Thrust Bearings for Electric Submersible Pumps

Waukesha Bearings® offers a range of solutions to maximize bearing life and optimize bearing performance in these harsh conditions – increasing the efficiency, production and operating life of your pump.

**HIDRAX™ POLYMER BEARINGS**

Polymer-lined tilt pad thrust (TPT) bearings like the Hidrax™ bearing from Waukesha Bearings are the standard for ESP operating temperatures up to 200°C (392°F) and loads up to 8 MPa (1160 psi). They are widely used in both the seal/protector section and the motor of ESPs.

The high temperature and load capabilities of the engineered polymer lining are complemented by the tilt pad design’s tolerance for misalignment and ability to accommodate a wide range of loads and speeds.

As an additional benefit in the motor, the polymer provides electrical insulation, protecting the bearings from stray currents without a separate insulating layer between the bearing and housing.

**HIDRAX™ HT CERAMIC BEARINGS**

For the higher temperatures in steam-assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) wells, the greater temperature and load capabilities of ceramic or ceramic-metallic composite (cermet) materials are needed. Hidrax™ HT thrust bearings feature durable ceramic/cermet materials that retain their surface hardness and a load capacity of 8 MPa (1160 psi) at lubricating oil temperatures of 300°C (572°F) and higher.

The superior strength and hardness of ceramic/cermet materials also provide the ability to crush abrasive debris that may enter the system through damage to a mechanical seal or contamination of the lubricating oil.

Hidrax HT bearings use the well-proven Hidrax platform, making them ideal for drop-in replacement of existing polymer bearings as ESPs are updated with SAGD technology.
BRONZE BEARINGS

For ESPs operating under low loads and for upthrust bearings, Waukesha Bearings offers a selection of bronze bearing designs. Bronze bearings can withstand elevated temperatures under relatively low loads.

Fixed geometry designs for bronze include cast bronze, taperland and threaded OD thrust bearings; these options all eliminate pad flutter on the upthrust bearing.

The Waukesha Bearings Deflection Pad® thrust bearing provides some of the benefits of a tilt pad for increased load capacity using bronze. Successful operational experience for the Deflection Pad bearing includes lubricating oil temperatures above 150°C (302°F) with unit loads of 2 MPa (290 psi) and higher.

Bronze bearings may be sensitive to misalignments, though, and are designed for use in clean environments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>POLYMER HIDRAX BEARINGS</th>
<th>CERAMIC/CERMET HIDRAX HT BEARINGS</th>
<th>BRONZE DEFLECTION PAD BEARINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temperature Capability</td>
<td>200°C (392°F)</td>
<td>300±°C (572±°F)</td>
<td>150±°C (302±°F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Load Capability</td>
<td>8 MPa (1160 psi)</td>
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<td>2 MPa (290 psi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contaminants</td>
<td>Embeds dirt</td>
<td>Resistant; grinds debris</td>
<td>Very little acceptance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conformability</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Load capacity at increasing temperatures for polymer Hidrax versus ceramic Hidrax HT center pivot TPT bearings.