

Press Release from Industrial Air Division

For further information please contact:
Charl Ackerman, Business Line Manager – Industrial Air Division
+27 (0)11 821 9113 / FAX: +27 11 252 9847
Email: charl.ackerman@za.atlascopco.com

Sonia Laverick – Laverick Media Communications cc
Tel: 083 310 4491 / Fax: 086 671 6836
lavmedia@iafrica.com / www.laverickmedia.co.za

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ATLAS COPCO'S ENERGY RECOVERY SYSTEM SAVES ENERGY & COSTS FOR VITAL HEALTH FOODS

Atlas Copco is a service driven, customer focused company that delivers class leading equipment and services across the entire product portfolio to assist customers with increasing their operational efficiency through optimising equipment availability and product operational life. The company's state-of-the-art energy recovery system uses the compression process to improve efficiency and save energy at Vital Health Foods in Kuilsriver, Western Cape.

Vital Health Foods, a family-owned and run business founded in 1947 in Wellington, South Africa, was the first company in the country to specialise in health food and is today the largest in Africa, currently exporting to more than 20 countries worldwide. "Compressed air is critical for our automation and pneumatic requirements throughout our entire factory," comments Vital Health Factory Manager, Peter Tremlett. "The reliability and problem free operation of an Atlas Copco compressor, as demonstrated in the stringent marine environment, convinced us that we could count on the same level of reliability and in 1997, we approached Atlas Copco who installed a GA75 rotary screw compressor and energy recover system. We were not disappointed; the GA75 air compressor has been meeting all our compressed air requirements trouble free for 15 years."

"Vital Health Foods is green conscious and fully committed to environmental conservation," continues Tremlett. "We are extremely proud of our green building and we are constantly busy with various cost saving initiatives and programmes in our relentless strive to continue reducing our energy footprint. We are working towards a vision of being carbon neutral by 2015 through general paper saving initiatives and the recycling of materials. Our larger external corporate factory energy saving initiatives include the application of Thermoshield as a roofing insulator, migrating the factory lighting to LED lighting as well as the more effective use of our factory heat exchangers thanks to Atlas Copco's GA75 compressor with integrated energy recovery system."

2/...Atlas Copco Energy Recovery_Vital Health Foods Western Cape

Production facilities are continuously searching for ways to save energy and combat escalating electricity costs as the worldwide demand for energy exceeds a dwindling supply. “While the generation of compressed air can account for more than 40% of a plant’s total electricity bill, valuable energy savings can be gained from the compression process with Atlas Copco’s state-of-the-art energy recovery system,” states Atlas Copco South Africa Business Line Manager - Industrial Air Division, Charl Ackerman.

He explains, “As much as 90% of the electrical energy used by a compressed air solution is converted into heat and, with the use of our sophisticated energy recovery systems, up to $\pm 75\%$ of that power input can be recovered as hot air or hot water without any adverse influence on the compressor’s performance. The energy recovery system is a simple process that re-uses the heat generated in the compressor process that would normally be wasted which can be beneficially used anywhere in the production facility, from heating and drying to industrial cleaning and sanitary facilities, to substantial reduce energy costs. These systems are fully integrated but we also do aftermarket fitments.”

According to Tremlett, the energy recovery system, which includes an insulated pump and a heat recovery storage tank, recovers up to 70% of the heat generated by the GA compressor, ”which is effectively used all over the plant for the coating of tablets and the drying of powders as well as for steam cleaning, for example. Municipal water is only 14 degrees and we require temperatures of up to 60 degrees for some applications. The heated air in turn heats up the boiler by between thirty and forty degrees which means we use considerably less heating to reach our required maximum temperatures. The system also provides hot water at our wash basins.”

Commenting on Atlas Copco’s after sale service Tremlett says that because the compressor has to meet the factory’s air requirements 24/5 five days a week, 95% of the service has to take place over the weekend. “We have opted for an Atlas Copco service contract and we are more than satisfied with their service.”

Vital Health Food’s green initiatives have resulted in a Special Commendation from the Mail & Guardian’s ‘2011 Greening the Future Awards’ for their efforts towards ‘Energy Efficiency and Carbon Management’ as well as being voted ‘Healthiest Medium-Sized Company’ in the 2012 Sunday Times/Discovery Health Company Index survey.

3/...Atlas Copco Energy Recovery_Vital Health Foods Western Cape

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Designed, manufactured and tested in accordance with ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 121, Atlas Copco's oil-injected rotary screw GA compressors deliver outstanding reliable performance even in the harshest environments. The innovative oil-injected screw element and flexible operation of the GA series ensures a long and trouble-free life for maximum productivity and minimized total cost of ownership. "Atlas Copco always strives to use the required resources, like energy and manpower, in the most effective way. Our highly efficient and productive equipment contributes to profitable business," concludes Ackerman.

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Caption to photos

- 1.State-of-the-art energy recovery system using Atlas Copco's compression process to improve efficiency and save energy for Vital Health Foods in the Western Cape

2. The Atlas Copco GA75 rotary screw compressor and energy recover system re-uses heat generated in the compressor process for various applications such as heating and drying in the production facility

3. Engineering Manager - Varughese Thomas next to the Atlas Copco GA75 air compressor which has been meeting all Vital Health Foods' compressed air requirements trouble free for 15 years

4. Peter Tremlett (left) & Engineering Manager - Varughese Thomas with the Atlas Copco Energy Recovery system which recovers up to 70% of the heat generated by the GA75 compressor.

Atlas Copco is an industrial group with world-leading positions in compressors, expanders and air treatment systems, construction and mining equipment, power tools and assembly systems. With innovative products and services, Atlas Copco delivers solutions for sustainable productivity. The company was founded in 1873, is based in Stockholm, Sweden, and has a global reach spanning more than 170 countries. In 2012, Atlas Copco had 39 800 employees and revenues of BSEK 90.5 (BEUR 10.5). Learn more at www.atlascopco.com

Industrial Air is a division within Atlas Copco's Compressor Technique business area. It develops, manufactures and markets oil-injected and oil-free air compressors, vacuum pumps, gas generators, air treatment solutions and compressor controls and monitoring under several brands. In addition to serving a wide variety of industries, dedicated solutions are also available for marine, railway and oil and gas customers. The division's focus and main drive is to further improve its customers' productivity. The divisional headquarters and main production center are located in Antwerp, Belgium.

Atlas Copco South AFrica

Atlas Copco Industrial Air Division	Visitors address:	Telephone:	+27 11 821 9000
P O Box 14110 Witfield	Hughes Business Park	Telefax:	+27 11 821 9106
Boksburg, South Africa 1467	Saligna St, Witfield	www.atlascopco.com www.atlascopco.co.za	