Industry: Manufacturing  
Products Used: Drives

Reduced costs for giftware manufacturer

When Elbief, one of Europe's leading manufacturers of decorative giftware, embarked upon an energy saving project, its engineers were sceptical about the cost saving claims of Mitsubishi Electric's A140 inverter. However, after a short trial period, they calculated new efficiencies and decided to install A140s on several of their motors.

Anil Chauhan, Elbief's Factory Services Manager soon discovered that the greatest energy savings could be made on the company's electric motors. Many drives were tried, but Elbief found that Mitsubishi's A140 inverter provided the greatest savings in energy.

The A140's built-in Intelligent Energy Saving mode was the main reason behind this. In this mode, the A140 continually monitors the load to be driven and makes decisions about how to drive it in the most economical way.

Anil Chauhan comments "Originally we were sceptical about the A140 as it looked too small to handle the application. However, after a few weeks we were very impressed with the A140. Its performance, and the initial estimates of energy savings are excellent." He continues "Based on the A140 running at full speed in energy saving mode for 24 hours a day, we calculated a payback time of 1.48 years, including installation costs. This figure is far better than any of the other drives we tried."

Further savings have been achieved in terms of maintenance. As the motor is running more efficiently with the A140, there is less mechanical strain on the bearings. Before the A140 was installed, they had to be replaced at least once a year at a cost of £800 a time. The slow ramp up of the inverter extends the life of the motor bearings considerably.

Elbief's engineers are now so convinced of the energy saving capabilities of Mitsubishi Electric's A140 inverter that they have now made it a factory standard for all their electric motor applications.

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Application story first released March 1995 by Mitsubishi Electric UK