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New wireless sensor solution from SKF enables automated machine monitoring in hazardous areas

Gothenburg, Sweden, 21 November 2023: SKF has expanded its portfolio of Condition Monitoring solutions with the SKF Enlight Collect IMx-1-EX sensor solution. Wireless monitoring of assets helps predict machine failure before it can escalate into a serious problem, such as an unscheduled shutdown. This can deliver multiple benefits, including reduced costs and a more sustainable operation of equipment.

The new sensor is part of the well-established SKF Enlight Collect IMx-1 wireless eco-system and certified according to ATEX and IECEx standards for use in Zone 1 and Zone 2 classified hazardous areas. The sensor works in tandem with the SKF Enlight Collect IMx-1-EX gateway, which is certified for use in Zone 2.

"The IMx-1 wireless solution, in combination with our analytical software, provides state-of-the-art information and insight into the health of rotating assets, now also in hazardous areas, and further expands SKF's plantwide condition monitoring eco-system," says Fredrik Larsson, Condition Monitoring Technologies manager at SKF.

The new solution has the same form, fit and function as the safe-area rated SKF Enlight Collect IMx-1. All devices have full compatibility, allowing customers to build a network of monitored assets across hazardous and safe areas.

Key benefits of the solution include:

- one wireless condition monitoring eco-system covering both safe and hazardous areas;
- banishing the need for costly walk-around programmes in hazardous areas, which improve safety for workers and overcomes environmental, health and safety (EHS) concerns;
- enabling data collection from inaccessible locations;
- increasing the frequency of data collection for more critical assets.

The sensor uses innovative measurement capabilities to provide advanced insights into asset health, including early detection of bearing damage. Like other IMx-1 sensors, they create a 'mesh network', enabling them to relay data between one another. This allows data to be routed around obstacles such as pipework – which can block signals for conventional line-of-sight systems. This facility means that data can be sent over greater distances than would otherwise be possible.

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SKF is a world-leading provider of innovative solutions that help industries become more competitive and sustainable. By making products lighter, more efficient, longer lasting, and repairable, we help our customers improve their rotating equipment performance and reduce their environmental impact. Our offering around the rotating shaft includes bearings, seals, lubrication management, condition monitoring, and services. Founded in 1907, SKF is represented in approximately 130 countries and has around 17,000 distributor locations worldwide. Annual sales in 2022 were SEK 96,933 million and the number of employees was 42,641. www.skf.com

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