

**FORDIA**®

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*Helping drillers improve  
their performance*

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**Customer:** John Wallace,  
Shop and Yard Manager at  
Foundex

**Location:** Alaska, USA

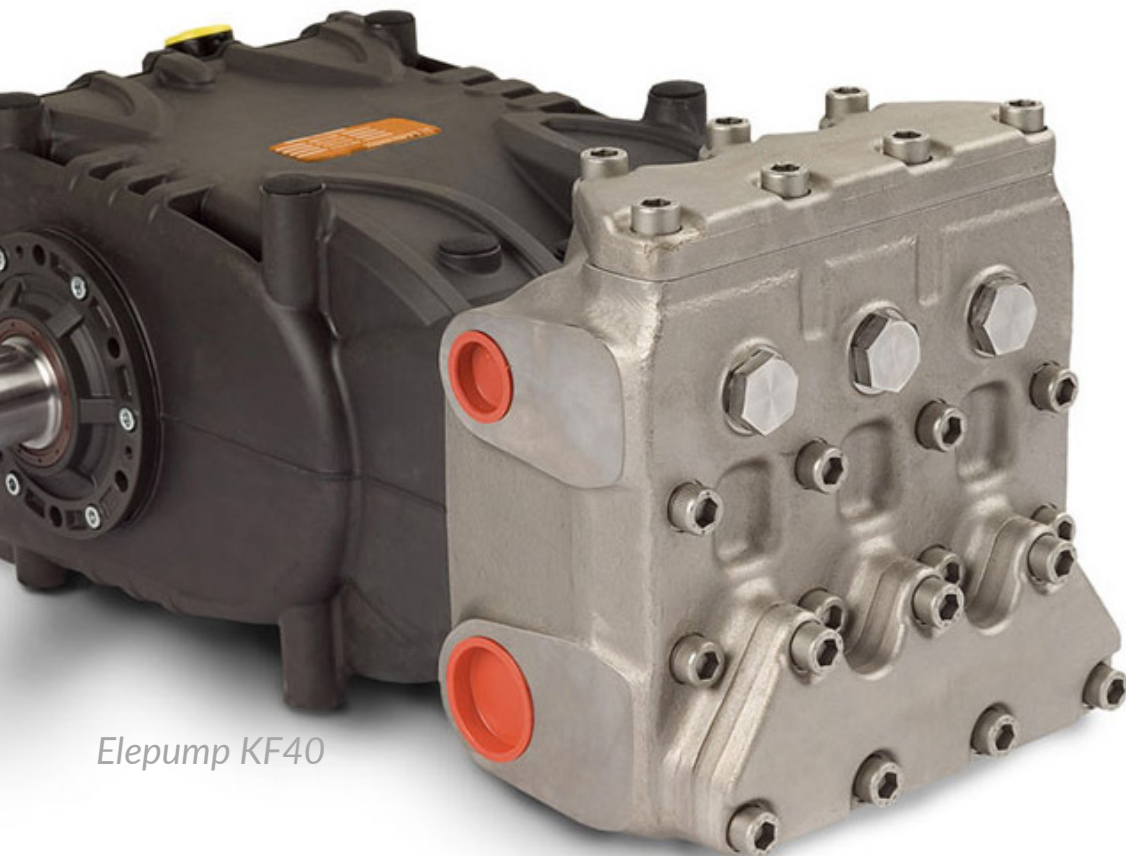
**Product:** Elepump KF40

## CASE STUDY

ELEPUMP KF 40 ALLOWS FOUNDEX TO KEEP ON  
PUMPING... AND PUMPING!

Like many other industries, responsiveness to change is a valuable asset in diamond drilling. Oftentimes, it is the ground conditions that change, requiring a change in the type of diamond tool being used. Sometimes though, rules and regulations change regarding a drilling operations site and this means new equipment must be purchased in order to comply with the new regulations.

This is what happened to Foundex Exploration, a Canadian, employee-owned company that has been in business for over 46 years. Headquartered in Abbotsford, British Columbia, with field operations in Fort McMurray, and a satellite office in Anchorage, Alaska, Foundex currently has more than fifty employees, depending on the workload.



Elepump KF40



## THE CHALLENGE

Foundex had been working on a drilling project in Alaska that was accessible only by helicopter so the size of the drilling equipment was an important factor. The ground was medium to hard and the project ran for about seven months – from the time the ground thawed to the time it froze again. The company had four drill rigs running and was using a smaller pump equipped with a gas Honda engine to draw water from nearby water sources, such as ponds. The smaller pump was a ball and feet style pump that required regular maintenance.

Foundex learned that regulations had changed requiring drilling companies to draw their water from specially designated water sources. These sources were much further away - from one and a half miles to two and a half miles, sometimes even further. This meant that new, larger supply pumps needed to be purchased in order for operations to continue.

“WE RAN THE KF 40 FOR SEVEN MONTHS STRAIGHT AND IT DIDN’T SKIP A BEAT”

- JOHN WALLACE, Shop and Yard Manager at Foundex

## THE SOLUTION

The local Fordia office recommended an Elepump KF 40 mud pump. The KF-40 is the most compact and lightweight of the Elepump pressure pumps and is ideal for heliportable jobs. Featuring superior construction and high quality materials, Elepump mud pumps are built to last. They require minimal maintenance, so costs stay low so and drilling operations stay profitable.



## THE RESULTS

Foundex purchased two of the Elepump KF 40 pumps and the drilling team was very impressed with their performance. **“That pump is bullet-proof”**, declared John Wallace, Shop and Yard Manager at Foundex, *“I haven’t had to touch a thing,”* he added. A pump usually needs regular maintenance to change valve seats and packing cups. A lot of debris can become trapped in the packing cups and cause the pump to lose its prime and start acting erratically. In the eleven years since Foundex purchased their KF 40s, they have performed no maintenance at all, other than changing the oil.

On average, a typical pump has to be checked several times per month. However, John explained that no parts have had to be replaced on the KF 40. As a matter of fact, he still has the original seats, rings and valves as well as the original packaging and spare parts kit. *“We ran the pump for seven months, every day for 24 hours and it never skipped a beat. I have to say I am surprised at the durability.”* John added that the engine had to be replaced when it had reached 14,000 hours but the KF 40 pump is still working well.

Reliability and cost efficiency are huge considerations for drilling companies and the KF 40 checks both boxes. Not having to change parts or perform maintenance means that downtime is avoided, operations do not stop and productivity increases.

John explains that drillers can be tough on equipment. *“These pumps are always pushed to the limit. I have run the pump for 2.5 miles at an elevation of 800 feet and still managed to get twelve gallons per minute. Getting a new one is an easy decision. I’ve even recommended them to the competition.”*

Foundex has been so pleased with their KF 40 that they are interested in purchasing the Elepump KF 50M. The KF 50M is a powerful pump that can handle all slurries including bentonite, concrete and more. With its stainless steel ball and seat style valves, it is the ideal choice for pumping grit, cement, chunks of rock and other hard material, without the worry of damage to fragile parts. For Foundex, the KF 50M’s small size and the fact that it can be transported by two men are major benefits.

Fordia’s team in western Canada is pleased that the Elepump line of pumps has allowed them to include Foundex as another happy customer. Elepump mud pumps allow Fordia to achieve its mission of improving drilling performance and making drillers’ lives easier.

For more information about Elepump pumps, visit:

<https://www.fordia.com/product/triplex-plunger-water-pumps/>



Questions?  
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