



RBC de Mexico, RBC Bearings' Reynosa plant, primarily machines steel and stainless steel for aerospace, automotive and industrial customers. The location also handles some aluminium and harder to machine metals, and works on thousands of different parts and models. RBC de Mexico is a major turning facility owned by RBC Bearings and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for 340 days out of the year, requiring long-lasting, durable coolant.

THE CHALLENGE

As is the case with a lot of metalworking shops, RBC de Mexico wanted to extend sump life, cut coolant costs and properly maintain its coolant. Several years ago, the company struggled with dirty sumps, rust issues and rancid coolant odours. The sump was full of bacteria and a health risk to workers. RBC de Mexico wanted a better-quality coolant at a reasonable price, as its incumbent provider was overpriced and not effective.

However, the engineering team met with some resistance internally when wanting to bring in new suppliers to test different fluids. Some were sceptical that a new coolant could make a difference, and the engineering team had their work cut out, not only to prove that there would be ROI from switching to a new coolant, but also that a new supplier could help improve RBC de Mexico's processes.

THE RESULTS

After almost two years of using TRIM® MicroSol® 585XT, RBC de Mexico has achieved approximately **£122,670/€138,672** in overall savings, including what it has saved in coolant costs due to the fluid lasting longer in the sump.

However, the real value has come in the form of process improvements that have led to a much cleaner facility. The sumps are cleaner than ever before, meaning less bacteria and less health risks for the workers. Installing the skimmers has reduced the amount of tramp oil in the sumps, drastically reducing the smoke that would accumulate over the machines and increasing the life of the sumps — and mist extractors take care of the rest.

THE SOLUTION

RBC de Mexico began an active search for a new coolant. Ultimately, the plant brought in Master Fluid Solutions and TRIM® MicroSol® 585XT was chosen for its machining operations. Master Fluid Solutions also provided actionable recommendations on how to improve conditions on the floor, like installing skimmers on each machine to remove tramp oil, using water filters and mist extractors. Master Fluid Solutions impressed the team at RBC de Mexico with its deep knowledge of metalworking, and was one of the few suppliers willing to travel to Reynosa to tour the plant, demonstrating the company's commitment to supporting RBC de Mexico during and after the transition.

RBC de Mexico has had such good results partnering with Master Fluid Solutions that it now plans to implement a coolant recycling program to save even more money. For the Reynosa plant, not only were they able to reduce costs and improve their operations, but they also found a trusted partner in Master Fluid Solutions to guide them through the process.

"The service and product knowledge from Master Fluid Solutions is far superior than anything we had received from any of the other companies we had talked to. Their patience and determination helped everything fall into place."

-John Taylor, Engineering Supervisor