**Quality guaranteed with unique load test bed**

*02 June, 2014: Specialist drive engineering company SEW-EURODRIVE offers customers the peace-of-mind that all of its gearboxes meet the necessary quality standards and requirements, thanks to the load test bed which is currently only found at the company’s Durban branch.*

SEW-EURODRIVE general manager of operations **Raymond Obermeyer** notes that the load test bed consists of a motor, generator, test bed and a control system. "This allows the company to check gear mesh and bearing frequencies, vibration, temperature and thermal levels, as well as general noise levels," he explains.

Two gearboxes that need to be load tested are connected together at their output shafts. The motor is then connected to the one gearbox’s input shaft and the generator is connected to the other gearbox’s input shaft. The motor drives through the gearboxes to turn the generator.

The load on the gearboxes is controlled by the amount of resistance that the generator applies. The generator's resistance can be adjusted within the control system, which recovers the energy from the generator and feeds it back to the motor to reduce overall energy consumption.

The test bed acts as a load that is driven by the prime mover, which is equipped to measure torque and speed. The load tester must be able to operate at any speed and load the prime mover to a recommended level of torque that the gear unit test requires.

According to Obermeyer, the load test bed is largely used to test new equipment, in order to ensure that it meets specified criteria. "As part of the repair process, gearboxes are also tested to verify that the repairs are up to standard and meet the required specifications."

The load test bed is currently a unique feature of the SEW-EURODRIVE Durban branch, however, Obermeyer reveals that there are plans to introduce these test beds at other branches across South Africa.

“The load test bed in Durban forms part of the company’s continuous improvement plans to develop the infrastructure of its assembly plants nationally. Durban is the newest factory, which is why the load test bed was installed there. This is part of our plan to show that we are committed to expanding our capabilities nationally,” he adds.

Obermeyer points out that the load test bed has been well received since the service was established. “We have had customers using our facility from the first day. By making use of the load test bed, our customers are ensured of a standard of quality that is expected from SEW-EURODRIVE. In addition, our customers increasingly require load testing, and by having these facilities available, we are able to meet our customer and market requirements,” he concludes.

***Ends.***

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