



# Case Study



## *Blue Star XH 9655/200-1/3M Improves Bearing Reclaim Rates and Load Wear While Withstanding Low Temperatures and Water Exposure*

### BACKGROUND:

Driving sustainable process improvements within the caster operation of a steel mill is very challenging. The severe environment requires careful planning and control of any operational change to avoid production risks. When this steel manufacturer began experiencing a significant reduction in their average bearing life and reclaim rates, a large increase in maintenance costs was incurred. Bearings have typically been able to be reclaimed seven times before requiring replacement.

### OPPORTUNITY:

- Improve bearing life and reclamation frequency.
- Extend the segment tonnage between rebuilds.
- Reduce the volume of grease used.

### CHALLENGES:

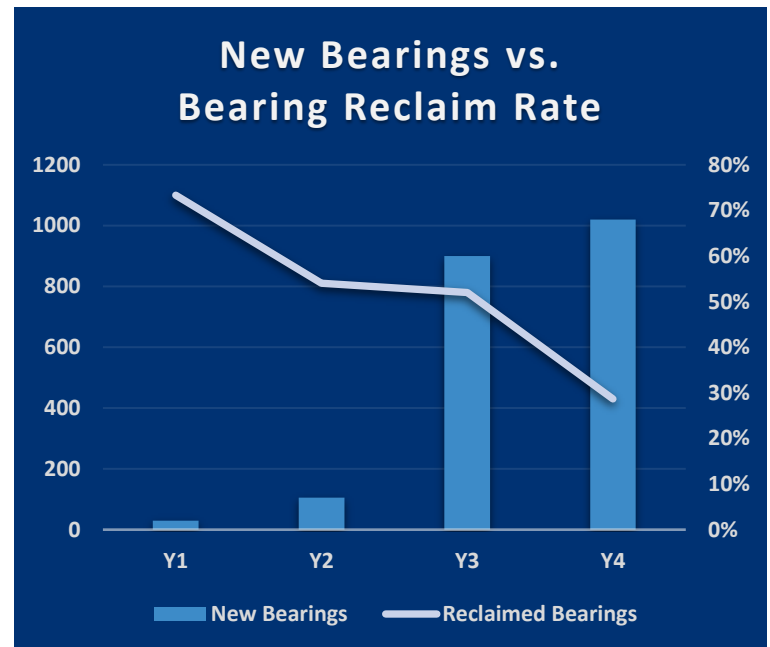
- Determining optimal grease thickener and base oil.
- Ensuring that the grease will pump in below zero environment.
- Implementing the grease transition without impeding production.

### THE DUBOIS SOLUTION:

A DuBois team of technical experts partnered with the manufacturer to determine what factors contributed to the reclaim reduction and determine an ideal high-performance lubricant that would protect the bearings and significantly reduce their bearing expenditures. **Blue Star XH 9655/220-1/3M** was deemed a suitable option through a series of laboratory evaluations. This innovative technology has drastically increased the level of lubrication and water resistance. Compatibility with the existing grease allowed for a seamless transition throughout the caster.

### RESULTS AND BENEFITS:

- Doubled the load wear and weld load performance for improved bearing protection.
- 87% reduction in water wash out improves the grease's sealing ability and extends lubrication cycles to reduce usage.
- Improved grease performance achieved without sacrificing pumpability during freezing weather conditions.
- Compatible grease technologies for seamless transition in grease lubrication system.



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