WHITE PAPER

Regal Rexnord Integrated Powertrain Solutions Provide $1M+ in Savings for Bakeries

Addressing Industry Challenges with a Single-Source Solution Provider

RegalRexnord™

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Introduction

It is no secret that the food manufacturing industry is evolving rapidly, requiring each sector to continuously innovate to remain competitive. Bakeries, a dynamic segment within food production, require precision, consistency, and efficiency to meet evolving market demands. However, balancing operational efficiency while navigating industry-wide challenges has become increasingly complex.

For decades, bakeries have relied on experienced technicians, engineers, and maintenance specialists to keep complex machinery running smoothly. Today, a growing skill gap is affecting the standard of production efficiency. As veteran workers retire and training programs struggle to produce skilled replacements, companies face increasing difficulty in finding qualified talent capable of upholding the industry benchmarks set by the previous generation.

This gap isn't just an operational inconvenience, it's a direct risk to business continuity. While organizations attempt to train employees internally without deep technical expertise, troubleshooting becomes reactive, inefficient, and costly.

This whitepaper explores the key challenges impacting bakeries and how partnering with a comprehensive powertrain service provider offers a strategic solution to evolving industry demands.

Challenges Across the Bakery Industry

Workforce Shortages & Skill Gaps

One of the most urgent challenges is the growing labor shortage, projected to leave **53,500 jobs unfilled by 2030***, affecting production efficiency and system reliability. This shortage is especially severe in engineering, equipment maintenance, and production roles, making it difficult for bakeries to sustain uptime and meet demand.

The aging workforce, declining interest in manufacturing careers, and increased reliance on automation are reshaping hiring and training strategies. While bakeries are investing in automated systems and predictive maintenance, a comprehensive service provider can bridge the skill gap by offering expert installation, proactive system monitoring, and troubleshooting support.

Consumer Trends & Market Shifts

Bakeries are evolving to meet changing consumer preferences, particularly in health-conscious and convenience-driven markets. With the global gluten free food market estimated to reach $33 billion by 2034**, growing consumer demand for low-sugar, organic, and plant-based bakery products is driving innovation. Additionally, shifting consumption habits favor pre-packaged, ready-to-eat bakery options and premium artisanal products, prompting bakeries to scale operations accordingly.

Bakery manufacturers are turning to service providers to optimize production lines, accommodate new product formulations, and implement packaging and automation innovations.

Supply Chain Disruptions & Cost Pressures

Global supply chain volatility continues to create challenges for bakeries, including ingredient shortages, transportation delays, and rising energy costs. Manufacturers increasingly turn to single-source service providers to streamline operations and improve supply chain efficiency.

By reducing vendor complexity, bakeries gain stronger coordination and improved inventory management, mitigating logistical delays while optimizing energy-efficient systems that lower operating costs.

The bakery sector is undergoing significant transformation, driven by workforce shortages, evolving consumer preferences, and supply chain disruptions. These challenges are reshaping how bakeries operate, forcing manufacturers to rethink strategies and adopt new technologies and service-driven solutions to maintain profitability.

** Eric Dell. "American Bakers Association Warns of Looming Workforce Shortage." American Bakers Association, October 2023. https://americanbakers.org/news/american-bakers-association-warns-looming-workforce-shortage*

*** Kunal Ahuja and Sarita Bayas. "Gluten-Free Food Market Size & Share, Growth Forecasts." Global Market Insights, March 2025. https://www.gminsights.com/industry-analysis/gluten-free-food-market*

The Role of a Comprehensive Service Provider in Bakery Optimization

To overcome these challenges, bakeries must look beyond individual components and adopt an **integrated approach** to optimization.

Regal Rexnord Powertrain Solutions play a crucial role in **bridging the skill gap**, **optimizing operations**, and **streamlining supply chain**. By providing specialized expertise, our Powertrain Solutions are designed to have optimal system performance. With over a century of industry expertise, Regal Rexnord is continuously innovating to address the specific challenges our customers face, all from a single partner.

Quantified Value

In a world where bakery operations are caught between rising costs, unpredictable supply chains, and a workforce that's increasingly hard to pin down, the ability to keep production smooth and reliable feels less like a business strategy and more like survival skill.

Integrated solutions offer significant value to baking operations:

~$1M
POTENTIAL SAVINGS ACROSS A FACILITY'S SPIRAL FLEET

~$650K
INCREASED THROUGHPUT

~$120K
TCO SAVINGS FROM CLEANING CONSULTATION

~$240K
LABOR SAVINGS

99%
ON-TIME DELIVERY FOR SPIRAL CAGE BELTING
(Expert installation reduces risk of recalls)

Integrated Solutions

These examples showcase how a single-source service provider eliminates the guess work, bringing deep expertise that has proven cost savings.

Cambridge™ Active Drive™ Solution for Spiral Conveyor

A large bagel manufacturer needed to automate the cooling process for a new line, requiring a system that operates at acceptable tension levels.

Challenge: High belt tension levels for the bagel cooling line, requiring a 60" wide belt for production.

Solution: Regal Rexnord introduced the Cambridge Active Drive Metal Belt solution to smoothly cool the bagels at this wide width, reducing belt tension by 50%.

Benefit: Successful installation and trouble-free operation, with no need for employees to reorient bagels at discharge. The production increase alone gained the customer millions of dollars per year, with labor savings of $240,000 annually.

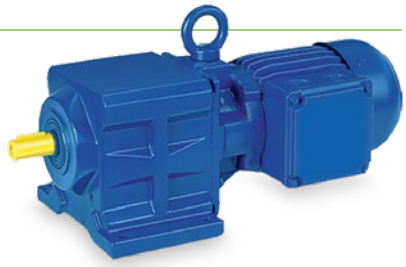
Sealmaster™ PN Gold Mounted Bearings

Problem: A large bakery experienced frequent bearing failures due to contamination, causing downtime and maintenance issues.

Solution: Switching to Sealmaster PN Gold mounted ball bearings with a high-performance triple lip contact seal and Skwezloc™ locking collar reduced downtime and labor costs.

Benefits: Approximately $33,000/year in savings, improved operating efficiency, reduced inventory needs, and maintenance staff focusing on higher priorities.

Bauer™ Gear Motor BK Series Geared Motors



Problem: A manufacturer needed to increase the speed of their shrink-wrapping conveyor belts but faced motor strain issues.

Solution: Bauer Gear Motor provided hygienic and highly efficient BK Series geared motors, enhancing conveyor belt speed and efficiency.

Benefits: Maximized production efficiency and output, with reliable and durable motors suitable for food industry standards.

Perceptiv™ Condition Monitoring Solution

A manufacturer needed to monitor the temperature of Line 2 Oven Zone 1 and 3 Lower Recirculation Blower in order to minimize unplanned downtime.

Problem: Perceptiv was monitoring the condition of the recirculating blower and noted heat signature warnings exceeding alarm setpoints. Physical inspection detected slight vibrations, indicating potential issues with alignment, belts, and bearings.

Solution: During scheduled downtime, the team replaced bearings and belts, aligned sheaves and shaft bearings, and conducted a thermal imaging inspection. High heat signatures revealed holes in the lower recirculation blower, which were repaired by welding new sheet metal.

Benefit: The replacement was incorporated into the maintenance plan, and precision maintenance was completed. The equipment returned to production with overall amplitude decreasing from 0.3 IPS to 0.055 IPS. Downtime cost per hour was $3,500, with 48 hours avoided, resulting in a total cost avoidance of $168,000.

Conclusion

The industry-wide skill gap isn't disappearing. As technology advances, manufacturers must prioritize reliability, efficiency, and sustainability, and not gamble on workforce readiness. Regal Rexnord Powertrain Services provides **real solutions** that protect uptime, minimize risk, and ensure powertrain systems operate at peak performance.

By partnering with a comprehensive service provider, businesses eliminate uncertainty, optimize operations, and drive long-term success. In a rapidly evolving industry, expert-led service isn't just an advantage — it's a necessity.

About the Company

Regal Rexnord Corporation is a global leader in the engineering and manufacturing of factory automation sub-systems, industrial powertrain solutions, automation and mechanical power transmission components, electric motors and electronic controls, air moving products, and specialty electrical components and systems.

Through longstanding technology leadership and an intentional focus on producing more socially conscious and environmentally-friendly products and sub-systems, the Company is regularly addressing increasingly relevant secular demands of customers in the medical, alternative energy, aerospace, food & beverage, general industrial and warehouse/intralogistics end markets, among others. In short, Regal Rexnord's 30,000 associates around the world are proud to be working each day towards fulfilling the Company's purpose: to create a better tomorrow with sustainable solutions that power, transmit, and control motion.

Regal Rexnord is comprised of three operating segments: Industrial Powertrain Solutions, Power Efficiency Solutions, and Automation and Motion Control. Regal Rexnord is headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and has manufacturing, sales and service facilities worldwide. For more information, visit www.regalrexnord.com.

Regal Rexnord
Customer Service: 800-626-2120
Technical Service: 800-626-2093
CustomerService.PTSolutions@regalrexnord.com

regalrexnord.com

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