

THORDON

THORDON BEARINGS INC.

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SHAFTLINE CONVERSION FROM OIL TO WATER SAVES DREDGE OWNER MONEY

(Burlington, Canada - July 5, 2012) In April 2011, the *Fraser Titan*, a triple screw 2300 m³ dredger, was converted to Thordon RiverTough water lubricated propeller shaft bearings from an oil lubricated system. The previous oil lubricated system had many issues – frequent maintenance of aft seals, water ingress contaminating the lubricating oil and unplanned drydockings. The vessel had its first drydocking with water lubricated shaftlines in March 2012 at Esquimalt Drydock reporting no sealing issues (as there is no aft seal) and very little wear. At current bearing wear rates after 6,100 hours of operation, RiverTough bearings are expected to last over 10 years (+60,000 hours).

“We chose Thordon RiverTough for this vessel because these bearings are known for long wear life in abrasive waters, they eliminated the aft sealing issues we had and come with no risk of pollution,” says Dmitry Kravtsov, Technical Superintendent for FPRD (Fraser River Pile and Dredge [GP] Inc.) “The Thordon solution onboard the vessel has reduced our downtime and maintenance costs.”

The *Fraser Titan* has three shaftlines with diameters of 6.6” (165mm). The Thordon RiverTough propeller shaft bearings operate in combination with hard coated Nickel-Chrome-Boron shaft sleeves which provide superior wear life in highly abrasive wear conditions experienced on the Fraser River in British Columbia. Water is used as a lubricant (instead of oil) and is taken from the river, pumped through the bearings using a Thordon Water Quality Package and returned back to the river. Since no aft seal is required, there is no risk of damage by abrasives or rope. This results in lower in-service maintenance costs and the elimination of storage, sampling and disposal of oil from the stern tube. Mill Log Marine, Thordon’s authorized distributor in BC, has worked with FPRD on this project and continues to advise on problem areas where Thordon solutions may further help them reduce operating costs.

Thordon Bearings Inc. is the leading manufacturer of water lubricated stern tube bearings, grease-free rudder and deck equipment bearings and other shaftline products for the global marine market. Recognized

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internationally for superior performance, Thordon Bearings has a worldwide customer service network in over 100 countries.



At current wear rates, Thordon RiverTough bearings are expected to last over 10 years.



Installation of Thordon RiverTough propeller shaft bearings on the triple screw dredger, *Fraser Titan*.

For further information contact:

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