



FLUOROCARBON CASE STUDY

THRUST BEARINGS IN THE HYDRO GENERATING PLANT

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THE CHALLENGE

Our client had a hydro generating plant consisting of large vertical turbines set inside a mountain. Conventionally, white metal (tin alloy) bearings have been used in these applications, but they had experienced problems because of the large weight of the turbines laying down on the bearings.

THE SOLUTION

We supplied a PTFE facing on the bearing material ensuring that, particularly on start-up, the bearings have a large force to allow the turbine to start moving.

THE OUTCOME

Due to the low coefficient of friction, the start-up load was drastically reduced. The low coefficient of friction also reduced energy losses during normal running allowing for slightly higher temperature running and higher loads than in a conventional bearing.