



Product

Custom Grid Coupling

Application

Gold Mine Winder

Highlights

- Proven long-lasting performance
- Accommodates misalignment
- Absorbs vibration

The operators of a South African gold mine needed a replacement coupling on a winder at their site. The winder transports workers and material to and from the surface of the 3.9 km (2.4 mile) deep mine. Traveling at 16 m/sec., a one-way trip takes approximately an hour. The mine is one of the deepest in the world with rock face temperatures reaching 60°C (140° F).

The grid coupling connects the drive motor shaft to the gearbox on the main drivetrain located at the top of winder tower. The original Bibby coupling, in operation since 1962 when the mine opened, was starting to show some wear after nearly 55 years of service.

Based on the extremely long service life of the original Bibby coupling, the mine operator asked Bibby to provide a solution to the coupling problem. After an on-site inspection, the Bibby Turboflex team recommended replacing the original coupling with a new, state-of-the-art unit.

Bibby supplied an H-Type, Model 734 replacement grid coupling, which provides an exceptional amount of flexibility. The 1.2 m (3.9 ft.) diameter coupling, one of the largest manufactured at Bibby's facility in Bedford, U.K., weighed more than 2.5 tons (5,600 lbs.). Teeth in the coupling's hubs accept the grid element that transmits the torque. The grid allows for misalignment and absorbs vibration.

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