

Press Release

Schaeffler at BrauBeviale in Hall 6, Booth 157

Schaeffler shows new approaches to lowering production costs in the beverage industry

SCHWEINFURT, 2023-11-23.

- Portfolio ranges from standard rolling bearings to customized drive solutions
- Schaeffler's OPTIME Ecosystem makes monitoring of machines and equipment particularly simple and economical
- Substantially reduced energy consumption: direct drive as alternative to geared motors

BrauBeviale, one of the leading capital goods fairs for the beverage industry worldwide, is due to take place in Nuremberg from November 28 to 30, 2023. Schaeffler will be on site with a presentation that focuses on solutions for economical and efficient beverage production.

Ralf Moseberg, Senior Vice President Industrial Automation at Schaeffler, points out: "The high cost pressures in the industry also have a positive side effect. Established series solutions are being questioned and the search for new and more efficient designs and solutions is beginning – and increasingly, this includes the entire life cycle of machines and systems. This is very much in line with our solutions for the food and beverage industry, from standard components and engineering to solutions for efficient operation and optimized maintenance."

Safeguarding the brewing process with the OPTIME Ecosystem

The OPTIME Ecosystem not only provides brewers with an overview of the condition of all pumps and assemblies but also monitors lubricant supply. OPTIME Condition Monitoring (CM) is a system for the automatic monitoring of pumps, electric and geared motors, fans, rolling bearings and other assemblies of the kind often used in the beverage industry. The risk of unscheduled downtime is significantly reduced, which helps to achieve annual targets. Maintenance work can be planned and is more cost-efficient.

OPTIME C1, the first smart, automated lubricator on the market, is part of the OPTIME Ecosystem and uses the same technologies and user interfaces as OPTIME CM. Maintenance personnel are alerted via the Schaeffler OPTIME app about lubricators with a critical fill level, a fault in the lubrication supply and lubrication points with increased temperature.

Energy efficient beverage filling with direct drive systems

Worm gear motors are often used to drive star wheels in beverage filling machines. Although the drive power is just a few kilowatts, the annual losses add up to a considerable amount due to 24/7 operation and the low overall efficiency of 0.73-0.75. A direct drive like the Schaeffler RIB torque drive offers a significantly higher efficiency of 0.92 in this output class. Using this direct drive can save several tens of thousands of euros in energy costs and more than 100 tons of CO₂ emissions over the life cycle of a single beverage filling line.

For the linear guides used in star wheels, Schaeffler recommends its KUBE-B series monorail guidance systems in combination with the KIT450 long-term lubricating units and a friction-optimized sealing assembly. The uniform distribution of the lubricant in the carriages reduces the amount of lubricant needed. By using these linear guides, operators can save around 50 percent lubricant and 70 percent maintenance costs. Service lives of more 50,000 km without relubrication are possible.

Automation and robotics: The beacons of hope in the beverage industry

At its exhibition booth, Schaeffler will use a Kuka IONTEC HO robot with barrel gripper to showcase its RT1 and RT2 series precision strain wave gears and configurable complete drives – known as drive systems – as well as the PSC range of precision planetary gear units. From the linear segment, 7th axes and new lifting columns will also be presented. For the automated transport and handling of bottles, boxes, drums and pallets, Schaeffler offers all bearing components, from simple linear bearings to portal handling and multi-axis systems.

Hygienic and easy to clean: Radial insert ball bearings in plastic housings

Radial insert ball bearing housing units are important components purchased by the beverage industry. Schaeffler offers a total of five housing variants in white plastic: two plummer block, two two-bolt and two four-bolt flanged units. The glass fiber reinforced PBT plastic is FDA-approved and is resistant to moisture, UV radiation, bacteriological and fungal attacks as well as many chemical media. All deep groove ball bearing components in the FD variant are in stainless steel. The allergen-free lubricating grease used in the bearings is approved to NSF category H1, meets the requirements of FDA21 CFR 178.3570, and is certified to halal and kosher standards.

Visit Schaeffler at the BrauBeviale trade show in Hall 6, Booth 157.

Schaeffler Group – We pioneer motion The Schaeffler Group has been driving forward groundbreaking inventions and developments in the field of motion technology for over 75 years. With innovative technologies, products, and services for electric mobility, CO₂-efficient drives, chassis solutions, Industry 4.0, digitalization, and renewable energies, the company is a reliable partner for making motion more efficient, intelligent, and sustainable – over the entire life cycle. The Motion Technology Company manufactures high-precision components and systems for drive train and chassis applications as well as rolling and plain bearing solutions for a large number of industrial applications. The Schaeffler Group generated sales of EUR 16.3 billion in 2023. With around 84,000 employees, Schaeffler is one of the world's largest family-owned companies and one of Germany's most innovative companies.

OPTIME Condition Monitoring: a new level in conditioning monitoring that is self-learning with autonomous connectivity and is particularly easy to set up. Photo: Schaeffler

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On the left, the smart automated lubricator OPTIME C1, and on the right, automatic lubricators from the CONCEPT range. Photo: Schaeffler

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RIB direct drive from Schaeffler: wear-free, high efficiency. Photo: Schaeffler

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Radial insert ball bearing housing units in plastic, specially optimized for the food industry. Photo: Schaeffler

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