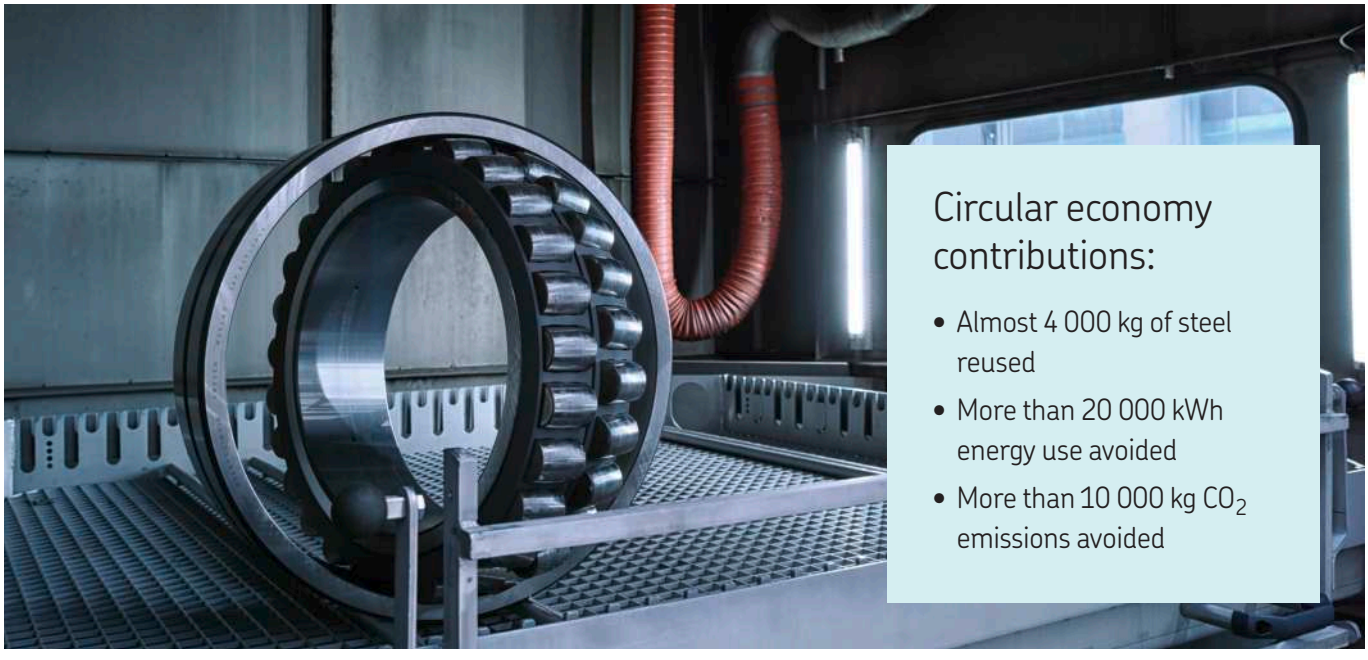
Saving time and money by using SKF Remanufacturing



Circular economy contributions:

- Almost 4 000 kg of steel reused
- More than 20 000 kWh energy use avoided
- More than 10 000 kg CO_2 emissions avoided

Instead of ordering new bearings for their rolling mill, an Italian forger decided to let SKF remanufacture their existing bearings. The bearings sent to SKF for remanufacturing were returned in like-new condition, but at a significantly lower cost than new ones.

An unplanned stop of the rolling mill

The rolling mill had only been in service for a couple of years when an unforeseen event caused it to break down ahead of scheduled maintenance.

When the maintenance manager inspected the three large main bearings, he knew they could be used for at least one more year. But the cost of having to shut down again so soon after the breakdown was not appealing, and he decided to replace them right away. He installed the new ones he kept as backups and turned to a well-known bearing distributor for replacements.

Large cost-savings with remanufactured bearings

The price for replacements was much higher than expected, and while the distributor checked with alternative suppliers to get a better price, the SKF key account manager came up with a better idea. He looked over the old bearings, found them to be in good condition and saw they could be remanufactured instead of replaced. Remanufacturing was a new approach for both the distributor and customer, but the promise of a low-cost solution with retained quality convinced them.

Cost-benefit analyses from SKF's remanufacturing service show that significant cost savings can be made by remanufacturing bearings, with the degree of savings determined by bearing size, complexity and bearing condition. Moreover, up to 90% less energy is needed to remanufacture bearings compared to manufacturing new ones, depending on the amount of remanufacturing required.

The thorough process of remanufacturing

SKF's technicians at the remanufacturing facility in Austria disassembled the three bearings and cleaned, measured and visually inspected them. After polishing the raceways and rolling elements, glass-blasting the cages and reassembly, the bearings were in like-new condition.

The maintenance manager got his bearings back much quicker and at a much lower cost than if he had ordered new ones, and can rest assured that he has backups on hand should any new problems arise.

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