

Synthetic diamond radial bearing for harsh environments

Contributed by Rob Colman

Orem, UT – US Synthetic Corporation, a Dover Company and a provider of polycrystalline diamond cutters (PDCs) for oil and gas exploration, announced on May 5th the availability of the industry’s first commercially viable radial bearing line based on synthetic diamond technology. Coming out of field trials with major manufacturers, this groundbreaking technology from the US Synthetic Bearings division has garnered the 2009 Spotlight on New Technology Award from the Offshore Technology Conference, and was also recognized by the 2009 Utah Innovations Awards, presented by Stoel Rives LLP and the Utah Technology Council.

“Our radial bearings offer truly disruptive advances with longer life, reduced size, and increased lateral load-carrying capacity,” stated Craig Cooley, general manager the US Synthetic Bearings division. “A single installation can save many thousands of dollars in rig time.”

Compared to tungsten-carbide technology, US Synthetic Radial and Thrust Bearings extend bearing life by four to ten times in the harshest real-world environments. This fully customizable bearing line offers design engineers and tooling manufacturers durable bearings for drilling tools, pumps, and heavy equipment.

Unlike competing offerings, these advanced bearings outperform mud-lubricated tungsten carbide bearings and eliminate the need for seals and special lubrication, using drilling mud or process fluids instead. Jim Isenhour, Drilling Optimization Supervisor, Hard Rock Solutions, stated: “I believe everyone in the industry would benefit from running these diamond bearings.”

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