

SKF® Rotating Equipment Performance Maximizes Uptime for Big River Steel

SKF takes proactive maintenance to the next level to minimize downtime and maximize profitability

THE CHALLENGE: At Big River Steel – a newly constructed mill in Arkansas with an annual capacity of 1.6 million tons – they rely on continuous equipment uptime to meet their production goals. Failures of critical rotating machinery can cost millions in unrecovered expenses through lost production – as well as additional outlays replacing equipment. As the most technologically advanced steel mill in the United States, using a data-driven solution for monitoring rotating assets and predicting failures would be the most effective way to avoid unplanned downtime.

THE SOLUTION: SKF proposed a solution that would take proactive maintenance to the next level with a pay-for-performance program to maximize machine productivity. SKF offered Big River Steel a fixed-fee contract to monitor rotating equipment, analyze data, manage inventory and implement solutions to optimize throughput in the mill. The contract includes the cost of SKF bearings, seals and related components transacted through SKF distributor partners.



“Anytime you can minimize unplanned events, you’re going to have more uptime, more throughput and more opportunity for profitability.”

David Stickler
Big River Steel, CEO





THE RESULTS:



Optimized inventory management to supply the right parts at the right time



Minimized downtime through monitoring, predictive analysis and planned maintenance solutions



Improved worker safety through well-planned maintenance activity



Reduced costs, improved plant efficiency and profitability



“SKF helps us stay up and running... so we’re more productive and more profitable at the end of the day.”

Tommie Kifer
Big River Steel, Operations Manager

The SKF Rotating Equipment Performance agreement created a true partnership with a shared responsibility and collaborative commitment to achieving best-in-class productivity. Managed by a full-time, on-site SKF expert, the program not only provides unprecedented insight into machine health, it also delivers a full-service solution to improve machine performance and reliability.

As a result, SKF can help Big River Steel avoid catastrophic failures by identifying issues early in critical rotating equipment and implementing solutions that minimize downtime. Catching problems early allows for streamlined inventory orders and well-planned maintenance activities that reduce costs, improve worker safety and boost productivity in the mill. By combining connected monitoring technologies, expert data analysis and integrated solutions to optimize inventory and maximize machine health, SKF is positioning Big River Steel for success.

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