[SKF CeraDrive pressrelease]

SKF launches CeraDrive hybrid ceramic bearings for electric motors

New hybrid ceramic bearing design helps improve reliability, extend grease life, and support energy-efficient VFD-driven motor operation.

Gothenburg, Sweden, XX Month, 2026:

SKF today announces the launch of SKF CeraDrive, a new hybrid ceramic bearing solution optimized for electric motor applications. Designed to address the most common causes of bearing failure in electric motors, SKF CeraDrive combines the proven benefits of hybrid ceramic technology with a design intended for a much broader range of industrial motor applications.

Electric motors operate under increasingly demanding conditions, especially in systems using variable frequency drives (VFDs). Electrical erosion, lubrication challenges and surface damage are among the most common causes of premature bearing failure, leading to increased maintenance, reduced reliability and unplanned downtime.

Addressing the real causes of bearing failure

SKF CeraDrive addresses these challenges through electrically insulating ceramic rolling elements, improved lubrication performance and high resistance to surface damage and wear. The result is more reliable bearing performance in demanding operating conditions typical of modern electric motors.

> “Hybrid ceramic bearings have long been recognized for their performance advantages in electric motors, but they have often been considered too specialized for broader industrial use,” says Alexis Greffet, Business Engineer Hybrid and Machinery Specials at SKF. “SKF CeraDrive changes that by making hybrid ceramic performance accessible for a much wider range of electric motor applications.”

Optimized for electric motors

Built on SKF’s extensive experience in hybrid ceramic bearing technology, SKF CeraDrive features an optimized internal design with smaller, lighter ceramic rolling elements combined with high-performance steel rings. With standard external dimensions, the bearings can be integrated into existing motor designs without redesign.

Compared to standard all-steel bearings, SKF CeraDrive offers:

- Improved resistance to electrical erosion

- Up to 8x grease life
- Higher speed capability
- Reduced friction and heat generation
- Reliable operation in VFD-driven motors

The performance of our hybrid ceramic bearings is supported by extensive testing and SKF's advanced modelling capabilities, including the SKF Generalized Bearing Life Model (GBLM), which enables more accurate prediction of bearing performance under real operating conditions.

SKF CeraDrive is intended for industrial electric motors and alternators across a wide range of industries and applications, supporting both electric motor manufacturers and end users looking to improve reliability, efficiency, and maintenance performance.

Learn more about SKF CeraDrive at SKF.com: [link]

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Since 1907, SKF has been making some of the world's most innovative bearings, seals, lubrication systems, condition monitoring solutions, and services to reduce friction. Less friction means more energy saved and by reducing it, we make industry smarter, more competitive, and more energy efficient, building a more sustainable future where we can all do more with less.SKF is represented in approximately 130 countries and has around 17,000 distributor locations worldwide. Annual sales in 2024 were SEK 98,722 million and the number of employees was 38,743. www.skf.com