CASE STUDY

FORDIA

FORDIA CORE LIFTERS: SMALL PARTS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

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Luis Yale Sanchez,
Core Drilling Technical Consultant at Servitec Foraco - Brazil

All components of diamond drilling equipment are important and have a direct effect on drilling performance. This includes components such as core lifters, which though small, can impact productivity. The choice of an equipment manufacturer is an important decision for purchasing departments and management, and attention needs to be paid to the production processes and materials to ensure reliability. Fordia manufactures integrated core lifter systems under stringent quality control guidelines, helping one of their customers increase productivity.

Servitec Foraco
Servitec Foraco is a Brazilian drilling company that was established in 2000 and joined FORACO in 2012. The company operates across Brazil, drilling mostly for gold and iron. It is proud of always being at the forefront of innovation, and has a fleet of more than 90 drill rigs that can meet the needs of clients regardless of the type of ground that must be drilled. Servitec Foraco teams can be counted on to deliver productivity, safety and respect for the environment.

Problem
Servitec Foraco had been using a core lifter system that was unreliable when the drilling team drilled more than six meters. While the appearance of the core lifters remained relatively new, the core samples that were retrieved were broken. This situation was occurring all over Brazil, regardless of the type of ground. The drilling team had made sure to use core lifter components from the same manufacturer to ensure the best results as components from different manufacturers are not always compatible and could have a negative impact on core retrieval. The team was drilling in difficult abrasive conditions. Lack of experience and breaking core lifters were also lowering productivity.

Solution
The local Fordia team in Brazil analyzed the situation and suggested using Fordia's integrated core lifter system. Fordia had a proven broached (also known as fluted) core lifter system that was ideal for this type of abrasive ground. Fordia's system had shown great durability over the years thanks to the company's stringent quality control on hardness. The right level of hardness is an essential factor of the core lifter system and is directly linked to performance. If a core lifter is not heat treated properly and is too hard, it can break. Conversely, if it is too soft it can inadequately grip the core sample. Fordia's quality control ensures that the core lifters always have the right degree of hardness, so that they last longer and perform better.

Results
The Servitec Foraco team tested Fordia's core lifter system at one project and when they saw improved and consistent performance over several months, they expanded the use of Fordia's system to all their projects in Brazil. Due to the reliability and longer life of the Fordia core lifters, the team was able to achieve 40 to 60 meters instead of only six meters, and productivity increased by about 20%.

This resulted in less downtime, less wasted time and more core recovery. "Over and above the quality and performance of Fordia products, I know I can count on the Fordia team. They are easy to get in touch with, are always there to help us and provide good advice," said Luis Yale Sanchez, Core Drilling Technical Consultant at Servitec Foraco – Brazil. Both the management and drillers at Servitec Foraco were very happy with the product and the improved performance it brought.

Fordia's mission is to improve drilling performance and make drillers' lifes easier.

To learn more about Fordia's products, visit www.fordia.com