

KNOW + HOW

CLEAN ENVIRONMENTS

A 'Clean Environment' is more than just a spotless space - it's a foundation for health, safety, and success. Maintaining high standards protects people, prevents contamination, and supports sustainable operations across every industry.

In this issue, we dive into the challenges and best practices that drive cleanliness to the next level – from real-world success stories to expert insights that help you address the everyday challenges in the pursuit of excellence in cleanliness.

ERIKS In Action

Aye aye, Capstan

Heavy ships, failing equipment and no room for error – the Royal Navy faced a dry dock dilemma, but ERIKS were on hand with some engineering firepower. Page 10.

In Focus

Under pressure: Hose Management in Pharma

In a world where sterile means survival, silent hose failures can spell disaster. It takes sharp eyes – and even smarter systems – to stop problems before they start. Page 38.

Debate

Net Zero: Seeing the Whole Picture

As energy costs climb and pressure to decarbonise grows, one smart strategy could help you cut carbon and costs. Page 50.

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BEYOND THE BOND

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WELCOME



A Clean Environment isn't just about what you see - it's about what it supports. From reducing risk to protecting health and enhancing performance, cleanliness plays a vital role in creating safe, efficient, and sustainable operations across every industry.

We begin this edition with a spotlight on ERIKS In Action, where teamwork, technical know-how, and specialist skills come together. Faced with a logistical challenge involving docked warships, the Royal Navy turned to ERIKS for help. The result? A full-service solution - from re-design to overhaul - ensuring mission-critical readiness.

Our next feature takes us inside a fast-paced NHS hospital, where a sharp rise in theatre use pushed their Air Handling Units (AHUs) to the limit. Peak performance was non-negotiable - but with restricted budgets and limited shutdown windows, finding a solution was far from simple. They needed reliable support, flexible thinking, and proven experience - qualities ERIKS were well-placed to provide.

I would then encourage you to step into our In Focus section, where SKF shines a spotlight on the critical role of ventilation and air purity - and how the right bearing choice makes all the difference. Plus, get an inside look at how ERIKS' cutting-edge Hose Management System (HMS) helped a pharmaceutical giant uncover hidden failures that could have brought their operations to a halt.

You can then head to our Making Industry Work Better section to learn how ERIKS, in collaboration with Xi Engineering Consultants and 1StopWind, is transforming turbine management with their innovative Lifetime Extension and Through-Life Management service. Built to extend the lifespan and enhance the performance and profitability of onshore turbines, this service is setting a new standard in sustainable wind energy management.

Wrapping up, our Debate piece tackles the high-stakes race to decarbonise and asks: what are the true costs of reaching net zero by 2030? With expenses rising fast, is it time to rethink the endless push for new projects - could maximising the potential of our existing assets be the smarter, more cost-effective way to ease the burden on taxpayers?

We always enjoy the feedback of our readers. So, if you would like to comment on the subjects covered, please join the conversation over on our social media channels or feel free to email us - we'd love to hear from you - happy reading!

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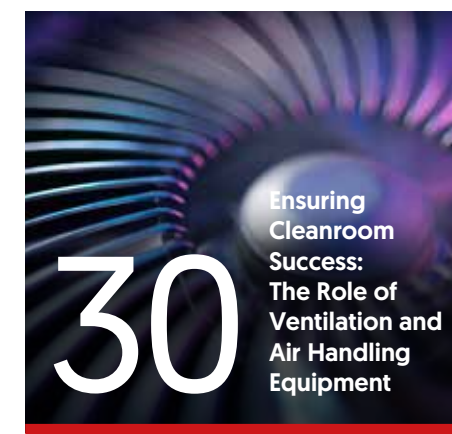


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ERIKS WINS SILVER MICROHIVE AWARD FOR COMMITMENT TO WORKPLACE GIVING



microhive

ERIKS has been awarded the Silver Microhive Award in recognition of its commitment to workplace giving and community impact.

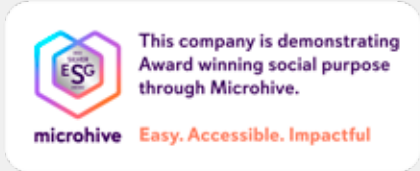
The accolade, part of the 2025 Microhive Awards, celebrates organisations that are leading the way in fostering a culture of generosity, inclusivity, and social purpose through micro-giving. ERIKS staff across the UK and Ireland contributed over a 12-month period through the scheme, which rounds

down employees' net pay to the nearest pound and donates the pennies to charity.

To qualify for a Microhive Award, at least 10% of an organisation's workforce must participate in the scheme. Silver status is reserved for those where 15% or more employees have signed up - demonstrating a meaningful commitment to social value, even during challenging economic times. The initiative continues to gain momentum, with £8.5 million raised for UK charities to date, including over £1.8 million for NHS-related causes.

In addition to the award, ERIKS has also earned the right to use the Microhive Social Purpose Quality Mark. Introduced in 2023, the mark provides a formal endorsement of an organisation's dedication to supporting the communities they care about. It can be used in ESG reports, stakeholder communications and on company websites to demonstrate tangible action on social responsibility.

Pamela Bingham, CEO of ERIKS UK & Ireland, said: "We're incredibly proud to receive the Silver Microhive Award. This recognition is a testament to the generosity of our people and their commitment to making a real difference. At ERIKS, social value is not just a principle - it's embedded in how we operate as a business. Supporting initiatives like Microhive is one of the many ways we show our dedication to community wellbeing and responsible business practice."



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ERIKS TO SHOWCASE EXPERTISE THIS AUTUMN

This autumn, ERIKS will appear at three major UK industry events, highlighting its expanding portfolio of specialist services.

At the Industrial Maintenance Solutions Summit (IMSS) in Coventry on 16 September, ERIKS will present its new reliability services offer, which helps manufacturers reduce downtime and optimise asset performance through condition monitoring and predictive maintenance.

Simultaneously, at the Onshore Wind Conference in Edinburgh (16-17 September), ERIKS will promote its Lifetime Extension and Through-Life Management Service, developed

in partnership with Xi Engineering and IStopWind, to support operators in maximising turbine value and sustainability.

Finally, at Food Manufacturing Live on 15 October, ERIKS will spotlight its wide range of

food-safe components and sealing solutions, from hygienic seals to custom-moulded parts as well as its Onsite service which is used by more than 100 food manufacturers in the UK currently.



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REEVES PRAISES JCB'S HYDROGEN PUSH

Chancellor Rachel Reeves praised JCB's £100m investment into hydrogen-powered equipment during her recent visit to the company's headquarters in Staffordshire.

The investment, involving over 100 engineers at JCB Power Systems in Derbyshire, aims to develop advanced hydrogen combustion engines for construction equipment. During her tour, Reeves personally tested JCB's improved hydrogen refuelling technology on a hydrogen-powered backhoe loader, highlighting significant advancements since her previous visit in 2022.

Reeves emphasised the importance of JCB's initiative for decarbonising construction, creating future jobs, and stimulating economic growth. The project aligns with the UK's wider net zero ambitions, where low-carbon technologies in hard-to-electrify sectors such as construction will play a vital role.

JCB Chairman Lord Bamford stressed the need for greater investment in green hydrogen production to accelerate the commercial availability of this technology.

This visit follows JCB securing full EU and GB type-approval for its hydrogen engine, clearing it for sale and operational use across Europe and territories recognising EU standards.



UK LAUNCHES INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY TO BOOST MANUFACTURING

The UK government has launched its new Industrial Strategy, aiming to revitalise manufacturing by addressing high energy costs, skills shortages, and financial access for SMEs.

Central to this 10-year plan are significant cuts to green levies, expected to reduce energy bills for over 7,000 businesses, including targeted support for energy-intensive industries such as steel, ceramics, and glass. This will involve increasing discounts on grid connection fees from 60% to 90%, providing critical support for approximately 500 businesses.

Make UK, the manufacturers' organisation, welcomed the strategy, highlighting its potential to enhance exports, investment, and regional growth through initiatives such as developing advanced manufacturing clusters. Industry representatives have specifically endorsed the government's focus on cutting industrial energy prices and boosting engineering skills investment.

Lord Richard Harrington, Chair of Make UK, described the strategy as a vital first step towards securing the UK's status as a leading manufacturing hub.



UK CLIMATE TARGETS STILL WITHIN REACH SAYS COMMITTEE

The UK's climate goals remain achievable, but accelerated action is essential, according to the latest Climate Change Committee (CCC) report.

Presented to parliament, the report confirmed that the UK has now halved emissions compared to 1990, driven by increased electric vehicle sales, up to 19.6 per cent of new vehicles, and a 56 per cent rise in heat pump installations. However, the CCC warned these figures still lag behind official targets,

emphasising consumer electricity prices as critical to further decarbonisation.

Professor Piers Forster, interim CCC chair, praised the progress but urged swift movement away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy, stating: "The fossil fuel era is over - cheap, clean electricity is our future." The report also recommended preventing new homes from connecting to the gas grid, decarbonising public buildings, increasing industrial heat electrification, and ensuring aviation aligns with net zero commitments by 2050.



FESTO CELEBRATES A CENTURY OF INNOVATION

Festo marked its 100th anniversary with an industry event at its Innovation Centre in Northampton, where manufacturers came together to discuss how automation can help address skills shortages, improve productivity, and support sustainability goals

Speakers from WorldSkills UK, the Manufacturing Technology Centre and Made in Britain shared insights into the future of British manufacturing and the role that collaboration will play in shaping it.

The event also explored how automation technology is evolving to meet the needs of today's manufacturers. From improving energy efficiency to reducing manual

intervention, the conversation focused on real-world applications and the importance of making advanced automation accessible to businesses of all sizes.

ERIKS has been a trusted distributor of Festo products for over 25 years, supporting customers with everything from actuators and air preparation units to the latest smart pneumatics.



We congratulate Festo on reaching this impressive milestone and look forward to continuing our partnership in the years ahead.

ERIKS PUTS RELIABILITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT IMSS

On 16 September 2025, ERIKS will take part in the Industrial Maintenance Solutions Summit (IMSS) at the CBS Arena in Coventry, where it will present its new three-tiered reliability services offer.

Developed to support manufacturers at different stages of their maintenance journey, the offer helps reduce unplanned downtime, improve asset performance, and build long-term operational resilience.

From simple sensor solutions to fully managed services, ERIKS' approach gives engineering teams the tools and insights they need to act earlier and plan smarter. The company's Smart Asset

Management (SAM) platform collects real-time data from connected assets, helping teams move from reactive maintenance to proactive intervention based on clear trends and alerts.

At the event, ERIKS will also take to the conference stage to share the story of a major UK food manufacturer that significantly reduced downtime after adopting the full reliability offer.

The session will highlight how integrating reliability with wider engineering and supply strategies can deliver measurable gains in uptime, efficiency, and maintenance effectiveness.



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BLUE LIGHT CLEAR ADVANTAGE

Unveil the invisible with Telemecanique Sensors' XUM and XUT Blue Light sensors – the ultimate solution for detecting transparent, shiny, or curved objects with unrivalled accuracy.



XUT

XUM

Engineered for high-speed performance and compact spaces, these sensors eliminate the need for reflectors while delivering consistent detection even in the presence of challenging backgrounds or reflective surfaces.

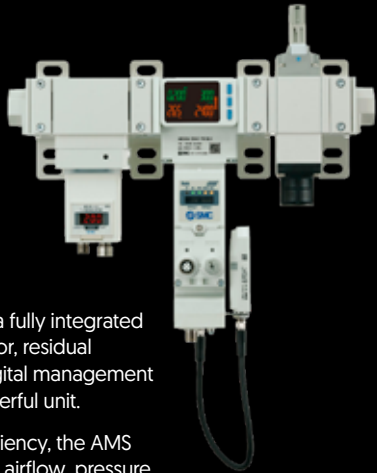
With IP67/IP69K and ECOLAB certifications, they're built to thrive in harsh environments, resisting water, dust, and chemicals. Simple to set up via teach button, IO-Link, or potentiometer – the only Blue Light sensor on the market offering adjustable background suppression – they bring next-level flexibility and control.

Whether on a fast-moving packaging line or in a tight assembly space, the XUM and XUT series ensure precise, dependable detection every time. Smart, durable, and Industry ready – these sensors are redefining transparency detection.



THREE SOLUTIONS COMPRESSED INTO ONE

Say goodbye to waste and hello to intelligent control with the SMC AMS20/30/40/60 Series – the ultimate all-in-one air management hub.



This isn't just a regulator; it's a fully integrated system combining a regulator, residual pressure relief valve, and digital management hub into one compact, powerful unit.

Engineered to optimise efficiency, the AMS series monitors and controls airflow, pressure, and temperature – enabling real-time insights, automated pressure reduction, and precision shut-off. The result? Up to 62% less compressed air wasted, significantly lower energy bills, and a major cut in CO₂ emissions.

With wireless capabilities, OPC UA compatibility, and no need for a PLC or edge server, installation is effortless – and so is integration. Add in secure encrypted communication and an IP65/67 rating, and this hub is ready for even the harshest environments.

When air leaks cost money and emissions cost the planet, SMC's Air Management System saves both.

ROCOL - PFAS FREE LUBRICANTS

ROCOL has become the world's first lubricant manufacturer to achieve NSF PFAS Free certification - a significant milestone in food safety and responsible manufacturing.



From April 2024, every product in the ROCOL FOODLUBE range is PFAS free, independently verified, safer for production, and fully audit ready.

As awareness and regulation of PFAS - often called "forever chemicals" - continue to grow, ROCOL is taking a proactive stance.

The company has reformulated its entire FOODLUBE portfolio to eliminate PFAS, staying ahead of evolving legislation and aligning with the latest scientific understanding.

This achievement underscores ROCOL's ongoing commitment to cleaner, safer, and more sustainable solutions for the food industry.

This bold step reaffirms ROCOL's role as a responsible, forward-thinking manufacturer committed to protecting both people and the planet.

AYE AYE, CAPSTAN



Mahesh Patel
Engineering Manager
ERIKS

When one of the Royal Navy’s warships needs maintenance, it pops into dry dock. But when you’re manoeuvring something which weighs tens of thousands of tonnes, perhaps ‘pops’ isn’t the right word. That’s why powerful capstans are used to haul the mooring ropes that move and secure the ships in the docks. And why those capstans need to be ready, reliable and shipshape.

“Ready, reliable and shipshape.”

With only nine functioning capstans for sixteen locations, one naval dockyard was frequently lifting and transporting these large, heavy mechanisms – which was doing them no good at all. Their engineering partner decided they needed help with finding a solution. Naturally, they called ERIKS.

All hands on deck

It’s rare to find a straightforward engineering problem. Many of them involve a range of issues that need a breadth of expertise and experience, plus an understanding of applications and operating environments. In short: most problems need know-how.

In this case, once ERIKS had reviewed the issue and assessed the challenge, it was obvious that a breadth of component knowledge and engineering skills was required: from gearboxes to seals and from polymers to power transmission.

With the combined know-how of ERIKS’ Gearbox Centre of Excellence in Pensnett, ERIKS Engineering Service Centre in Cardiff, and ERIKS Sealing and Polymer product specialists, it wasn’t long before ERIKS Power Transmission Application Engineers and Project Engineers had worked out a plan to help get the capstans back on the road and the ships back on the sea.

Bearing the weight

The capstan is designed to pull and let-out rope, and has a handling capacity of up to 16 tonnes, while the capstan itself weighs 5.5 tonnes. Though never designed to be relocated, by lifting the capstans with a crane and a sling around the main unit, and letting the slow bearing arrangement taking the bulk of the strain, the customer was managing to shift them around the dry docks.



The offset motor added an extra complication, as it meant that the load skewed from the vertical as it was lifted – making it even more awkward to transport and extremely hard to reposition once moved. Clearly ERIKS’ engineers needed to find a new lifting solution.

The task began with extensive structural calculations, followed by 3D scanning and design, material analysis and Finite Element Analysis. With all the necessary facts and figures to hand, ERIKS’ engineers safely modified the base of two capstans, to accommodate new lifting points – eliminating the tilt and skew resulting from the previously unbalanced lifting.

Now ERIKS’ engineers turned their attention to giving the capstan mechanism itself a lift.

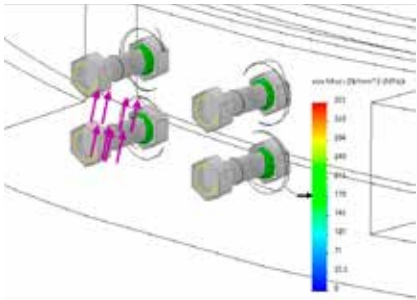
“The combined know-how of ERIKS.”

Full steam ahead

The age of the capstan design meant it was more than ready for an overhaul, to optimise efficiency and ensure compliance with all the latest regulations. There was also an opportunity to replace bespoke components with off-the-shelf alternatives, to reduce repair and maintenance costs.

After ERIKS had machined and installed a number of new large components, the complete unit was lift-tested and certified for safety by an accredited external authority.

Next, the gearbox mechanism and motor demanded an overhaul. Firstly, all internal gearbox components were closely inspected for wear and tear, including Non-Destructive Testing of the gear teeth. All roller bearings were then replaced, together with the bespoke 17” hollow square section seal.



Worn spur and single helical gears were also swapped for new reverse-engineered replacements. Once the motor bearings were replaced, along with the anti-condensation heater, the motor windings were Baker Surge Tested to ensure they were free from weaknesses and incipient faults.

“Future-proof the system for years to come.”

As the final stage in updating the performance and functioning of the capstans, ERIKS designed a new control panel system incorporating the highest applicable safety standard [BS EN 13849-1 PLc]. The panel was then built by an ERIKS-approved vendor to meet CE and UKCA requirements.

An ergonomic chest pack panel was also developed, to enable mobile control of the capstans. Wherever possible, off-the-shelf components were used to reduce costs, simplify maintenance and repair, and effectively future-proof the system for years to come.

After final testing and commissioning of the improved lifting system and the overhauled and updated capstans and controls, the customer was provided with comprehensive technical documentation – so engineers in the future won’t be all at sea. ERIKS have now successfully overhauled and returned all six capstans back to site: proving that ERIKS’ engineering and application know-how means they are never out of their depth.

BREATHE EASY: HOW SMART MONITORING IS REINVENTING CLEAN ENVIRONMENTS



David Manning-Ohren
Technical Manager
ERIKS

If you're protecting patients in an operating theatre, preventing contamination in pharmaceutical labs, or ensuring flawless finishes on automotive paint lines, 'clean enough' just isn't good enough.

“Extend the lifespan of vital assets.”

Clean, controlled environments rely on consistent airflow, sealed integrity, and critical assets running at full efficiency. But wear, misalignment, and unnoticed faults can quietly compromise all of that – unless you're watching closely.

These days, more organisations are moving beyond scheduled maintenance and adopting continuous monitoring to track system health in real time. With the right data, teams can respond faster, reduce energy waste, and extend the lifespan of vital assets.

Understanding the pressure

Maintaining airflow is a constant balancing act. In clean environments, systems are often pressurised to control air movement – either forcing contaminants out or ensuring they don't escape. This pressure relies on fans and AHUs running consistently, even under heavy demand.

But small changes – like a worn pulley, a slipping belt, or a failed door seal – can have a ripple effect. A fan might draw more power to maintain pressure, or airflow may drop below compliant levels. These issues aren't always visible during routine checks. That's why tracking system behaviour, especially motor input and performance data, is proving essential.

Case study: NHS airflow under pressure

One busy NHS hospital saw airflow in its operating theatres begin to fall short of HTM 03-01 standards. Despite ongoing maintenance, its air handling units were struggling to keep up with demand. ERIKS carried out a full on-site investigation, combining mechanical inspection with system-level monitoring.

The assessment uncovered more than just worn belts. Pulley damage, misalignment, and an ageing motor were all affecting performance. As the motor struggled to

“The improvement was immediate – and measurable.”

keep pressure stable, energy usage spiked and airflow dipped – risking compliance and patient safety.

ERIKS replaced the drive system with a high-efficiency Fenner® belt and pulleys, added a new IE4-rated motor, and rebalanced the fan. Crucially, sensors were installed to track performance data going forward.

All of it was integrated into ERIKS' digital monitoring system, providing the hospital's estates team with a live picture of airflow performance and asset health. The improvement was immediate – and measurable.

One system, multiple sectors

Clean air monitoring isn't limited to hospitals. ERIKS supports sectors from pharmaceuticals to food processing, helping businesses detect early signs of failure in critical environments. For example, in automotive paint lines, even minor air contamination can ruin product quality. Monitoring air handling units and fan behaviour helps teams act quickly, reducing downtime and waste.

In these settings, sensors can often be installed without disrupting production. Fan motors, vibration data, and thermal imaging are all used to give a clear picture of system behaviour. And where ATEX or hygiene standards apply, ERIKS supplies sealed, cleanable, and wire-free sensor options that meet strict compliance.

The impact? Fewer breakdowns, more informed maintenance planning, and confidence that environments are running as intended.

“Early intervention saves time, money – and in some cases, lives.”

Prevention is better than cure

In maintenance, just as in medicine, early intervention saves time, money – and in some cases, lives. That's why more organisations are moving beyond traditional break-fix approaches and scheduled servicing, embracing a data-driven strategy built around prevention.

With real-time insights at their fingertips, engineering teams can detect subtle signs of wear, misalignment, or system stress long before they lead to costly downtime or



compliance breaches. No more waiting for a vibration threshold to be crossed or airflow to dip below safe levels.

Now, decisions are guided by live system behaviour and trend data – not guesswork or fixed intervals.

So when a fan motor begins drawing slightly more power than usual, or when vibration patterns change over time, condition monitoring tools like ERIKS' Smart Asset Management (SAM) platform can flag it – long before the problem becomes visible, audible, or urgent.

In clean environments, where uptime is critical and compliance non-negotiable, prevention isn't just better than cure – it's essential.


What is the SAM Platform?

Smart Asset Management (SAM) is ERIKS' digital monitoring platform, built to bring all condition data into one place. Originally developed to streamline complex survey reporting, it's now used across sectors to monitor the health of thousands of assets.

- **Live performance data** – vibration, motor power, temperature, and more
- **Health scoring** – intuitive 1–10 scores with visual colour codes
- **Condition insights** – see trends, not just alarms
- **Asset hierarchy** – mirrors your plant layout and CMMS structure
- **Export-ready** – data for reporting, planning or integration

From single assets to enterprise-wide views, SAM helps engineering teams spot issues early, plan smarter maintenance, and reduce unplanned downtime.

KEEPING IT CLEAN: ERIKS BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO HOSPITAL AHUs

 **Trevor Hilton**
Specialist Engineering Services
ERIKS

In a clinical environment, air quality is critical - not just for comfort, but for patient safety. Nowhere is this more important than in operating theatres, where airflow must be tightly regulated to meet compliance requirements and prevent contamination.

At the heart of these systems are Air Handling Units (AHUs), that require efficient Laminar Air Flow (LAF) to be compliant with operating theatre regulations (HTM 03-01) that state a minimum of 25+ air changes per hour (ACH) must be achieved.

But over time, even well-maintained systems degrade. Belt-driven fans begin to slip. Pulleys wear down. Motors lose efficiency. Should airflow drop down below required levels, patient outcomes and operational continuity are put at serious risk.

More pressure, more problems

That was exactly the challenge faced by one busy NHS hospital. Increased theatre use had added extra strain on their ageing AHUs. Despite ongoing maintenance, airflow performance was slipping – raising red flags

“Over time, even well-maintained systems degrade.”

about compliance, energy use, and long-term reliability.

Faced with tight budgets, limited shutdown windows, and increasing performance pressures, the hospital sought a partner capable of delivering fast, effective results with minimal disruption – and found exactly what they needed in ERIKS.

A precise, practical approach

ERIKS began with a detailed on-site assessment of the AHUs, looking beyond

surface-level symptoms to diagnose the true performance bottlenecks. While worn belts were a clear issue, the team found deeper inefficiencies in pulley wear, drive alignment, and an ageing motor that no longer met energy standards.

Belts are a standard part of the upgrade, and as part of our thorough assessment, we also include the condition of the pulleys. While often overlooked, they are critical to overall system efficiency.

Over time, pulleys can show wear; they will usually still perform but not at optimum efficiency and no longer transmit power effectively. Worn pulleys can cause belt slippage, leading to belt overheating and premature wear.

Worn grooves or uneven surfaces on the pulleys also create imbalance, increasing vibration, noise, and potential damage to connected machinery, such as bearings. This increases load and stress, causing bearings to fail prematurely.

To restore the system’s capacity, ERIKS upgraded the belt drive using a high-spec Fenner® belt and carefully selected matching pulleys, ensuring consistent tension and efficient power transfer.



“Improving reliability without compromise.”

New Taper Lock® bushes ensured a precise, secure fit and enabled quick future replacements.

A smarter, cleaner motor

Rather than overhauling the worn motor, ERIKS recommended a new IE4-rated energy-efficient model. Though an overhaul was technically possible, the increased demands of the theatre meant that an upgrade would offer greater value in the long run – lowering energy use and improving reliability without compromise.

The result was an immediate improvement in fan performance and overall airflow, giving hospital teams renewed confidence in their compliance and operational resilience.

Balance and alignment

Once the drive system and motor were replaced, ERIKS turned their attention to fan balancing – a step that is often underestimated when it comes to restoring AHU performance. Imbalances can introduce vibrations, raise noise levels, and accelerate wear across the entire system. ERIKS’ specialists rebalanced the fan on-site, then completed a full laser alignment of the drive system to ensure optimal performance and long-term durability.

The entire process, from teardown to commissioning, was handled by ERIKS’ field services team. Their familiarity with critical NHS infrastructure meant the work was carried out efficiently and safely, with minimal disruption to theatre operations.

“Improved airflow, lower energy bills.”

Compliance and resilience

The result? Improved airflow, lower energy bills, more reliable theatre operation, and, most importantly, confidence that the hospital can meet ventilation compliance demands well into the future.

Standardisation and smarter component selection also mean that future maintenance is simpler and faster. With fewer breakdown risks and greater overall efficiency, the hospital’s AHUs are now better prepared for whatever lies ahead – without costly overhauls or extended downtime.

As the hospital’s facilities team commented:

“ERIKS made the whole process seamless. From diagnosis to installation, everything was clearly explained and professionally delivered. The improvement in airflow was immediate.”

With deep sector experience and a hands-on, engineering-led approach, ERIKS continues to support critical infrastructure across the NHS – helping hospitals to stay compliant, energy-efficient, and always ready to perform.

RAISING THE BAR FOR BIOENERGY COMPLIANCE WITH OPTICAL GAS IMAGING [OGI]



Duncan Webb
Reliability Systems Manager
ERIKS

As the UK intensifies its focus on reducing emissions and progressing towards Net Zero, anaerobic digestion (AD), biomass, and biogenic energy-from-waste (EfW) facilities are taking centre stage in the national energy mix.



“ Protecting both safety and performance. ”

There's also a significant push to recover biomass from wastewater – not just for environmental reasons, such as diverting organic waste away from landfill – but also due to regulatory pressure. This shift is being driven by initiatives like the UK's Sludge Strategy¹ and the Net Zero 2030² targets for water companies.

Bioenergy technologies are making a real difference: transforming organic waste into renewable power, heat, and gas. They support the circular economy, reduce carbon intensity, and shrink our reliance on landfill. But alongside this opportunity lies a clear responsibility. The industry is under increasing scrutiny, particularly when it comes to fugitive emissions.

Methane – the high-energy gas produced during anaerobic digestion – is a valuable renewable fuel. But when it escapes into the atmosphere, it becomes a serious environmental concern. Methane is over 80 times more potent than CO₂ over a 20-year period³. With such a high global warming potential, it's easy to see why regulators are ramping up efforts to control it.

This focus has sharpened in the wake of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's 'Methane Emissions from Anaerobic Digestion (MEAD)' report, released in January 2025. It's a clear signal that leak detection and environmental performance are no longer optional – they're essential.

At ERIKS, we understand the operational pressures facing the renewable energy sector – balancing plant reliability with growing compliance demands. That's why we've invested in enhancing our Optical Gas Imaging (OGI) capability, ensuring our customers stay a step ahead of regulation, while protecting both safety and performance.

Leaks That Speak Volumes

The FLIR G-Series OGI camera is one of the most advanced gas detection tools on the

“ Plan maintenance more effectively. ”

market. Its purpose? To make the invisible visible. Using high-resolution thermal imaging – with up to 640 x 480 resolution, delivering over 300,000 detection points – it visualises gases such as methane (CH₄), hydrocarbons, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in real time.

But this isn't just about spotting a leak – it's about measuring it too. The FLIR system includes integrated gas quantification analytics, meaning you get instant on-site data on the severity of the leak. No need for secondary devices or slow off-site analysis. You can assess the risk immediately, act faster, and plan maintenance more effectively.

The camera is also fully ATEX certified, making it safe for use in explosive atmospheres. For operators of biogas plants, biomass boilers or EfW facilities, that means you can carry out detailed leak detection within hazardous zones, without disrupting operations or compromising safety.

“ Enhance compliance, safety and efficiency. ”

Compliance Without Compromise

UK legislation around emissions from renewable energy and waste facilities is becoming increasingly stringent. Under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR), enforced by the Environment Agency, operators must ensure emissions are minimised and controlled – with all reasonable steps taken to prevent gas release.

For sites injecting biomethane into the gas grid or generating CHP power from digestion, airtight gas systems are a regulatory and operational must-have. On top of this, Best Available Techniques (BAT) guidance now requires regular inspection of gas infrastructure and robust Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) strategies.

That's where ERIKS comes in. With our upgraded OGI camera and specialist expertise, we deliver comprehensive, compliant LDAR surveys. Our engineers can inspect every part of your gas handling system – from pipes and flanges to compressors, valves and tanks – quantifying leaks and helping you prove compliance.

Where smaller leaks are detected, we support rapid response with our in-house MRO services, including sealing, flow control and rotating equipment support. For larger issues, our technology gives you the data you need to prioritise repairs and avoid escalation.

This end-to-end approach not only helps you meet regulatory expectations – it also cuts energy loss, protects valuable feedstock and lowers the risk of costly downtime.

Eyes on Emissions

As the UK's renewable infrastructure expands, the demand for transparency, accountability and technical rigour will only grow. At ERIKS, we're proud to support customers with advanced technology and practical solutions that enhance compliance, safety and efficiency.

Investing in FLIR's OGI technology isn't just about ticking a regulatory box – it's about protecting your team, your plant, and your reputation. Because in this sector, even the smallest leak can lead to major consequences – from environmental damage and enforcement action to reputational risk.

With ERIKS by your side, you can stay in control of compliance. And we don't stop at detection. Every inspection includes a detailed, plain-English report with clear recommendations aligned to regulatory standards. And when it's time for repair or replacement, we can provide the parts and engineering expertise needed – fast.

We make the invisible visible – and then make it right. All from one trusted partner.

Sources:

1. Environment Agency strategy for safe and sustainable sludge use. <https://ow.ly/ac1050WzrL0>
2. Ofwat net zero principles position paper <https://ow.ly/cpuT50Wzs2f>
3. How methane emissions threaten climate goals <https://ow.ly/wncT50Wzs6i>

A DOSE OF COMMON SENSE SAVES SNACK-MAKER A PACKET



Nicholas Collins
Value Delivery Specialist
ERIKS

The last thing a food manufacturer wants is something that leaves a nasty taste in the mouth. But if an asset is frequently failing, and the same part needs replacing again and again, it's bound to make you feel a bit sick. Fortunately, before one manufacturer had to swallow any more costs, ERIKS stepped in with a solution that delivered tasty savings.

Working in an ERIKS OnSite Stores involves more than just finding the right part and handing it over. You also think about the parts you're supplying, and you consider whether there's anything you can do to help the customer achieve higher efficiency, greater productivity, lower costs, and safer or more sustainable operations.

So when the OnSite Stores at a food manufacturer's site was repeatedly handing out the same replacement hose for two identical assets, the Manager knew it was time to ask 'why'.

Flavour of the week

The hose is part of a peristaltic dosing pump, used to add flavour to a snack product.

As the snack product rotates in a drum, the pumps add a precise dose of flavouring at a precisely set speed. This ensures the snacks have a consistent taste, bite after bite and packet after packet.

“ Time to ask ‘why’. ”

With two of these pumps on site, a new hose was being requested at least once a week. On a 24/7 production line, the pump downtime was having a major impact on output, as well as incurring significant costs for parts and labour.

So instead of simply handing out yet another hose, and letting the customer go on throwing good money after bad, the Stores manager suggested a visit from an ERIKS Application Engineer.

Flavour of the leak

It wasn't just downtime, labour and parts costs which were an issue for the customer.

The failed hose also allowed the expensive liquid flavouring to leak away – creating

a potential slip hazard on the factory floor. However, even without the cost of the wasted flavouring, the repeated pump hose failures were costing the customer £120 a week for parts and £180 per week in labour and downtime.

That's £31,200 a year in total. And you need to sell a lot of bags of snacks to recoup that kind of money.

“ A major impact on output. ”

Pumping for answers

Naturally the customer had first approached the pump's original manufacturer for support. But help and advice weren't forthcoming. So ERIKS offered to arrange a visit from an Application Engineer.



This was not just a brief visit to inspect the pumps. It also involved discussion with the customer's own engineers, and the involvement of the ProMinent Group - an ERIKS pump supply partner – in consultations.

After ERIKS' visit to the customer's site, the customer's engineers visited a local ProMinent pumps workshop, to assess a proposed new pump solution.

“ Payback took less than 12 months. ”

First bite at the snacks

The proposed new pump features a more robust hose, making it less prone to failure. It's also a more modern design, which allows a faster swap-out of the hose if it needs to be replaced.

Impressed by the proposed solution, the customer initially installed one of the new ProMinent dosing pumps as a trial. This replacement not only proved successful in maintaining the accuracy and consistency of the flavour dosing, but also ran far more reliably than the previous pump.

Satisfied with the trial results, the customer then replaced the second dosing pump with the new model too.

Easier to swallow

The pump hoses which were previously being replaced once a week now require replacement no more than nine times a year.

Running costs have been drastically reduced: to just £180 per pump every six weeks, including replacement parts, labour and downtime. That's a total of £3,240 a year for the two pumps, or a total saving of £27,960 per annum. So payback for the two new pumps took less than 12 months.

The new pumps are also future-proofed for a change from manual to automatic dosing control, with a variable speed drive and a PLC interface.

In fact, they have everything the customer needs for making snacks without snags.

CEREAL EFFICIENCY: CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS TO CUT COSTS AND CARBON



Tracy Cannell
Technical Benefits Manager
ERIKS

Sometimes, energy savings can be found in the most unexpected corners of a customer's facility. And while lowering energy bills is often the immediate priority, the ripple effects can be even more valuable – boosting safety, improving system performance, and advancing sustainability goals. All it takes is the right knowledge and the right partner to help see the bigger picture.

That's exactly what happened when an ERIKS Application Engineer visited the site of a major cereal manufacturer. The customer, like so many in the food and beverage industry, was under pressure from rising energy costs and was actively searching for areas to improve efficiency. With a wide array of energy-hungry assets across the site – including motors, pumps, drives, and fans – it wasn't immediately obvious where the best opportunity lay.

“ Find the quickest win to deliver the best return on investment. ”

Identifying hidden opportunities

Working closely with the ERIKS Value Delivery Team, the engineer embarked on a full-site review. The objective was clear: find the quickest win to deliver the best return on investment.

Several promising options were identified, but one in particular stood out – an area of the site that hadn't received attention in some time: the steam system.

Although steam is a critical component in many manufacturing processes, its infrastructure is often overlooked. ERIKS recommended a Steam Trap Survey, to be conducted by Spirax Sarco, an ERIKS Preferred Partner. With their expertise and specialised equipment, they could diagnose inefficiencies and potential failures that were likely costing the business far more than it realised.

“ Diagnose inefficiencies and potential failures. ”

Full steam ahead

Standard best practice is to carry out a Steam Trap Survey every 12 months – more frequently if system pressure exceeds 30psi. But at this site, a much longer interval had passed since the last inspection. The ERIKS and Spirax Sarco team anticipated issues, and they weren't wrong.

The survey took six days and covered the site's entire steam system – 271 steam traps in total. Using heat measurement guns, engineers assessed each trap and its surrounding pipework. Any unusual temperature readings were a red flag that steam wasn't flowing properly, or that condensate wasn't being efficiently removed. Either issue meant wasted energy – and potentially serious safety and operational risks.



“ Minimising risk while maximising performance. ”

When steam traps fail, they can do so in a few different ways. A trap that fails open leaks steam continuously, wasting energy. One that fails closed can block the release of condensate, causing dangerous build-up. In worst-case scenarios, this can lead to water hammer (violent pressure surges that damage equipment) or even water contamination, threatening product quality.

The numbers tell the story

Out of the 271 traps surveyed:

- 147 [54%] were operating correctly
- 71 were found to be redundant or not in use
- 53 traps – nearly 20% – were either failed open, failed closed, or cold

The implications were significant. Annual energy losses due to leaking traps were calculated at over £84,000. In environmental terms, the failed open traps alone were responsible for an estimated 335 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year.

The cost to replace the faulty traps? Just £13,487. With that investment, the payback period was a mere two months. The cereal manufacturer didn't hesitate. Repairs and replacements were swiftly carried out.

Real savings, lasting impact

Twelve months later, the results were in. The company had saved £56,282 on energy bills and was well on track to meet its sustainability objectives. Importantly, it had also improved the safety and reliability of its steam system – minimising risk while maximising performance.

By committing to an annual Steam Trap Survey, the manufacturer is now positioned to repeat these savings year after year, turning what was once an overlooked area into a consistent source of efficiency and environmental gain.

Energy saving isn't always about checking the obvious high-consumption assets. Sometimes, it's the small components – hidden deep in a complex system – that offer the biggest wins.

With the right expertise and the right partner, manufacturers can uncover hidden inefficiencies, make smart investments, and reap benefits that go far beyond the bottom line. In this case, a few days of inspection led to thousands in savings, hundreds of tonnes of CO₂ avoided, and a safer, more reliable production environment.

BEARINGS FOR THE FOOD & BEVERAGE SECTOR



Dennis Briggs-Price
UK Aftermarket Field Sales Manager

NSK

At NSK we like to say that our products are found wherever something is moving. This includes everywhere from quarries and mines to wind turbines, automotive plants to some of the world's most famous subway systems, but it also includes environments where cleanliness and hygiene are an absolute necessity, including the food and beverage sector.



Silver Lube – RHP Silver-Lube, developed for situations where contact with water and process fluids is unavoidable.



Life Lube – RHP Silver-Lube units are capable of accommodating initial misalignment from mounting errors.



Stainless Steel DGBB – Their corrosion resistance makes NSK's stainless steel Deep Groove Ball Bearings well suited to food and beverage applications.

“Continuous, high-speed operation.”

Companies involved in the production of the things we consume know that they must eliminate any and all opportunities for contamination. This means they have to take a component-level approach to production and ensure that their bearings contribute to keeping things clean, without any trade offs when it comes to reliability or productivity.

NSK has many years of experience supplying essential components to this sector, and we've used the expertise we've built up to develop products tailor made to tackle the challenges presented by food and beverage production.

In simplest terms, our parts are proven to provide continuous, high-speed operation, whilst meeting the most stringent hygiene standards in the most demanding of operating conditions.

They are reliable, robust and enable cost-effective production and maintenance-free operation in high temperatures, in wet environments and when confronted with harsh and intrusive chemicals. Most importantly for this article, they also prevent contamination safely and reliably.

“Molded-Oil technology.”

Silver Lube

One of our core products for this sector is the RHP branded Silver-Lube range of corrosion-resistant bearing units. Silver-Lube units are made up of bearings inserts with stainless steel components. These are housed within a high-strength, paint free, PBT thermoplastic housing featuring a stainless steel grease nipple and bolt-hole liners, purposely moulded into the housing to make the unit as hygienic as possible.

Silver-Lube units are designed specifically for applications with extremely high hygiene standards, where frequent washdowns are expected, and where good chemical resistance over a range of temperatures is essential to production.

Available in a variety of different configurations (including pillow block, two-bolt flange, four-bolt flange and take-up) Silver-Lube units are capable of accommodating initial misalignment from mounting errors. This ability, alongside their other attributes, means they are perfectly suited to machines such as shakers, centrifugal separators, bottling machines and conveyors, all mainstays of the beverage industry.

The units also benefit from NSK's Molded-Oil technology. Molded-Oil is a solid lubricant which prevents the ingress of contaminants including water and particulates, but also prevents the lubricant from escaping the bearing and entering other areas of the machine, where it could potentially come into contact with foodstuffs.

Stainless steel Deep Groove Ball Bearings

Something else we offer is our range of stainless steel Deep Groove Ball Bearings. Made from NSK stainless steel material ES1 which provides better corrosion resistance than standard stainless steel SUS440C in high-humidity environments, our Deep Groove Ball Bearings also feature advanced grease technology, super-finished raceways, patented seals and high-grade balls.

Alongside their quality and reliability, their corrosion resistance is another attribute which makes them particularly well suited to the food and beverage sector. Corrosion from component parts can harbour bacteria, with obvious implications for environments where food is being prepared.

Like the Silver-Lube range, our Deep Groove Ball Bearings are also available with Molded-Oil lubricant. This set up has further hygiene

benefits as it allows for more frequent and intense cleaning sessions. Ordinarily grease can be washed out of bearings if cleaning occurs too frequently, but the solid lubricant found in Molded Oil products prevents this.

“Chemical resistance and long service life.”

Life lube

Finally, one more option in our arsenal is Life-Lube, a cousin to Silver-Lube and fellow member of our RHP range of products. The Life-Lube series combines the corrosion resistant properties of Silver-Lube housings with the excellent sealing and lubricating properties of Molded-Oil inserts.

Life-Lube units have been developed for use in industries where contact with water and process fluids is unavoidable, excellent chemical resistance is required, and a longer lubrication life is necessary.

Like their Silver-Lube cousins, Life-Lube units have a housing made from PBT thermoplastic polyester which is highly resistant to corrosion. When combined with Molded-Oil bearing inserts and nitrile rubber seals, this design ensures chemical resistance and long service life. Furthermore, the housing material removes any risk of contamination from painted or coated surfaces and its smooth finish reduces the amount of dirt found on the housing and reduces washdown time.

Another important feature for the food and beverage industry is the flinger seal, which deflects high pressure water from cleaning that would otherwise damage the seal, and protects the Molded-Oil filled cavity.

All these things come together to make Life-Lube, like Silver-Lube and our stainless steel Deep Groove Ball Bearings, an ideal component for the Food and Beverage sector with its rigorous cleanliness and hygiene demands.

POWERING PROGRESS IN EV BATTERY MANUFACTURING



Jorg Koster
Business Development Manager



Electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers play a pivotal role in the transition to sustainable transportation. As the automotive industry evolves at pace, production processes must also advance – driven by performance, precision and innovation.

“ Deliver exceptional results. ”

At the heart of this transformation lies the relationship between ERIKS and IMI. Combining world-class motion control technology with deep application knowledge, this collaboration is helping manufacturers navigate complex challenges and deliver exceptional results.

According to the latest data, there are 1.25 million fully electric vehicles in the UK - just 3.75% of the total 34 million vehicles on the road. In contrast, the Climate Change Committee's target is that 55% of light-duty vehicles should be battery-powered by 2032.

To meet this goal, the entire EV ecosystem must accelerate, and battery manufacturers have a pivotal part to play.

Meeting the demands of a specialised industry

Battery manufacturing is no ordinary industrial process. It imposes exceptionally high standards at every stage - from electrode

“ The EV market is fiercely competitive. ”

preparation to module assembly and final testing. Maintaining cleanroom integrity, managing energy use, and ensuring process accuracy are essential.

IMI's motion control technologies are designed specifically for these exacting requirements, and with ERIKS' engineering support, manufacturers can confidently specify, integrate, and maintain the right solutions.

Through their supply ERIKS provide trusted expertise, technical consultancy, and hands-on service. Helping customers make informed choices, reduce downtime, and improve production line efficiency through proactive engineering and support.

The EV market is fiercely competitive. Speed, accuracy, and quality are all essential - not just for delivering superior products, but also for reducing energy use and production waste.

IMI's solutions are engineered for durability and efficiency, delivering long-term reliability even under demanding operating conditions.

Engineered for Cleanroom Compliance

Cleanroom environments are non-negotiable in EV battery production, particularly during electrode mixing, coating, and drying, as well as cell assembly. IMI Norgren's components meet cleanroom classifications 1 to 9 [ISO 14644-1], with actual testing showing compliance from ISO Class 4 to 7.

These credentials ensure compatibility in both dry and cleanroom areas - crucial to avoid contamination, maintain product integrity, and meet compliance standards.

With the support of ERIKS, customers also benefit from on-site technical expertise, product specification support, and ongoing condition monitoring. Whether it's helping to align motion control systems with airflow standards or offering predictive maintenance strategies, ERIKS ensures that IMI's technology is applied in the most efficient and productive way.



“ Supports all stages of battery production. ”

Partnership that powers progress

From standard components to bespoke solutions, IMI's portfolio of IMI Norgren products support all stages of battery production.. But it's the partnership with ERIKS that brings these solutions to life on the factory floor.

IMI Norgren Pneufit E



Our shared focus on innovation, compliance, and performance ensures that customers benefit from a seamless, joined-up approach - combining the best of product and process.

By collaborating from the ground up, ERIKS and IMI are not just solving today's challenges; we're helping shape the future of EV battery manufacturing. Together, we enable customers to improve output, reduce downtime, and stay ahead in a rapidly changing industry.

IMI Norgren
FRL B84G-4GK-QP3-RMG



EMPOWERING CLEANROOM EXCELLENCE WITH OTECT N310



Rebecca Gardham
National Account Manager

In the precision driven world of cleanrooms, every glove, every touch, and every process matters. That's why Polyco Healthline introduces a game changing innovative solution: the Otect N310 Cleanroom Glove - a compact, cuff-first intelligent glove dispensing system powered by SafeDon® technology. Otect N310 is redefining how cleanroom gloves are packed, donned, transported and stored.



The Challenge of Glove Dispensing

Traditional cleanroom glove dispensers pose two significant challenges:

■ Cross-contamination Risks

With standard glove boxes, users often touch multiple gloves and the dispenser, when retrieving one, increasing the likelihood of contaminating critical surfaces such as the glove fingertips, thumb, and palm as well as the dispenser itself.

■ Material Waste

Due to the poor layering of gloves in a traditional glove box dispensing can result in multiple gloves falling out when a single glove is pulled for use. In a cleanroom environment accidental drops and handling inefficiencies lead to unnecessary waste.

“Users often touch multiple gloves.”

Otect N310: Cuff 1st™, Single-Glove Precision

The Otect N310 tackles these issues head-on by dispensing one-glove at a time, Cuff 1st™, ensuring users only touch the least sensitive part of the glove.

■ Bioburden Reduction

By ensuring users only touch the glove cuff during dispensing, the N310 minimises contact with critical glove surfaces, thus reducing the potential for microbial transfer and enhancing cleanroom hygiene protocols.

■ Waste Minimisation

The intelligent single glove dispensing system reduces unnecessary waste caused by multiple gloves being pulled or dropped from standard boxes. This immediately reduces glove wastage and fosters a more waste friendly operation.

■ Compact & Efficient

With a box 40% smaller than a conventional glove box, the N310 optimises space, simplifies storage, handling and lowers CO₂ emissions in transit.

“Dispensing one-glove at a time.”

Benefits at a Glance

■ Cleaner:

Cuff 1st™ dispensing helps maintain glove integrity by protecting critical glove surfaces from contamination.

■ Smarter:

Single glove dispensing eliminates unnecessary glove wastage and promotes consistent hygiene integrity - an immediate material saving.

■ Efficient:

Space saving design improves storage and pallet density, leading to a reduced transport frequency and associated carbon emissions.

“Cuts waste and contamination risks.”

It makes sense – The Logical Step Forward

Cleanroom operations are under pressure to deliver uncompromised cleanliness while reducing environmental impact, the Otect N310 aligns these objectives and delivers a measurable improvement. It streamlines glove handling and significantly cuts waste and contamination risks - all through one intuitive efficient glove dispensing system.



Click or scan to view the range of Polyco products on the ERIKS Webshop.

KEEPING THE FOOD INDUSTRY IN MOTION



Chris Price
Product Business Development Manager:
HabaSYNC Plastic Modular Belting

In today's fast-paced food production landscape, there's zero room for compromise. Hygiene must be impeccable. Efficiency is non-negotiable. And sustainability isn't just a buzzword - it's a mandate. That's where Habasit UK steps in, revolutionising conveyor belting with innovative solutions that meet the industry's growing demands for cleaner, faster, and smarter production.

CIP Spray Bar

As specialists in lightweight conveyor and processing belting, Habasit brings unmatched know-how to environments where hygiene is critical, and downtime is costly. Their mission? To keep the food industry moving - safely, efficiently, and sustainably.

From artisan bakeries to high-volume meat processors, Habasit's cutting-edge belting technologies are tailored to meet the strictest compliance standards while delivering operational excellence.

Two products in particular are transforming the game for food manufacturers across the UK: the Saniclip quick-release system and the CIP Spray Bar automated cleaning solution.

Saniclip: Fast. Clean. Hassle-Free.

Maintenance doesn't have to be a messy, time-consuming job. The Saniclip is Habasit's answer to traditional belt maintenance challenges - offering a revolutionary, tool-free way to disassemble and reassemble belting systems. Designed with hygiene and speed in mind, it allows operators to clean belts thoroughly and rapidly, reducing downtime and improving safety across the board.

“Keep the food industry moving - safely, efficiently, and sustainably.”

Why Saniclip Stands Out:

■ Tool-Free Maintenance

No need for spanners or screwdrivers. Saniclip makes it easy for teams to detach and reattach belts by hand, streamlining the cleaning process and simplifying routine maintenance tasks.

■ Boosted Efficiency

Shorter disassembly and reassembly times mean less disruption and more production. That's uptime you can take to the bank.

■ Sustainability Benefits

Faster, more effective cleaning helps reduce water and detergent use - supporting both environmental goals and cost control.



“Uptime you can take to the bank.”

■ Lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)

Every minute saved is money saved. Saniclip's speed and simplicity directly translate into lower labour costs and higher productivity.

Saniclip is compatible with some of Habasit's most advanced belting options, including:

■ **Cleandrive CDP50** – a homogenous, smooth-surfaced belt ideal for wet and contamination-prone environments.

■ **SuperHyclean** – engineered for food sectors where ultra-cleanability and hygiene are paramount.

In one real-world case, a bakery using an egg glaze production line reported dramatic improvements. With Saniclip, the maintenance team could rapidly remove and clean the conveyor belts, cutting cleaning times significantly and reducing contamination risks. The result? Safer operations, fewer disruptions, and improved overall performance.

CIP Spray Bar: Hygiene at the Push of a Button

When cleanliness is critical, automation is your ally. The CIP (Clean-In-Place) Spray Bar is Habasit's game-changing system designed to keep belts spotless - without stopping the line or deploying intensive manual labour. It automates the cleaning process, ensuring consistent hygiene while optimising resources.

Top Benefits of the CIP Spray Bar:

■ Consistent, Uniform Cleaning

The CIP Spray Bar delivers even, reliable cleaning across the entire belt surface, significantly lowering the risk of contamination.

■ Time and Labour Savings

With automated cleaning, staff are freed up for more valuable tasks. Plus, smart water and detergent usage keeps operating costs under control.

■ Effortless Integration

Built for seamless compatibility, the Spray Bar integrates smoothly into existing lines using Habasit belting – no major redesign needed.

Like Saniclip, the Spray Bar works in harmony with:

■ **Cleandrive CDP50** – its uninterrupted surface is perfect for automated spray cleaning.

■ **SuperHyclean** – offering maximum food safety in the most demanding hygiene environments.

Innovation That Adds Value

Habasit doesn't just offer products - they offer solutions that solve real-world challenges. The Saniclip and CIP Spray Bar reflect a commitment to innovation, performance, and compliance, helping food producers raise their standards while lowering their costs.

“Smart, high-performance belting solutions.”

By partnering with ERIKS, Habasit also ensures customers benefit from deep technical expertise, application knowledge, and nationwide support. Together, they deliver smart, high-performance belting solutions for some of the cleanest, most complex production environments in the world.

In Summary

If your business demands higher hygiene, faster maintenance, and smarter cleaning, Habasit delivers. Whether you're battling downtime, tightening compliance, or simply striving to do things better, the Saniclip and CIP Spray Bar represent the future of food-grade belting.

It's time to simplify your systems, reduce your risk, and keep your production line moving - with Habasit and ERIKS leading the way.

ENSURING CLEANROOM SUCCESS: THE ROLE OF VENTILATION AND AIR HANDLING EQUIPMENT



Kenney Harris
Business Development Manager
SKF

Ventilation might not always steal the spotlight, but in cleanroom environments, it plays a leading role. It's essential not just for keeping the air clean, but also for regulating temperature and humidity, and preventing contamination that could compromise product integrity or safety.

Cleanrooms are crucial in industries like pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, electronics, aerospace, and food production – sectors where even microscopic particles can have serious consequences.

In these tightly controlled environments, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems aren't just about comfort – they're vital to success.

A well-designed, efficient HVAC system helps cleanrooms maintain strict environmental control, meet regulatory standards, and support sustainability goals. In short, it's a smart investment in performance, quality, and long-term reliability.

“A smart investment in performance, quality, and long-term reliability.”

The Hidden Risks of Poor Ventilation

Poor ventilation in a cleanroom can cause major problems. From increased contamination and inconsistent humidity to reduced air quality and energy inefficiency, the impact can be far-reaching.

In pharmaceutical manufacturing, airborne particles could result in batch contamination, product recalls, or regulatory action. In electronics, a speck of dust could damage sensitive components, leading to failures or costly rework.

Poor airflow can also make cleanrooms uncomfortable for employees, affecting morale and productivity.

That's why effective ventilation and filtration aren't optional – they're essential to maintaining a controlled, efficient environment.

Air Handling Under Pressure

Air handling units (AHUs) in cleanrooms face tough conditions. They must perform reliably despite exposure to heat, dust, corrosive vapours, and frequent washdowns. This constant stress can accelerate wear and tear.

To make matters more challenging, AHUs are often installed in awkward locations like ceilings, rooftops, or cramped mechanical spaces.



These areas are hard to access and can be dangerous for maintenance teams. That makes it critical to use components that are durable, easy to maintain, and built to perform under pressure.

What Bearings Need to Deliver

Bearings used in air handling systems must meet specific demands to ensure cleanroom operations run smoothly:

- **Easy installation and removal** – To speed up maintenance
- **Long-lasting, low-maintenance** – For fewer breakdowns and lower costs
- **Tolerant of misalignment** – For flexibility during installation
- **Low friction** – To reduce energy use, noise, and heat
- **Sealed against contaminants** – To protect against dust and moisture
- **Temperature-resistant** – To perform in all conditions
- **Cost-effective** – To make scaling across facilities realistic

Why Bearings Fail – And How to Prevent It

Even the best components can fail if they're not installed or maintained properly. The most common issues include:

- **Lack of lubrication** – Causing friction and damage
- **Contamination** – Allowing moisture or debris to degrade surfaces
- **Shaft misalignment** – Leading to uneven load and premature wear
- **Vibration** – Damaging bearings and surrounding parts

The solution? High-quality bearings, expert installation, and a proactive maintenance plan.

“Essential to maintaining a controlled, efficient environment.”

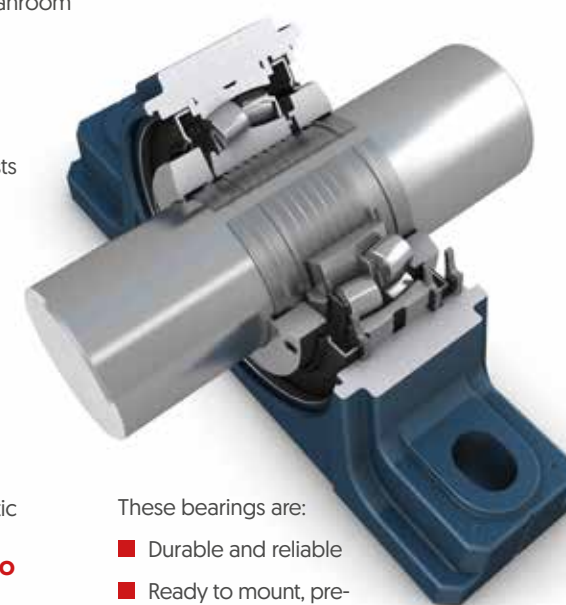
Solving the Vibration Challenge

Excess vibration is one of the most common – and costly – issues in AHUs. It's often caused by incorrect installation or poor shaft grip. This is especially true in split housing applications, where even slight misalignment can lead to failure.

If bearings aren't mounted precisely, it can result in seal damage, premature wear, and unscheduled downtime. That's why investing in the right training, tools, and components pays off in the long run.

SKF Bearing Solutions for Fans and Blowers

At SKF, we work closely with ERIKS to deliver bearing solutions built for demanding cleanroom applications. One key product is the SKF ConCentra Ball Bearing Unit, designed specifically for fan and blower systems.



These bearings are:

- Durable and reliable
- Ready to mount, pre-lubricated, and sealed
- Easy to lock onto the shaft
- Engineered for true concentric grip
- Cost-efficient and high-performing

They simplify installation, ensure accurate fit, and reduce the risk of premature failure. In addition, SKF offers seals, lubrication systems, and alignment tools that further protect your equipment. Their condition monitoring services help spot early signs of wear – so you can fix issues before they become costly breakdowns.

“Improve overall system reliability.”

Boosting Productivity, Safety and Cleanroom Compliance

SKF's fan and blower solutions help extend Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF), reduce maintenance and repair costs, and improve overall system reliability. In cleanroom environments, that translates to better compliance, improved safety, and a more productive operation.

Whether you need a like-for-like replacement or a complete system upgrade, ERIKS and SKF have the expertise and solutions to keep your air handling systems performing at their best – day in, day out.

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT THANKS TO SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL CLEANERS: EFFICIENCY MEETS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Manfred Geyer
Sales Manager



Industrial cleaners have become an integral part of modern production and working environments. Whether cleaning cooling units, tiles, machines or workshop floors - they make a decisive contribution to hygiene and occupational safety.

“ Innovative, water-based cleaner. ”

With an annual growth rate of around 4%, the global market for industrial cleaners reflects the increasing importance of these products. In particular, the trend towards environmentally friendly, biodegradable solutions is becoming increasingly important.

A key driver of this development is the increasing environmental awareness in industry and society. Particularly in sensitive areas such as the food and beverage industry, the demands on cleaning performance are especially high while at the same time being environmentally friendly and legally compliant.

Regular cleaning intervals, as prescribed throughout the EU in the food and catering industry for refrigerators, freezers and refrigerated display cases, require products that are not only effective, but also material-compatible and sustainable.

However, the reality is often different: Many conventional industrial cleaners are based on organic solvents and are categorised as hazardous, toxic or highly flammable. Such products are increasingly at odds with current ESG criteria and regulatory requirements

such as REACH, HACCP or the avoidance of MOSH/MOAH residues.

One solution is offered by OKS Spezialschmierstoffe, part of the Freudenberg Group of companies and competence leader for sustainable lubricants and chemical-technical products. With the product OKS 2650 Industrial Cleaner, OKS presents an innovative, water-based cleaner that fulfils the highest ecological and hygienic requirements.

The alkaline concentrate is readily biodegradable [85% in 28 days according to DIN EN 2988], does not require labelling and is NSF-certified.

“ Reliably cleans a wide variety of surfaces. ”

The absence of aggressive ingredients means that no harmful vapours are produced during use. This makes it particularly suitable for use in food-related areas and sensitive industrial environments.

At the same time, OKS 2650 is very versatile and reliably cleans a wide variety of surfaces - from ceramics to metal and plastic. Thanks to its good separation behaviour, OKS 2650



is particularly gentle on refrigerators, drinks and vending machines as well as tiles, ceramics and natural stone. This is why the product is also used for cleaning and maintaining wind turbine rotor blades.

OKS 2650 thus combines efficiency, environmental friendliness and legal safety in one product and actively contributes to a sustainably clean industrial environment.

At a time when ecological action and economic success can no longer be a contradiction in terms, OKS is setting new standards with the industrial cleaner OKS 2650 - for a clean future.



For clean food production environments



INDUSTRIAL CLEANER OKS 2650



Sustainable cleaner, water based for removing oily, greasy and sooty soiling

- No harmful hazards when used indoor
- Suitable for use with high-pressure cleaners
- Does not harm plastics, seals, rubber and sensitive metal surfaces
- NSF A1 registered, Biodegradable, MOSH/MOAH-free



www.oks-germany.com
OKS Spezialschmierstoffe GmbH

a brand of
FREUDENBERG

THE NEW SEAL OF APPROVAL: WHY USP'S NEW RULES ARE SHAKING UP MANUFACTURING



Martin Gingles
Industrial Sealing Manager

ERIKS

In industries like pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and medical device manufacturing, cleanliness, safety, and reliability are essential – right down to the smallest seal or gasket. That's why many manufacturers look for materials that meet USP Class VI, a long-established standard for safety in medical and cleanroom environments.

But now, things are changing. New updates to the rules are raising the bar, with more detailed requirements on how materials are made, tested, and tracked. At ERIKS, we're helping customers navigate these updates with expert guidance and fully compliant sealing solutions – all backed by a deep understanding of clean environments.

“Fully compliant sealing solution.”

So, what's changing?

There's now more focus on knowing exactly what products are made from, how they behave in different conditions, and how safe they are for human contact.

The updated standards [particularly changes to USP <381>, <382>, <383>, <87> and <88>] are part of a wider industry move toward:

- **Greater transparency:** Full disclosure of a material's chemical formulation and characterisation
- **Improved traceability:** Knowing the detailed documentation, including COA's and COC's

■ **Safer use in real-world environments:** Vitro Biological Reactivity Testing [USP <87>] and analysis for extractables and leachables, not just raw material safety

■ **Assembly-level evaluation:** For example, not just testing a rubber stopper, but testing it as part of the whole device it belongs to

Even packaging materials are now expected to meet these higher standards. That includes everything that touches the product, not just what's inside.

“This has major implications,” says Lee Myatt, Head of Materials at ERIKS. “You can no longer assume that if the seal is certified, the rest of the system is automatically compliant. Every layer matters – including packaging.”

A truly global standard

One of the biggest shifts in the updated USP VI compliance is its move towards becoming a more international standard, rather than one focused solely on the US market. By incorporating broader biocompatibility requirements, such as those from ISO 10993, USP is aligning itself with global regulations.

This harmonisation means that manufacturers worldwide – whether supplying

“A deeper understanding of material chemistry.”

pharmaceuticals, food packaging, or life sciences products – will need to meet consistent, rigorous standards. The result is a smoother pathway for companies operating across borders – and, crucially, a stronger level of consumer confidence in the safety, quality, and integrity of the products they use every day.

A step forward for safety – and ethics

Another positive outcome of this tighter regulation is the move away from sole reliance on USP <88> in vivo testing. The new approach encourages a deeper understanding of material chemistry early on, which can help manufacturers meet safety benchmarks without the need for traditional in-vivo testing.

“By using better material data and smarter testing, manufacturers can reduce reliance on animal models while still protecting patient safety,” Lee adds.



This is not only more ethical – it's faster, more cost-effective, and easier to repeat and verify.

Who's affected?

These changes will have the biggest impact on:

- **Pharmaceutical manufacturers** – including packaging of vials, stoppers, and delivery devices
- **Life sciences companies** – particularly those using elastomeric seals and tubing in sterile applications
- **High-purity food production** – where materials must be both clean and compliant with food safety laws

In all these areas, manufacturers will need to work closely with suppliers who understand the technical detail, and who can supply materials with full documentation and traceability.

Key deadlines at a glance

■ 1 December 2025: USP <382> becomes mandatory

Covers full system evaluation of elastomeric closures (e.g. stoppers, seals)

■ 1 May 2026: USP <665> takes effect, replacing USP <661> / <662>

Requires full material traceability, extractables/leachables testing, enforceable by the FDA, extending to packaging materials – not just internal components

■ Updates to USP <87> and <88>

How ERIKS can help

At ERIKS, we offer more than just compliant seals and gaskets – we offer peace of mind. Our clean environment solutions include:

■ Seals and gaskets made from USP Class VI, FDA, and ISO 10993-approved materials

“We offer peace of mind.”

■ Full traceability of formulation, source, and production history

■ Support for packaging compliance and material compatibility

■ Guidance from in-house materials and quality experts

■ Rapid prototyping, documentation support, and custom solutions for regulated industries

Getting ahead of compliance

As the industry continues to move towards safer, more transparent material standards, companies that act early will avoid disruption – and gain a competitive advantage.

With decades of experience and deep technical knowledge, ERIKS is ready to help customers in food, pharma, biotech, and medical manufacturing stay compliant, confident, and clean.

A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH FOR YOUR SURFACES



Bob Orme
Senior Technology Expert

LOCTITE

At LOCTITE, we're used to helping customers stick materials together – but sometimes the challenge is to separate materials, and we can help with this, too.

Although the LOCTITE name is synonymous with adhesives, our expertise in chemical engineering also delivers a range of degreasing and cleaning products to remove unwanted residue from various surfaces.

Meeting the challenges of industrial cleaning

A robust industrial maintenance regime is a must, keeping equipment and machinery in peak condition for as long as possible by extending their service life. Degreasing and cleaning solutions can make all the difference, down to the smallest part or the most heavy-duty application.

Unsurprisingly, many of the benefits that customers want from cleaning products are the same as those they require when selecting an adhesive – ease of use, speed, quality and safety. Whatever the industry, the key drivers remain optimal performance and minimal downtime.

Similarly, different customers require effective solutions for a variety of surfaces and work environments, which means that it's important to understand the differences between the different chemical bases available.

Ease of use, speed, quality and safety.

What to use, when

General purpose cleaners are a staple of many industrial maintenance and repair operations due to their effectiveness across many different substrates. With the ability to remove several types of oils, residues, dirt, and other contaminants, general purpose cleaners are an ideal product solution for many surface preparation needs.

Solvent based degreasers and cleaners effectively remove a wide variety of oils, dirt, residues, and chemicals from the surface while offering fast dry times. These are a good choice for water sensitive parts that may be prone to flash rusting.

Conversely, for environments that are not suited for solvents, aqueous or water-based degreasers and cleaners are the ideal choice. These products remove contaminants by dissolving them, which allows residue to be rinsed off with water.



“A more environmentally friendly chemistry.”

Sustainability first

Given the growing focus on sustainability for many customers, biodegradable options are also available for all-purpose and parts cleaners. These combine the strong surface degreaser and cleaning power with a more environmentally friendly chemistry.

ODC-free cleaners and degreasers provide further environmental advantages and can be applied both with immersion cleaning or through spray processes at room temperature or heated. ODC-free products are designed as a final pre-assembly cleaning treatment to remove most greases, oils, lubrication fluids, metal shavings, and residues.

Last but not least, it's important not to forget industrial hand cleaners: an effective choice for removing dirt, oils, residues, and other chemicals at the end of the shift. Alongside the cleaners, industrial hand wipes are available that include an abrasive surface, which helps to remove particles and other residues from hands and forearms.

A cost-saving clean

The cost-saving potential of using industrial cleaners was made obvious by an application Daniel Aspey, Sales Engineer completed for a customer in the food sector.

This customer faced a situation where their oven doors were caked in burnt-on residue, which they had struggled to remove using conventional cleaners.

Alternative solutions were limited because of strict regulatory conditions for health & safety. As a food manufacturing facility, no hazardous materials could be used.



“Offering practical and compliant solutions.”

The process appeared to be very labour intensive and not cost-effective, leaving door replacement as the only viable option – estimated at approximately £10,000 and there were 74 doors.

Daniel recommended the use of LOCTITE SF 7840, which is readily available and contains no hazardous ingredients. It is also highly versatile in terms of application techniques.

For this particular situation, LOCTITE SF 7840 was sprayed onto the oven doors using a snow foam gun. After being left for 30 minutes, it was reapplied as a spray, agitating the contamination with a hard brush. This made the contamination easily removable via jet-washing, removing all of the unwanted residue.

This outcome highlighted how LOCTITE's capabilities extend beyond adhesives, offering practical and compliant solutions to a range of industrial maintenance challenges.

With engineers all over the country to help solve your challenges – and a broad range of products available to get the job done – Loctite and ERIKS are always here to keep your operations clean.

LOCTITE SF 7840, and other cleaning and degreasing solutions under the LOCTITE name, are available from ERIKS.



Scan or click to access all available Loctite products from the ERIKS Webshop.

UNDER PRESSURE: HOW A PHARMACEUTICAL GIANT TOOK THE STRAIN OFF HOSE MANAGEMENT



Guy Boomer
Director of Hose
ERIKS

Proactive hose care helps cut downtime, boost safety – and save £25,000.

If 15% of your motors were on the verge of failure, alarm bells would ring immediately. Pumps, gearboxes, drives? Engineers would be pulling all-nighters to prevent catastrophe. But at one major pharmaceutical site, 15% of the hoses were either leaking, overdue for replacement, or at risk of sudden failure – and no one knew.

In an industry governed by strict safety regulations, that kind of oversight isn't just inconvenient – it's potentially dangerous. Fortunately, ERIKS' hose experts stepped in to change the picture completely, preventing future failures and implementing a smarter, more secure way of working.

A risk hiding in plain sight

The site in question is no ordinary manufacturing facility. As an ATEX and COMAH Tier 1-rated pharmaceutical plant, it operates under tight regulatory control due to the risk of explosion and the presence of hazardous substances. That means every component – from high-end equipment to humble hoses – has to be fit for purpose, fully traceable, and correctly maintained at all times.

“A smarter, more secure way of working.”

Yet despite the presence of 825 hoses across the facility – ranging from PTFE-lined chemical hoses to general-purpose industrial ones – hose management wasn't really on the radar.

Replacements were reactive rather than proactive, inspections irregular, and records limited to a basic spreadsheet. According to British Fluid Power Association (BFPA) guidelines, hoses should be replaced every five years, but in many cases, that interval had long been exceeded.

The customer didn't just need a survey – they needed a system.

Finding the faults, creating the fix

ERIKS' hose specialists carried out a comprehensive visual inspection across the entire site.



The results were eye-opening: 130 hoses – 15% of the total – were either leaking, overdue for replacement, or close to failure. At a site dealing with volatile materials, the implications were clear: production stoppages, environmental hazards, health and safety breaches, or even catastrophic incidents.

But identifying the issue was only step one. To ensure long-term reliability and compliance, ERIKS implemented a full Hose Management System (HMS).

“Maintain the highest standards.”

Every hose was tagged with a unique identifier – barcoded or QR-coded – and logged into a centralised digital database. The system now tracks each hose's condition, age, replacement history, and even its conformity certificates and OEM drawings. More importantly, it automatically alerts staff when hoses are approaching their end-of-life, well before any risk becomes critical.

More than just monitoring

The benefits of the Hose Management System go far beyond better record-keeping. Each hose now has a digital fingerprint, and the customer has a live dashboard view of the entire hose infrastructure. Hoses are categorised as 'Valid', 'Almost expired', or 'Failed' – giving the maintenance team a clear picture of what needs attention and when.

ERIKS also supports the customer through monthly reviews, annual inspections, and consultation on new projects, helping the

customer maintain the highest standards on new and refurbished assets alike.

By taking responsibility for hose tracking and maintenance, ERIKS frees up the customer's internal engineering team to focus on other production-critical tasks – reducing reactive maintenance and unplanned downtime across the board.

“Hidden vulnerabilities can be turned into strengths.”

The results speak for themselves

Since implementing the Hose Management System, the customer has seen an immediate return. With failing hoses replaced and proactive monitoring in place, they've already saved £25,000, with further savings expected through reduced process interruptions and improved regulatory compliance.

Perhaps more importantly, the risk of failure – once a serious concern on such a sensitive

site – has been drastically reduced. By ensuring timely inspections and replacements in line with BFPA standards, the site now operates with a significantly lower risk profile, fully aligned with HSE, ATEX, and COMAH requirements.

Small component, big impact

In complex industrial environments, it's often the overlooked components that pose the greatest risk. Hoses may not have the same status as motors or pumps, but their failure can bring an entire production line – or even an entire site – to a halt.

With the right expertise, systems, and commitment to proactive maintenance, those hidden vulnerabilities can be turned into strengths.

ERIKS' Hose Management System doesn't just help companies keep the pressure on. It helps take the pressure off their assets, their compliance obligations, and their teams.



5 WAYS OUR WEBSHOP WORKS HARDER FOR YOU



Daniel Walker
E-Commerce Application Supervisor
ERIKS

The latest digital upgrades making buying from ERIKS faster, simpler and easier to control than ever before.



Scan or click to access the ERIKS Webshop.

At ERIKS, our Webshop is always evolving – because the way you buy is changing too. We know that our customers expect speed, flexibility, and control – without extra admin or added costs. And that’s exactly what we’re delivering.

We offer a range of powerful business focused capabilities to streamline your experience and give you greater control over every stage of your purchasing process.

To walk us through just some of these, we spoke with Mick Holland, Chief Product Officer at ERIKS. He shared how these latest features are built to save you time, reduce complexity, and put more buying power right at your fingertips.

1 Request for Quote (RFQ) and Quote to Order (Q20): making bespoke orders easy

Need something unusual, bespoke or outside your standard range? Our new Request for Quote feature makes it easy to source exactly what you need – without leaving the platform.

Submit your request directly via the Webshop, and we’ll respond with a tailored quote that allows you to immediately place the order via Webshop, even if it’s not within our published range – this is our Quote to Order functionality. We can also help you establish customer specific catalogues and favourites in “Order lists”.

- One-click quote requests
- Faster turnaround
- Reorder with ease

2 PunchOut integration: Our Webshop, your system

It’s even easier to connect the ERIKS Webshop with your internal procurement systems through PunchOut integration.

That means your buyers and engineers can browse, review quotes, build baskets and push orders directly into your ERP or procurement platform – streamlining approvals and keeping everything in one place.

- Seamless integration
- Real-time pricing & stock
- Fewer errors, faster workflows

“PunchOut saves customers time maintaining large catalogues,” says Mick. “They get real-time product data and control of purchasing from your preferred supplier, without the admin overhead.”

3 Smarter spend controls: Flexibility with oversight

We offer powerful controls and permissions to help you manage who can order – and how much they spend. It’s all about ensuring the right level of autonomy for your teams without losing oversight of what’s being spent.

You can now configure:

- User permissions by team, role or location
- Order approval workflows and value thresholds
- Default PO numbers for speed and improved tracking

So whether you’re managing one team or a nationwide network, you get total visibility without slowing people down.

“It completely removes that multi-step purchasing process,” says Mick. “Unless the spend triggers a control, engineers can just click and go.”

4 Extended cut-off times – order up to 8pm

We know the working day doesn’t always wrap up at 5pm. That’s why we’ve introduced a new, extended order cut-off time – giving you even more flexibility to get what you need, when you need it.

This exciting update will allow many customers to check out on many in-stock items as late as 8pm and still enjoy next-day delivery – perfect for teams getting back from site late or dealing with last-minute jobs.

Here’s how this benefits you:

- Later ordering window
- Same fast delivery
- Less downtime, more flexibility

5 Configure with Confidences

Need a custom hose with just the right length and fittings? A gasket cut to exact specs? Or a modular geared motor with specific power and gearing ratios? No problem. Our configured products can be parametrically selected to your specification on our B2B webshop. From specification to make-to-order supply, everything happens in a few clicks. You’ll get accurate pricing, product codes, and real-time lead times, so you can order with confidence. No guesswork. No delays.

Just the right product, at the right price, delivered when you need it.

Try it out for yourself

If you haven’t logged in to the ERIKS Webshop recently, come back and take a look. All these great new features are already live and we’re continuing to develop our B2B Webshop based on your feedback.

MAXIMISING WIND. MINIMISING WASTE.



Peter Mitchell
Renewables Director
ERIKS

As the UK accelerates towards its net zero targets, the role of onshore wind is more critical than ever. Yet with around 30% of the UK's 9,000 installed onshore turbines approaching the end of their original 25-year design life, the industry is facing tough questions. Should these assets be decommissioned? Should they be repowered if the grid allows? Or is there another, more sustainable option?

At ERIKS, we believe there is. At the All-Energy event in Glasgow this May, we officially launched our new Lifetime Extension and Through-Life Management Service to support it. Delivered in partnership with Xi Engineering Consultants and IStopWind, our service will give owner-operators a clear, data-led path to extending the life, performance and profitability of their onshore turbines.

The case for Lifetime Extension is growing stronger by the day. Decommissioning assets that are still operational and structurally sound is both economically inefficient and environmentally wasteful. Repowering, while attractive on paper, is often blocked by limited grid capacity or permitting issues. In contrast, life extension enables continued generation at a fraction of the cost, using infrastructure that has already proven its worth.

“Unlocking more value from existing assets.”

Our approach makes this possible through a joined-up service that combines component-level expertise, predictive analytics, and real-world performance data. It allows operators to move away from time-based servicing and reactive maintenance, and instead adopt a smarter, condition-based strategy that maximises uptime and reduces risk.

Peter Mitchell, our Renewables Director, explained the thinking behind the offer: “Operations, procurement and asset data have traditionally been managed separately. But by combining historical data, inspections, analytics and repair into a single strategy, we’re enabling safer, more efficient and longer-lasting turbine operation.”

“Proactive planning. Predictable performance. Longer life.”

ERIKS leads the mechanical and electrical repair elements of the service. Our Aberdeen Service Centre has been transformed into a Centre of Excellence for Renewables, featuring a dedicated yaw gearbox repair cell and full rewind and overhaul services for generators and motors. These capabilities ensure we can provide practical, hands-on solutions backed by decades of rotating equipment experience and create skilled engineering jobs in the local community in Scotland.

IStopWind brings its expertise in statutory inspection and blade repair. Using drones for high-resolution blade assessments, their team can carry out detailed condition monitoring quickly and safely. They also deliver critical bolt tensioning and torquing services, essential for safe lifetime extension.

Xi Engineering Consultants provides the digital backbone of the service. By creating high-fidelity Digital Twins of individual turbines, built from SCADA data, inspection history and physical measurements, they deliver validated Remaining Useful Life (RUL) calculations. These insights help operators make informed decisions about how long a turbine can run, what interventions are needed, and when those actions should be scheduled.

“From data to decisions. From decisions to action.”

The service also supports wider sustainability goals. By prioritising repair over replacement, it avoids unnecessary emissions, reduces waste, and supports circular economy thinking. It is fully turbine-agnostic, applicable across legacy and new-generation machines alike, and integrates with our Smart Asset Management (SAM) platform for real-time visibility.

Just as importantly, it lays the foundation for Through-Life thinking, an approach that is well-established in sectors such as aerospace, nuclear, and food production, but still emerging in renewables. Through-Life management treats assets as long-term investments, where data collection, predictive maintenance, and lifetime planning begin at commissioning, not at end-of-life.


This shift also reflects a wider market trend. As OEM warranties expire, owner-operators are reassessing their options, and many are concluding that third-party providers with deep technical expertise and faster response times can offer better value. Our service responds to this change, offering an independent, technically credible route to extending turbine life without being tied to the original manufacturer.

As Pamela Bingham, CEO of ERIKS, said, “Life Extension and Through-Life thinking aren’t just technical strategies. They’re a new way of looking at wind assets, where the focus is on resilience, uptime and long-term value, not just replacement cycles.”

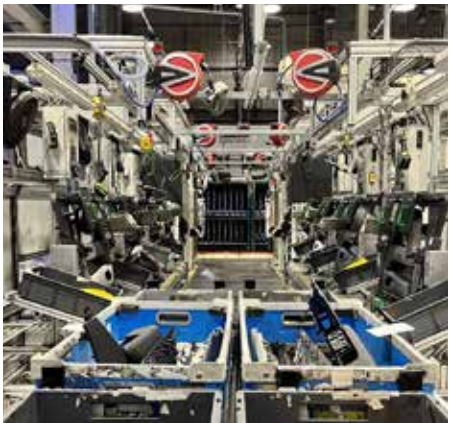
For our customers, this means more generation hours, greater return on existing assets, and fewer unplanned outages. For the UK, it means a more stable renewable power base, delivered without the environmental and financial cost of new construction. And for ERIKS, it is another way we are helping industry work better.



A LONGSTANDING PARTNERSHIP BUILT ON PROGRESS: ERIKS AND STEEL & ALLOY

 **Julia Mullar**
Operations Director
ERIKS

Steel & Alloy’s relationship with ERIKS stretches back nearly two decades — and in that time, both businesses have undergone significant change. Through evolving service contracts and shifting industry dynamics, the partnership has remained a constant, adapting to meet new challenges while continuing to deliver long-term value.



The specialist steel processor operates across four sites, supplying strip steel and aluminium to sectors including automotive and construction. With capabilities spanning press blanking, slitting, de-coiling, and shearing, they serve a wide range of UK-based OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers — a demanding customer base that places a premium on speed, precision and reliability.

ERIKS provides its Onsite service at three of Steel & Alloy’s processing locations, helping to manage stores, supply chain, and engineering spares via the Paragon Stores Management system. The partnership is underpinned by close collaboration: a dedicated onsite team works alongside Steel & Alloy staff, while regular monthly and quarterly service reviews ensure the relationship continues to evolve in line with the business’s operational and strategic needs.

Managing Director Paul Whitehouse is clear about the benefits of this setup. “Instead of having lots of people looking into different areas, ERIKS provides access to a variety of specialisms from the same source,” he says. “Logistically, it’s incredibly helpful — calling in items from ERIKS’ Fulfilment Centre is quicker and far more efficient than sourcing individually.”

In a business where margins are tight and uptime is essential, visibility and efficiency are vital. Many production consumables are held on consignment, helping to support cash flow, and the stores system gives real-time visibility over inventory, spend and savings. This is supported by clearly defined KPIs, including monthly management reviews and strict turnaround times on non-conformance reports.

But the relationship goes well beyond day-to-day supply. Steel & Alloy has also drawn on ERIKS’ technical expertise — most recently commissioning a compressed air survey, which led to equipment upgrades and energy savings. Plans are already underway for further support in areas such as motor performance and hydraulics.

As Paul explains, “The good thing about these surveys is that they really help us control and optimise internal operations. We’re keen to explore more.”

That appetite for progress extends to sustainability too. Joint discussions have helped shape proposals for major investment in solar integration and thermal heat exchange systems at key sites — each project valued at around £500,000.

It’s the kind of forward-thinking development that can only come from a relationship grounded in mutual trust and deep operational knowledge.

“Trust, support and responsiveness drive success.”

Even under pressure, ERIKS has delivered. Paul recalls a critical breakdown of a blanking press during the holiday period, when ERIKS’ Kieran Howard personally coordinated the import of multiple spares to get the machine back online. “The time period was critical,” he says. “Kieran went above and beyond.”

That blend of strategic alignment and day-to-day responsiveness continues to define the partnership. “We can be a demanding customer,” Paul reflects. “But we’re all in it together — and that’s what makes it work.”



VALVES:

THE SMALL COMPONENT DRIVING BIG CHANGE



Nick Lees
Product Manager - Flow Control
ERIKS

Few components are as ubiquitous in industrial settings as valves. Yet behind their apparent simplicity lies a complex interplay of cost, safety, sustainability, and innovation. The humble valve is fast becoming a focal point in the tug-of-war between engineering priorities, commercial pressures, and environmental obligations.

In countless facilities across the UK, this silent struggle plays out daily. Engineering teams focus on performance and reliability. Senior leaders push to meet energy and carbon goals.

Meanwhile, procurement prioritises price, lead times, and working capital. The outcome? Sometimes all three succeed. Too often, nobody wins.

Take the example of a routine steam trap survey. On average, 15 to 20% of steam traps are either leaking or not working correctly. One ERIKS customer was found to have 50 failed traps. Each one can waste up to £2000 per year in energy losses. That's £100,000 evaporating into thin air.

Yet when ERIKS presented a replacement steam traps programme showing a strong payback, procurement rejected it. The invisible cost of energy and carbon loss was deemed preferable to visible capital spend.

Procurement pressure ignores long-term savings

In this scenario, sustainability targets were undermined. The engineering team's workload increased. And senior managers were left wondering why their site performance plateaued. This isn't just a technical problem. It's a mindset problem. Long-term value must start to outweigh short-term budgeting wins.

That's not to say innovation and collaboration are absent. Positive examples exist in sectors such as food and beverage and in data centre applications. In both, valve performance is directly linked to energy efficiency.

Data centres in particular are innovating fast. HVAC systems demand precise control, and ERIKS supports this through its econ® range and a growing ability to integrate products into 3D Revit designs.

“High failure rates often go unnoticed.”

Engineering expertise drives better outcomes

One creative example comes from the Paris Olympics, where heat recovered from a nearby data centre was used to warm the Olympic swimming pool. That kind of joined-up thinking is becoming more common but still needs stronger cross-departmental commitment.

Repair is another trend worth watching. Where once it was normal to replace valves entirely, today more customers are requesting refurbishment. In part this is driven by cost pressures, but there's also a growing desire to reduce waste. The challenge is that few facilities have the capability to repair, recalibrate and recertify valves across a wide size range.

That's why ERIKS invested in its Valve Centre of Expertise in Leicester. Here, customers can access full support for valve repairs from 1½ inch to 14 inch, across ball, gate, globe, control, pressure relief, safety and check types. Function testing, actuator repair, hygienic cleaning and pressure testing from 7 to 1000 bar are all on offer.

“Repair is gaining momentum across industries.”

Sustainability must be a shared mindset

One growing area of concern is safety compliance. The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2004 require regular certification of safety and pressure relief valves. But awareness remains patchy. ERIKS not only performs repairs and recertification, it also logs every asset, enabling tracking and automated renewal notifications. This reduces risk and protects both people and productivity.

“Custom coatings extend actuator lifespan.”

Being an independent valve expert with its own manufacturing capability sets ERIKS apart. The econ® range includes ball, butterfly and globe valves plus actuators, combining heritage with customisation potential.

For example, when a Certified Sustainable Palm Oil producer needed actuated ball valves for a new tank farm, ERIKS didn't just supply what was asked. It examined the application in depth.


Because the tanks were located near the sea, standard aluminium actuator enclosures risked corrosion. ERIKS recommended epoxy-coated actuators for improved resistance, extending service life and safeguarding reliability. It was a tailored, engineered solution not driven by price but by performance.



It's this blend of practical know-how and strategic thinking that defines ERIKS' approach to valves. Customers don't just get products. They gain insight, guidance and options aligned to their needs.

Apprentices learning alongside seasoned experts ensure that this capability will remain part of ERIKS' offer well into the future. Because as valves quietly go about their work behind the scenes, their importance to energy, safety and sustainability is only set to grow.

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY IN CLEANROOMS WITH BIOCLEAN™ KITS

 **Stacey Ramsden**
Associate Specialist, Inside Sales
[Ansell](#)

As cleanroom operations become increasingly essential across industries—from pharmaceuticals to semiconductor manufacturing—balancing sustainability with productivity has never been more critical. BioClean™, part of Ansell's suite of cleanroom solutions, is at the forefront of addressing this challenge, delivering sustainable, high-performance products that elevate operational efficiency while supporting environmental goals.

A new standard in cleanroom garment packaging

At the heart of BioClean's commitment to sustainability is its cleanroom garment kit solution. Traditionally, cleanroom garments are individually packaged, leading to excessive packaging waste and inefficiencies in gowning processes. Operators often spend valuable time unwrapping and sorting different garment components, which increases the risk of errors and cross-contamination.

“Cuts plastic waste by two-thirds, saving 1 ton of plastic annually.”

BioClean has reimaged this model by introducing pre-assembled kits that contain all necessary garments — coveralls, hoods,

overshoes and more — bundled together in a single, easy-to-handle package. These kits are designed to meet the high standards of contamination control required in cleanroom environments while also aligning with sustainability goals.

This approach has several advantages - reducing packaging waste, the single-bag approach cuts plastic waste by two-thirds, saving 1 ton of plastic annually. This is equivalent to eliminating approximately 2.38 million plastic straws from the waste stream¹.

With streamlined gowning, means operators handle fewer packages during the gowning process, enabling quicker donning and reducing time taken to gown by 66%. This equates to saving 59 hours annually per operator, equivalent to nearly 7.5 full workdays².

Optimised storage and transport - consolidated packaging improves shipping efficiency by 116% per shipper container, resulting in a 53% reduction in the total number of shipments required annually. This means fewer shipments, less handling, and lower transportation emissions, contributing to a smaller overall environmental footprint.

Supporting sustainability goals

The BioClean™ kit-based packaging solution is designed with cleanroom sustainability firmly in mind, offering a more responsible approach to packaging without compromising on performance.

By using recyclable materials throughout, such as LDPE for the inner bags, HDPE for the outer bags, and shipper cases made entirely from recycled content and are recyclable³, it supports cleaner waste management practices within cleanroom environments.



These thoughtful choices don't just reduce waste; they also help lower carbon emissions, saving an estimated 2.1 tonnes of CO₂ each year. To put that into perspective, it's the equivalent of charging around 262,500 smartphones⁴.

What's more, the packaging has been specifically developed to simplify recycling, even in highly controlled environments where contamination risks can make waste segregation a challenge.

The crucial role of plastic

Some may question the reliance on plastic in cleanroom packaging, given the global drive to reduce plastic waste. However, as outlined in the article Why plastic packaging is crucial for cleanrooms, plastic remains essential for maintaining sterility and contamination control. Unlike alternative materials, plastic

“Eliminating approximately 2.38 million plastic straws from the waste stream¹.”

provides a reliable barrier against dust, moisture and microbes during storage, shipping and handling. This is essential for ensuring that cleanroom consumables arrive at the point of use in a pristine condition.

Plastic packaging also plays a vital role in adhesion to gowning protocols, ensuring that each garment or consumable is sterile and properly packaged to maintain cleanroom standards. BioClean™ has embraced this challenge by adopting single-polymer designs that are more easily recyclable, without compromising on sterility or worker safety.

Smart packaging innovations driving sustainability

BioClean™'s approach to smart packaging is a direct response to industry best practices, as highlighted in Sustainable packaging innovation for cleanrooms, and reflects a commitment to driving meaningful environmental change.

By embracing more compact packouts, the total volume of plastic used is significantly reduced—an optimised pack design alone can save up to 20.4 tonnes of plastic every year⁵. Beyond materials, the strategy also includes stackable configurations for shipper cartons, which not only make better use of warehouse space but also cut down on transport-related emissions.

Adding a digital touch, QR-coded labelling gives operators instant access to critical information—such as gowning instructions—streamlining cleanroom processes while reducing the reliance on printed manuals. It's a forward-thinking blend of practicality and sustainability.

Efficiency gains that boost productivity

Beyond sustainability, the BioClean™ kit model enhances productivity in cleanroom operations. By providing all required garments in a single pack, operators spend less time preparing for work. This not only saves time but also improves compliance with cleanroom protocols, as gowning becomes a more straightforward and consistent process.

The reduction in gowning steps minimises the risk of errors and cross-contamination, helping maintain the integrity of the cleanroom environment.



“Packaging has been specifically developed to simplify recycling.”

Efficiency gains also extend to logistics and storage. With fewer individual packages to handle, warehouse space requirements are reduced, and inventory management becomes easier. This supports overall productivity and cost savings across the supply chain.

A balanced approach

By combining contamination control, ergonomic design and sustainable packaging innovations, BioClean™ empowers cleanroom facilities to advance both their productivity and their sustainability goals. The move towards kit-based packaging reflects a holistic approach to cleanroom management. This approach acknowledges the essential role of plastic packaging while seeking to minimise its impact through smarter design.

Partnering for a cleaner, greener future

BioClean's kit-based solutions demonstrate how cleanroom operations can evolve to meet the challenges of today's demanding regulatory and environmental landscape. By simplifying gowning, reducing packaging waste and supporting recyclability, BioClean™ stands as a reliable partner in building a more efficient and sustainable cleanroom environment.

Sources:
1. <https://phys.org/news/2018-04-science-amount-straws-plastic-pollution.html>
2. Based on an 8-hour workday
3. Always check your local recyclable status of HDPE & LDPE as this plastic material may not be considered suitable for recycling in your country.
4. <https://www.comparethemarket.com.au/energy/features/carbon-footprint-of-phone-charging>
5. Based on FY22 sales volumes (styles 91-225 & 73-701 only)

NET ZERO: SEEING THE WHOLE PICTURE

In the drive towards net zero, transparency is critical. Yet as the UK races to decarbonise, questions around the true cost of this transition are becoming harder to ignore. Recent analysis from the Office for Budget Responsibility [OBR] reveals that the ‘hidden’ costs of achieving net zero are set to add an average of £255 a year to household bills by 2030, as taxpayers indirectly fund the shift to cleaner energy sources through a complex web of subsidies and levies.

This surge is driven in part by the need to keep gas-fired power stations on standby when renewable sources like wind and solar fall short, adding billions to the cost of decarbonisation.

But the path to net zero need not be a financial burden if we consider a more comprehensive approach to our existing energy infrastructure. Rather than focusing solely on building new, headline-grabbing projects like the £4 billion Rampion 2 wind farm in the English Channel, the UK must also invest in extending the operational life of its existing assets.

This approach not only lowers the carbon cost of power generation but also reduces the capital required to meet our climate goals. In fact, 30% of the 9,000 onshore wind turbines in the UK are nearing the end of their original design life. By investing in life extension, operators can generate power without the environmental impact of new infrastructure.

“ More value from every turbine. ”

At this year’s ALL-ENERGY event in Glasgow, ERIKS launched a new Lifetime Extension and Through-Life Management Service for onshore wind turbines.

This comprehensive service, developed in partnership with Xi Engineering Consultants and IStopWind, helps wind farm operators extend the life of their assets by integrating digital twins, predictive diagnostics, and advanced repair capabilities.

This joined-up, data-driven approach allows operators to maximise the value of their existing investments, reducing lifecycle costs and supporting long-term profitability.

For wind farm operators, this is a compelling proposition. As the Energy Institute recently noted, life extension not only maximises uptime and reduces the carbon impact of wind power but also turns sunk costs into profitable returns.

“ Plan smarter, extend life. ”

With the right data, operators can make informed decisions that extend turbine life safely, sustainably, and economically. This is not just good for the bottom line, but also for the planet, as every year of additional operation reduces the need for new raw materials and lowers the carbon footprint of power generation.

As the UK government looks to accelerate its clean energy goals with initiatives like the new council for clean energy and AI, it is clear that the road to net zero must be paved with more than just new technology.

It requires a transparent, long-term approach that prioritises the sustainability of our existing infrastructure. For businesses, this means moving beyond siloed thinking and embracing a through-life strategy that maximises the value of every asset.

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