

INTELLIGENT PUMP CLEANING CUTS MAINTENANCE AT IRISH PUMPING STATION

CUSTOMER PROFILE

The installation of an AC drive with Control Techniques' IPC Lite software has dramatically cut call-outs for blockages at Kelly's Bay, an Irish County Council pumping station.

THE CHALLENGE

The pumping station has two variable speed drives control main and standby pumps. "The pumping station would run for a couple of weeks and then we'd get three or four call-outs in a week," explained Fingal County Council's Mechanical Supervisor Jim McGuinness. Call-outs for blockages to Kelly's Bay took a team of two an average of two hours each time, making maintenance highly costly.

THE SOLUTION

Mr McGuinness said, **"When it was time to replace one of the existing 15kW Control Techniques AC drives, we had the software loaded. It has worked extremely well, before the software we switched between the two pumps weekly to spread the load from a maintenance point of view. However, since August we have just run the one pump with the software and monitored its performance by telemetry, maintenance costs have dramatically reduced."**

THE BENEFITS

The pump now runs around the clock, with flow rates varying between 20 and 70 cu.m/hr with IPC Lite providing early warnings of 'ragging' (the fouling of the pump's impeller) and initiating cleaning routines when required. The installation has cut callouts from ragging from a weekly occurrence to just once in the first six months of installation.

IPC Lite measures on-board active current and real torque every millisecond. As soon as IPC Lite sees a change in the active current profile, remedial action is taken to remove the potential blockage.

In the event of a blockage, the cleaning routine, which is user configurable via parameters, is initiated. In addition, a manual cleanse can be triggered by staff if required. To prevent repeated cleaning in the event of a major blockage, IPC Lite has detection of successive cleansings and lock-out and alarm to indicate a fault. The IPC programming can be tailored to suit individual pumping stations and is supplied loaded into a logic-stick on a Commander SK AC drive.

KEY BENEFITS

- **SIGNIFICANTLY CUT MAINTENANCE COSTS**
- **DRASTICALLY REDUCED CALL-OUTS FOR BLOCKAGES**
- **REMOTE MONITORING**

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