

Rotamec pumping system replacement helps Bristol shopping centre reopen on time

With the retail sector navigating an unprecedented combination of restrictions and closures, shopping centres can't afford to have key systems out of action when the time to reopen comes. When a wastewater pumping system at a shopping centre in Bristol was suffering numerous breakdowns before a vital reopening, Rotamec was ready to source and install an entirely new system ready for the big day.

Lockdown in England has stipulated the closure of many non-essential stores. This has placed increased pressure on the sector to make up for lost sales when it becomes safe to reopen.

A wastewater pumping system at a large shopping centre in Bristol was causing a headache for facility managers, as it was suffering multiple breakdowns. Designed to pump wastewater from a 1000 L basement tank over a 10 m head and along to the main drains, two pumps kick in once a certain level is reached, emptying the tank. However, the 20-year-old system was showing its age. The tank itself was leaking, causing the seepage of wastewater into the basement area. This required clean up, which was jeopardising the reopening of shops post-lockdown.

Paul Pearce, Sales Director at Rotamec, quickly found himself involved in a project to replace the system: "We are a 24/7 electromechanical service provider for rotating equipment, so we have great experience repairing and replacing pumping systems of all types and configurations. A contractor approached us regarding overhauling the wastewater pumping system at the shopping centre, with facility managers indicating that they would prefer the work to be completed ready for reopening after lockdown. We quickly arrived on-site to assess the system."

After a thorough inspection, it was clear that the whole system required replacement with a more efficient and reliable solution. The aging tank, pumps, valves, electrics and control system would all require replacing.

"We offer a turnkey service," Paul explains. "We can source and repair equipment on short lead times, and this project entailed sourcing a new pre-cast 1000 L polyethene tank, two new pumps with motors, new non-return and gate valves as well as pipework, electrics and controls."

Rotamec also relied on its in-house fabrications department to expedite the project. A 160 mm high steel frame was designed and constructed to raise the new tank off the floor, which allowed for easier integration of the new system into existing pipework. This simplified the layout of the pipework too.

Each new pump features an open impeller, optimal for pumping wastewater, driven by a 5.5 kW motor that provides greatly improved efficiency compared to the previous units, unlocking energy cost savings. The new tank eliminated any leaks or seepage, ensuring that the basement no longer required cleaning. New electricals and controls installed by highly qualified Rotamec electricians ensured improved future reliability and ease of use for operators. The project was completed within three weeks.

Paul concludes: "We have a proven track record working with facility managers at shopping centres, providing a fast response to breakdowns or carrying out scheduled maintenance. In this case, both the contractor and facility managers at the shopping centre were very pleased with the new pumping system. Our ability to provide a turnkey electromechanical service was a real advantage for this project. It meant we could manage the work from start to finish, accelerating the project so that when the time came, the shopping centre was ready to welcome customers."

About Rotamec

Rotamec is a turnkey stock, supply, service and repair provider for a wide range of engineered products from leading brands. Operating UK facilities in Cheddar, South Wales, Exeter and Redditch, the business provides a 24/7, 365 days a year service to promote customer uptime by delivering cost effective engineering solutions.

Services offered include repair, refurbishment and rewind of AC and DC electric motors plus supply of motors, gearboxes, pumps, bearings and transmission components from leading brands. Site services are another area of expertise, with dedicated service teams on standby to supply and install all types of electrical and mechanical rotational equipment. Operatives undertake in-house training provided by leading industry manufacturers.

Rotamec was founded in May 2000, growing from a rewind and repair company to providing power transmission solutions in 2003. A fast, responsive service and access to nationwide stocks allows customers to control maintenance costs and ensure time efficiency.

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Editor Contact

DMA Europa Ltd. : Elizabeth Patrick

Tel: +44 (0)1562 751436

Fax: +44 (0)1562 748315

Web: www.dmaeuropa.com

Email: liz@dmaeuropa.com

Company Contact

Rotamec : Harriot Cullen

Tel: 01527 585000

Web: www.rotamec.com

Email: Harriot.Cullen@rotamec.co.uk