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Modern Technology, Traditional Values

C.U.A. HEIDERICH WAS FOUNDED EXACTLY 100 YEARS AGO IN 1919 AND STARTED OUT AS A MANUFACTURER OF ROLLERS AND SMALL PULLEYS, which they still produce today. The company grew over the subsequent years and in the 1960s they started producing steel wire rope sheaves.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF C.U.A. HEIDERICH



Harald Weissflog, Managing Director of C.u.A. Heiderich.

Today, the production of wire rope sheaves is one of the most important product groups, together with bottom hook blocks. The quality of all of Heiderich's products and the specific production processes are regularly certified by classification societies such as DNV-GL, LRS, ABS, TÜV-Nord and others, thus ensuring that the highest standards of quality are constantly maintained. Mr Harald Weissflog, Managing Director of Heiderich, states, "Ensuring the upkeep of these high standards is the foundation of Heiderich's reputation in the market, as a failure in crucial components, or even an unplanned standstill in lifting equipment, can have severe consequences."

WearSafe: a Patented Solution

Safety and reliability are of the highest priority within the company, as the sheaves and blocks that it produces are often used for lifting high-value goods. In a quest to constantly improve the safety of the owners and operators of heavy lifting equipment, Heiderich has developed a specific major innovation: the patented WearSafe system. Experts check many aspects of every crane and lifting appliance on a regular basis. The only thing that cannot be assessed is the groove wear on a rope sheave – that is, up until now. To estimate the extent of wear after many hours of operation is very difficult. Investigations in the past have shown that even if you have two cranes operating in the same environment, it does not mean that the sheaves (or other components) on those cranes will experience the same amount of wear. Discussions with customers have led to the recognition of this as a critical gap in the monitoring of cranes and lifting equipment; the invention of WearSafe has provided the solution.

A Red Dot

The patented system is very simple: a wear indicator is inserted into the surface of the

wire rope groove. This wear indicator, a red dot, is clearly visible and it represents the depth of the maximum admissible wear. If, for example, the calculations show that the admissible wear of the rim is 4mm, then the wear body is brought to exactly this depth. The material of the wear body is not as hard as the material of the surrounding rim and therefore it wears together with the rim surface. The only action required is to check the wire rope groove in the rim, if the red dot is still present, the sheave is still within the technical tolerances as designed by the maker. If the red dot is not visible any more, it is time to replace the worn-out sheave. Clear, visible marks on the rim indicate the position of the wear body,

The patented WearSafe system is very simple. A red dot is brought into the surface of the wire rope groove as a wear indicator.





The production of wire rope sheaves is one of the most important products.

making a visible inspection of the entire rim unnecessary. The advantages are clear: taking measurements is no longer necessary, after inspection there is no need to evaluate oneself and assessment of whether the sheave is within or without tolerance, or how safe or unsafe the sheave might be, is no longer required. The WearSafe system offers a clear status quo of the technical lifetime of the wire rope sheave. Even untrained personnel are able to inspect the wear of the rim and come to a clear conclusion.

The Customers' Needs

Mr Weissflog, emphasises, "At Heiderich, we believe that you can always make even well-proven products better if you listen carefully to the needs of your customers. We have extensive experience in the design and manufacturing of our products, but it is the customer who is using our products in the

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Ensuring the upkeep of high standards is the foundation of Heiderich's reputation.

field, so we must utilise their experiences." He continues, "We have a traditional approach, but we are always looking for ways to improve our tailor-made products to serve our customers in the best way possible. This is one of our most important values."

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