 2007 and that 'smaller fleets are being kept going for a bit longer'. With the European waste sector reported to have grown more than 20% between 2000 and 2008 and jobs in recycling increasing by almost 80%, it is clear the recycling and waste management sectors offer plenty of opportunities for astute parts suppliers such as ERIKS in 2013.



Geraldine Faulkner
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TIMKEN IS IN THE HOUSE

LIFE'S TOUGH, AND THEN YOU DIE. ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE A SPHERICAL ROLLER BEARING IN THE WASTE AND RECYCLING INDUSTRY. SO IF YOU WANT YOUR BEARING TO HAVE A LONGER LIFE AND A MORE PRODUCTIVE ONE, YOU NEED TO PROTECT IT AS TIMKEN HAS IN THEIR SOLID-BLOCK.

Timken's housings are built to last from solid steel. Innovatively designed, and manufactured using highly precise methods to tighter tolerances, they provide real protection for Timken's high-performance spherical roller bearings, so that even the most demanding applications in the dustiest, dirtiest operating environments won't cut short their life.

Tougher than cast iron – which can break or pound out in difficult conditions – these stainless steel housings can withstand the impact of falling debris, and handle up to 1.5° of misalignment. And the bearings inside are not only protected against the harsh world outside, but also against other problems such as lubrication issues.

Primary and secondary seal options multiply the protection provided, and there is a range of seal options to enable optimised performance in highly-contaminated environments. The space between the seals also creates a cavity which can be filled with grease for an additional line of defence.

If you're tempted by such a rugged and robust bearing and housing, swapping out your existing bearing for the Timken option is not a problem. The comprehensive



Once installed, the Timken spherical roller bearings in their solid-block housings deliver increased performance and durability, day in, day out.

Pressure relief valves are standard on units ordered with non-purgeable seals, providing protection against over-lubrication. In addition, the eccentric lock series is designed to stay tight in reversing applications on precision-ground shafts, for increased shaft-holding power and reduced shaft damage.

The machined feet ends allow for precise installation and blocking for faster unit replacement in the future. Standard withdrawal holes on all piloted-flanged units also aid easier removal.

Combining high-performance spherical roller bearings with rugged solid-block housings, these Timken bearings increase uptime and decrease overall cost of ownership. Making it well worth giving them house room.

Timken range includes interchangeable models for almost all spherical housed units, with a huge choice of sizes to accommodate shafts from 40-180mm. So you can get Timken performance, productivity and protection whatever your application.

Installation is quick too. The heavy-duty Timken unit has machined feet, tapped puller holes, black oxide inner rings and multiple shaft locking choices – all helping to make installation simpler. All styles of Timken housed units offer one-time shaft alignment, and with up to 1.5° of misalignment tolerated, there are fewer misalignment issues to contend with in any case. A double-nut housing provides for multidirectional shaft expansion, with in-field conversion from fixed to floating in either direction.

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