



Condition monitoring solutions for Royal Mail

- Automated letter sorting machinery with many small spindles & motors on each base-plate.
- MHC-Memo allows a single base-plate measurement to quickly detect a single defective component amongst a multiplicity of good ones.
- MHC-Memo units bought for all automated letter sorting sites.

Condition Monitoring Solutions For Royal Mail

Holroyd instruments wins contract to supply condition monitoring instruments to the Royal Mail

Since 1993 the Royal Mail have been actively developing new Condition Monitoring (CM) techniques for their automated letter sorting machinery.

Vibration techniques were soon shown to be ineffective for this application due to the complex nature of the machines, which have many spindles and drives mounted in close proximity on a common base-plate. By contrast, trials carried out by both the Royal Mail Technology Centre and key sorting offices including the Oxford MLO showed that the high frequency Acoustic Emission (AE) technique was capable of readily providing global monitoring of entire base-plates.



As part of a country-wide implementation of TPM (Total Process Management), the Royal Mail made the decision to equip all its automated letter sorting offices with portable AE based condition monitoring instruments. A request for tenders was published in the appropriate European publications dealing with GATT notices. In response to this request, Holroyd Instruments proposed the newly developed MHC-Memo, a route mode data collector version of its well proven MHC instrument.

After a thorough evaluation of the various proposed systems the Royal Mail selected the MHC-Memo and a contract was placed for Holroyd Instruments Ltd to supply 58 units, each complete with a range of accessories.

Trevor Holroyd the Managing Director of Holroyd Instruments Ltd says "the Royal Mail contract is the latest in a string of successes where our AE based instruments have been selected because their superior performance, ease of use and simple interpretation enable cost-effective Condition Based Maintenance to be rapidly implemented".



The Equipment



The MHC-Memo characterises the detected signal in terms of Distress® and dB Level. Distress® is a proprietary parameter which performs a summation of all the microscopic clicks, crunches, whistles and groans associated with faults. In this way Distress® provides a means of instantly recognising suspect machinery at a very early stage. By contrast dB Level is a measure of the overall signal level and is used to trend the rate of degradation of suspect machinery.

(INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE ROYAL MAIL)

Distress® is a registered trademark of Kittiwake Holroyd.

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