



**FLUKE®**

Reliability

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# GAIN DEEP INSIGHTS INTO BEARING HEALTH WITH ULTRASOUND

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Blair Fraser

**Accelix™**  
Webinar Series

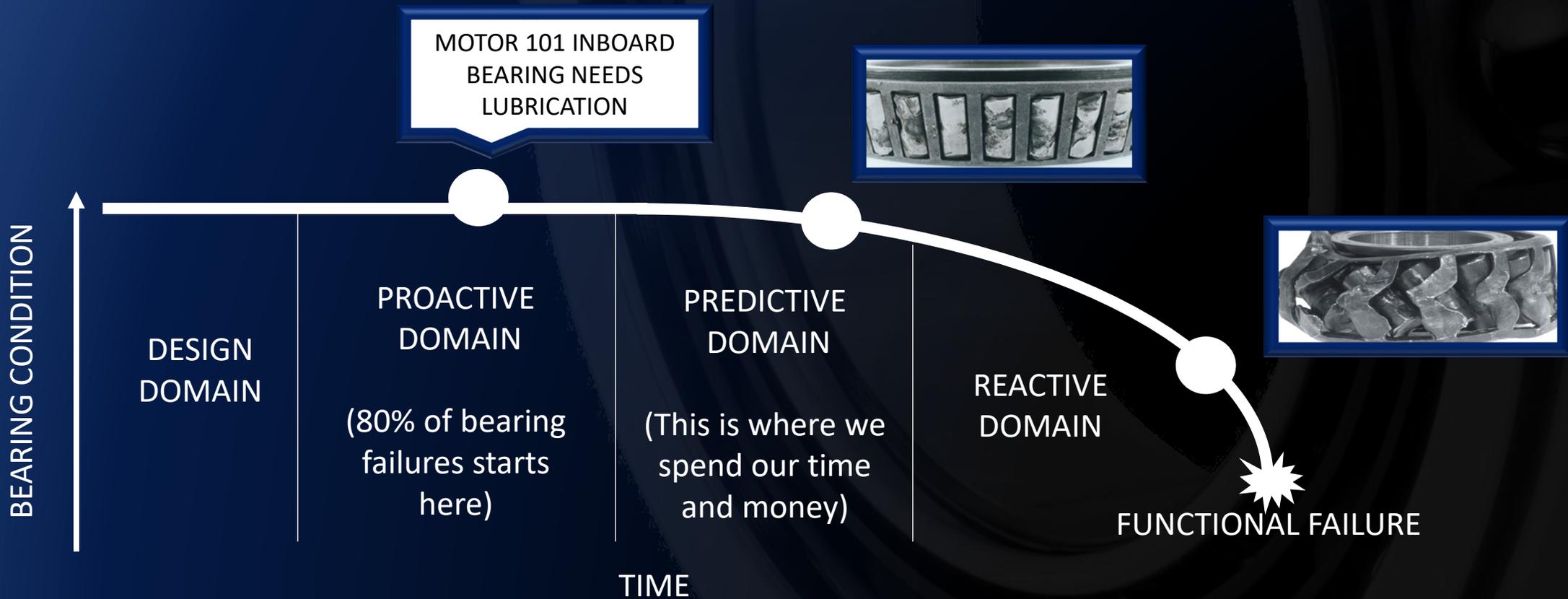


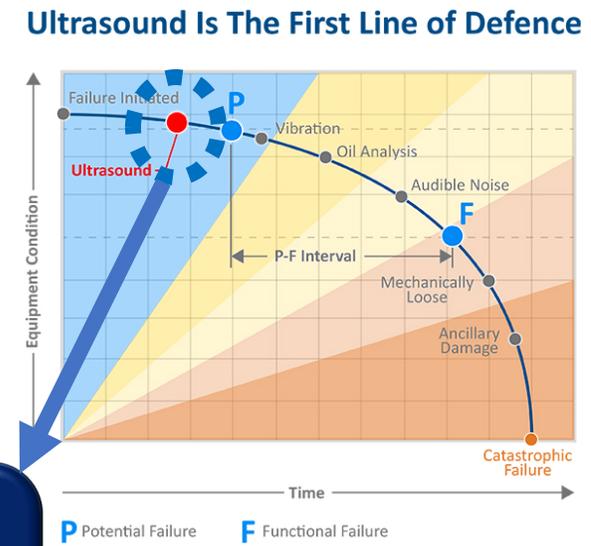
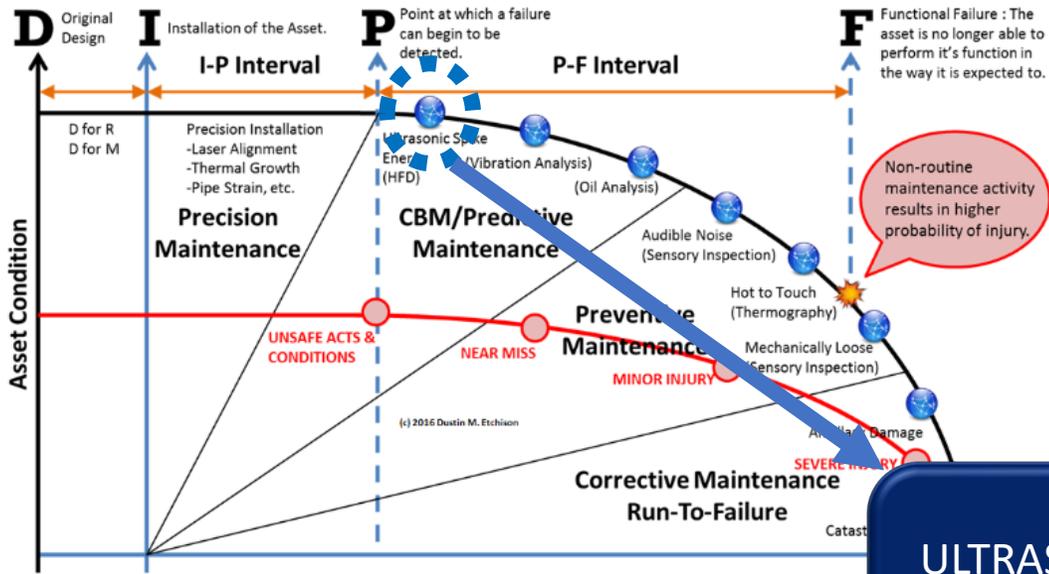
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Adjunct Professor, University of Wisconsin, CSI  
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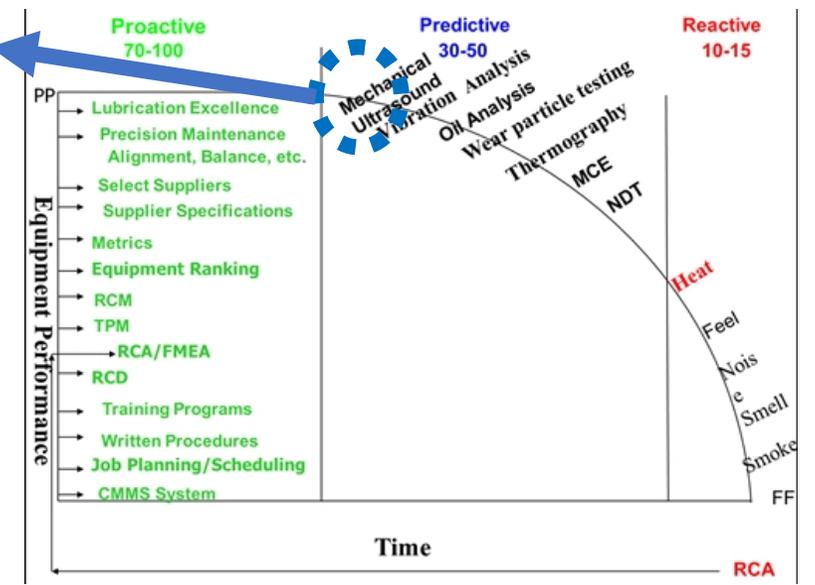
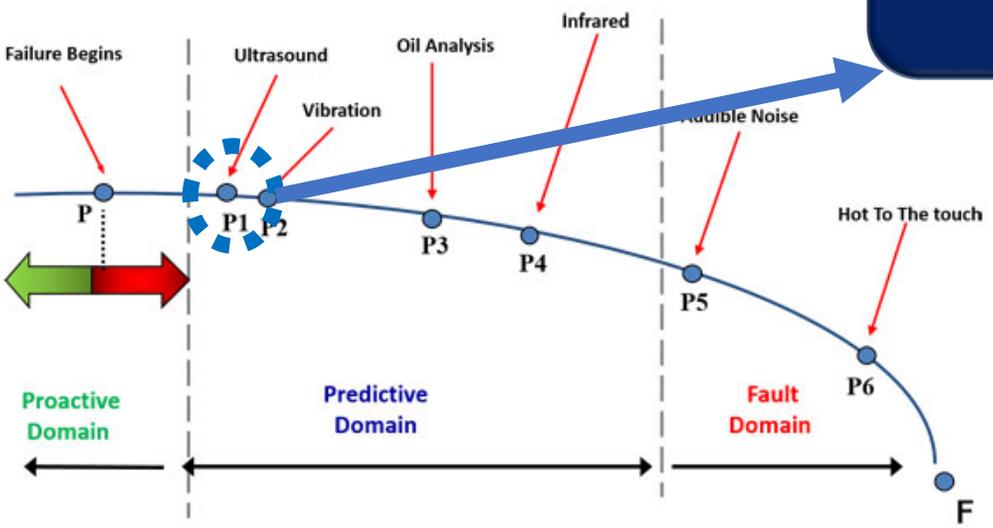
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# STOP MONITORING YOUR BEARINGS AND START MANAGING THEM!

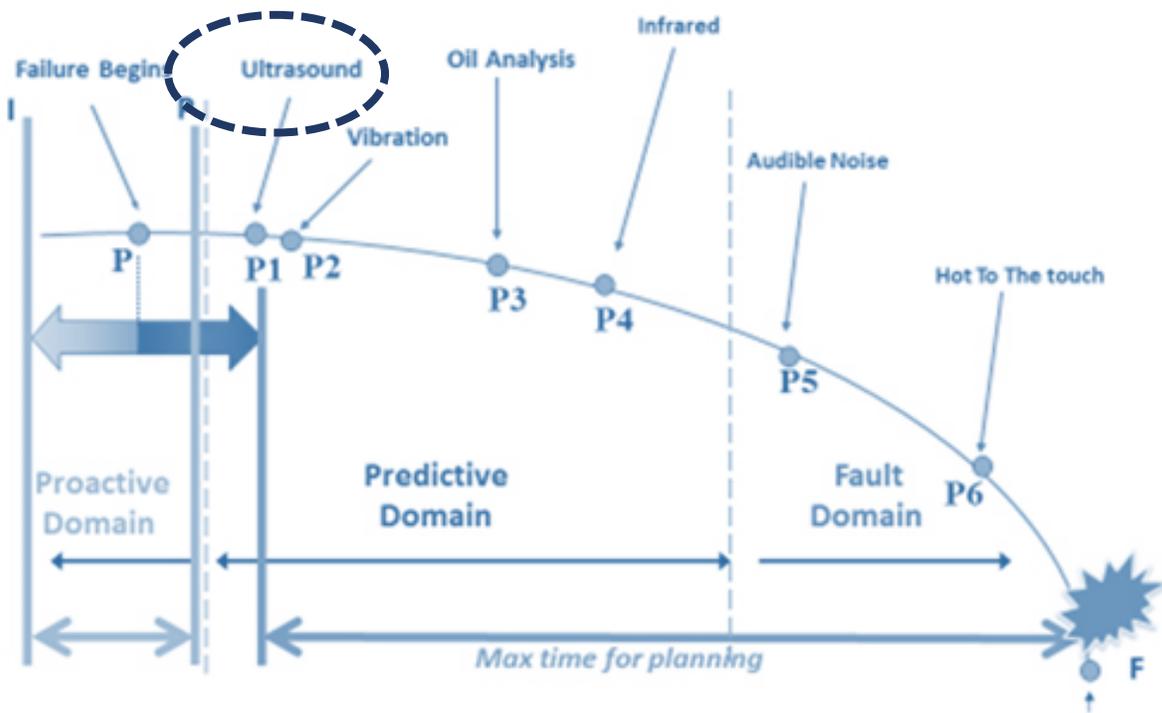




**ULTRASOUND OWN THE APEX OF THE P-F CURVE FOR BEARINGS**



# THE POWER OF ULTRASOUND



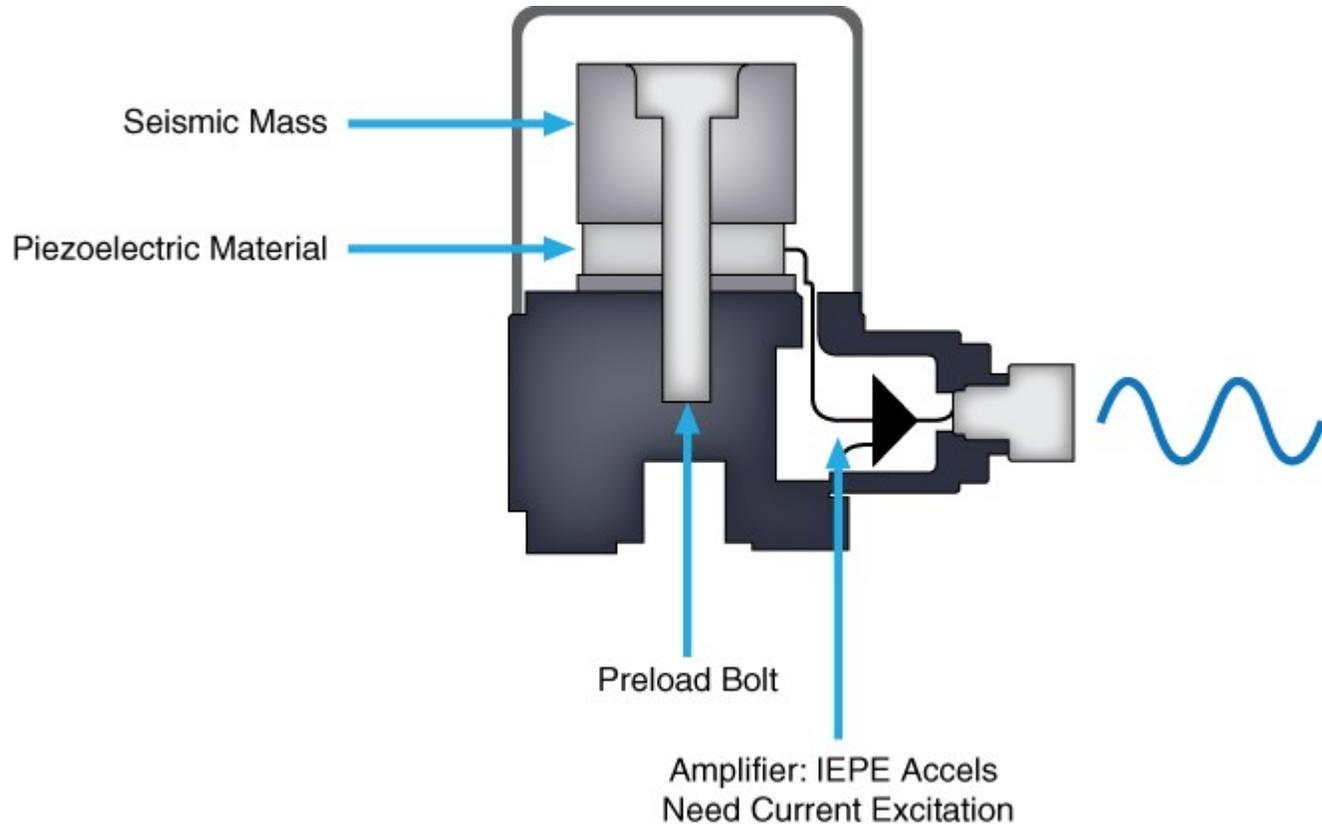
*“Ultrasonic monitoring of bearings provides the earliest warning of bearing failure. An increase in amplitude of a monitored ultrasonic frequency of 12 decibels over baseline would indicate the initial (incipient) stages of bearing failure. This change is **detected long before it is indicated by changes in vibration or temperature.**”*

# THE POWER OF ULTRASOUND



*ULTRASOUND SENSORS  
DETECT FRICTION. BY  
FOCUSING ON A NARROW  
BAND OF HIGH FREQUENCIES,  
IT DETECTS SUBTLE  
CHANGES IN AMPLITUDE AND  
SOUND QUALITY PRODUCED  
BY **FRICTION***

# THE VALUE OF VIBRATION



*BEARING MUST "MOVE"  
BEFORE IT WILL DETECT A  
FAILURE.*

# DO YOU AGREE?

**Even without identifying the exact cause of a fault, there is great value in simply identifying that maintenance is required, therefore avoiding catastrophic failure and the potential for secondary damage, injured personnel and excessive downtime.**

# PUT AN END TO ANALYZING HEALTHY BEARINGS!

ON AVERAGE

# 80-90%

OF MACHINES RUN WITHOUT ANY IMPENDING ISSUE. IN FACT, THE CONDITION MEASUREMENTS DO NOT PROVIDE ANY INDICATION OF AN UPCOMING MECHANICAL PROBLEM; THEY JUST CONFIRM THAT THE MACHINE CONDITION IS FINE.

WHEN BEARINGS FAIL PREMATURELY,  
POOR LUBRICATION PRACTICES ARE  
OFTEN THE CAUSE.

In fact, over  
**80%**

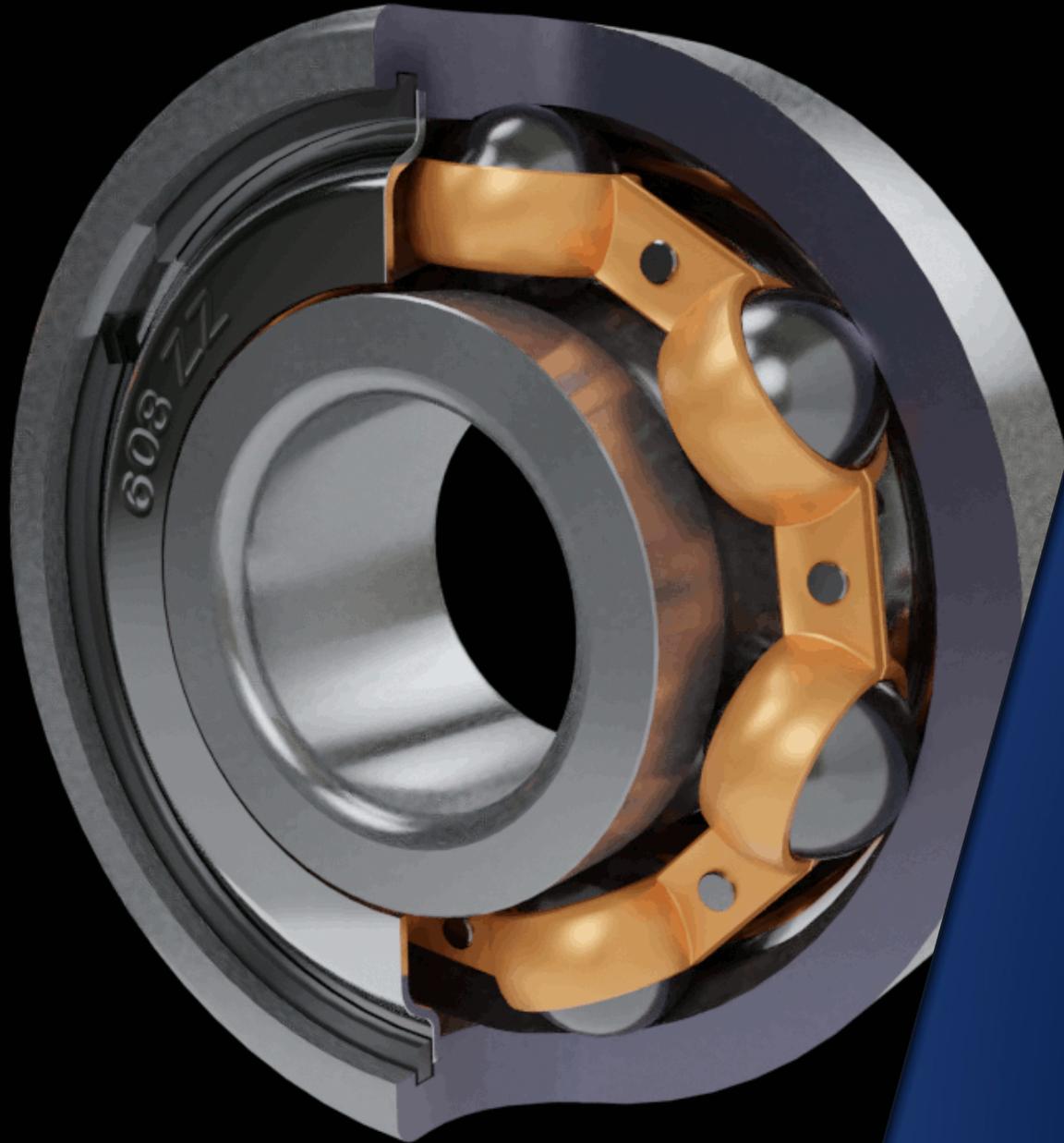
of premature bearing failures can  
be traced to a problem with  
lubrication.

**IF YOU COULD ASK A BEARING  
JUST ONE QUESTION, WHAT  
WOULD IT BE?**

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IF YOUR BEARING COULD ASK  
YOU ONE QUESTION, WHAT  
WOULD IT ASK YOU?

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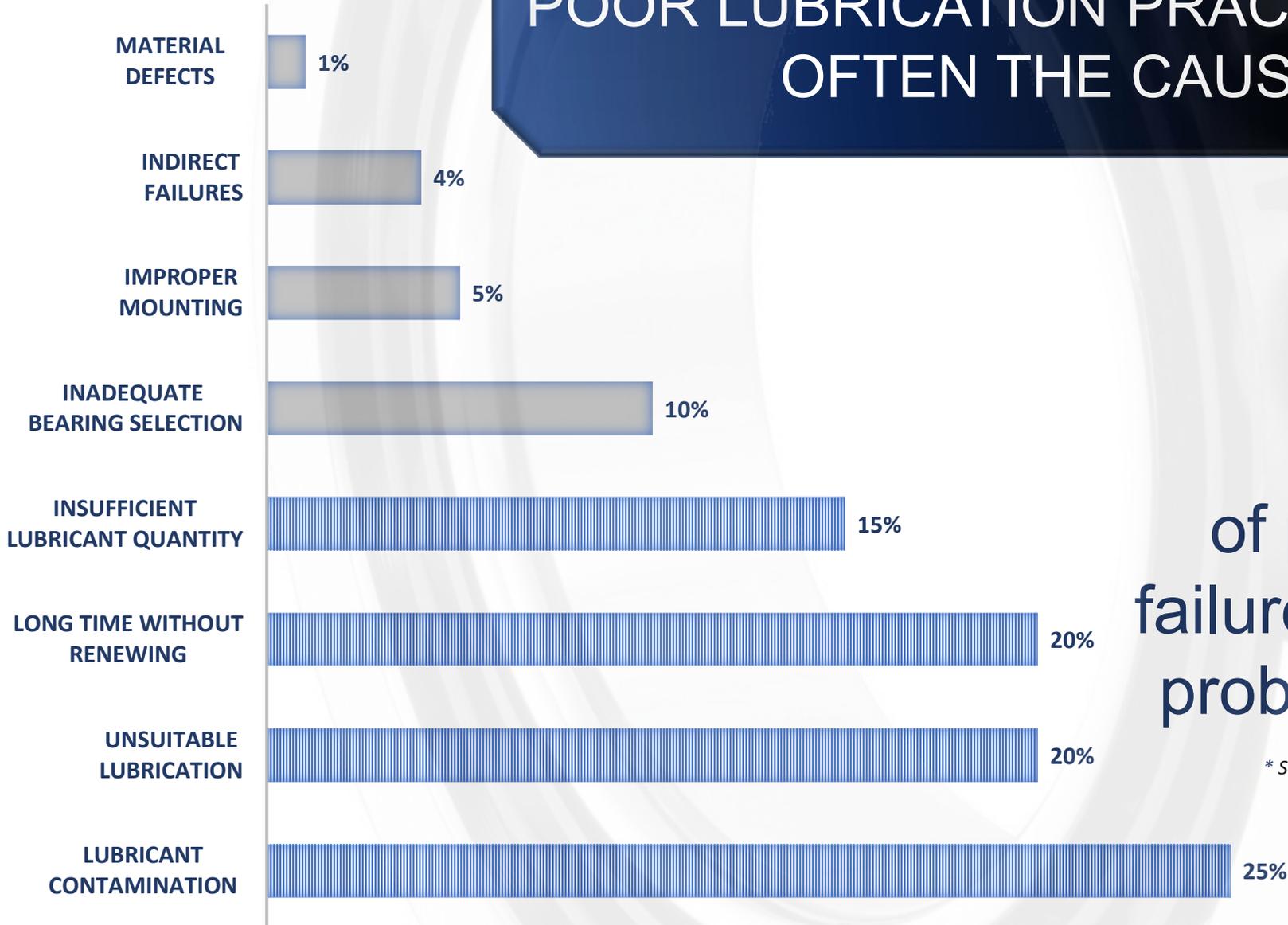


# FRICITION

The entire point of an anti-friction bearing is to reduce friction. Let's think about friction and what it can tell us!

- **Poor lubrication**
- **Rubbing and skidding of rolling elements against the bearing raceway**
- **Impacting due to mechanical flaws**

# WHEN BEARINGS FAIL PREMATURELY, POOR LUBRICATION PRACTICES ARE OFTEN THE CAUSE



In fact, over

# 80%

of premature bearing failures can be traced to a problem with lubrication.

*\* SKF Bearing Corporation, Bearing Failures and Their Causes*

# COMPLEXITY IN TIME BASED LUBRICATION FREQUENCY

$$T = K \times \left[ \left( \frac{14,000,000}{n \times (d^{0.5})} \right) - 4 \times d \right]$$

**Where:**

T = Time until next relubrication (hours)

K = Product of all correction factors  
Ft x Fc x Fm x Fv x Fp x Fd  
(see table)

n = Speed (RPM)

d = Bore diameter (mm)

**Note:**

ips = inches / second  
0.2 inches / second = 5 mm / sec.

**Grease Interval Correction Factors**

Condition	Average Operating Range	Correction Factor
Temperature Ft	Housing below 150°F	1.0
	150 to 175°F	0.5
	175 to 200°F	0.2
	Above 200°F	0.1
Contamination Fc	Light, non-abrasive dust	1.0
	Heavy, nonabrasive dust	0.7
	Light, abrasive dust	0.4
	Heavy, abrasive dust	0.2
Moisture Fm	Humidity mostly below 80%	1.0
	Humidity between 80 and 90%	0.7
	Occasional condensation	0.4
	Occasional water on housing	0.1
Vibration Fv	Less than 0.2 ips velocity, peak	1.0
	0.2 to 0.4 ips	0.6
	Above 0.4 (see note)	0.3
Position Fp	Horizontal bore centerline	1.0
	45 degree bore centerline	0.5
	Vertical centerline	0.3
Bearing Design Fd	Ball bearings	10
	Cylindrical and needle roller bearings	5.0
	Tapered and spherical roller bearings	1.0

**VARIABLES DO NOT  
OFTEN REFLECT  
CHANGING OPERATING  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONDITIONS**

# MONITOR AND TREND DECIBEL LEVELS CAUSED BY FRICTION - ISO29821-1

**+8dB**

**ABOVE BASELINE  
INDICATES A LACK OF  
LUBRICATION.**

**+16dB**

**ABOVE BASELINE  
INDICATES DAMAGE TO  
THE BEARING – A FAILURE  
MODE BEYOND  
LUBRICATION ALONE.**

**+35dB**

**ABOVE BASELINE  
MEANS THE ASSET IS  
CRITICAL – IT IS CLOSE  
TO FAILURE.**

# PRESCRIPTIVE

## LUBRICATION AND HEALTH INSIGHTS

### LUBRICATION REQUIRED

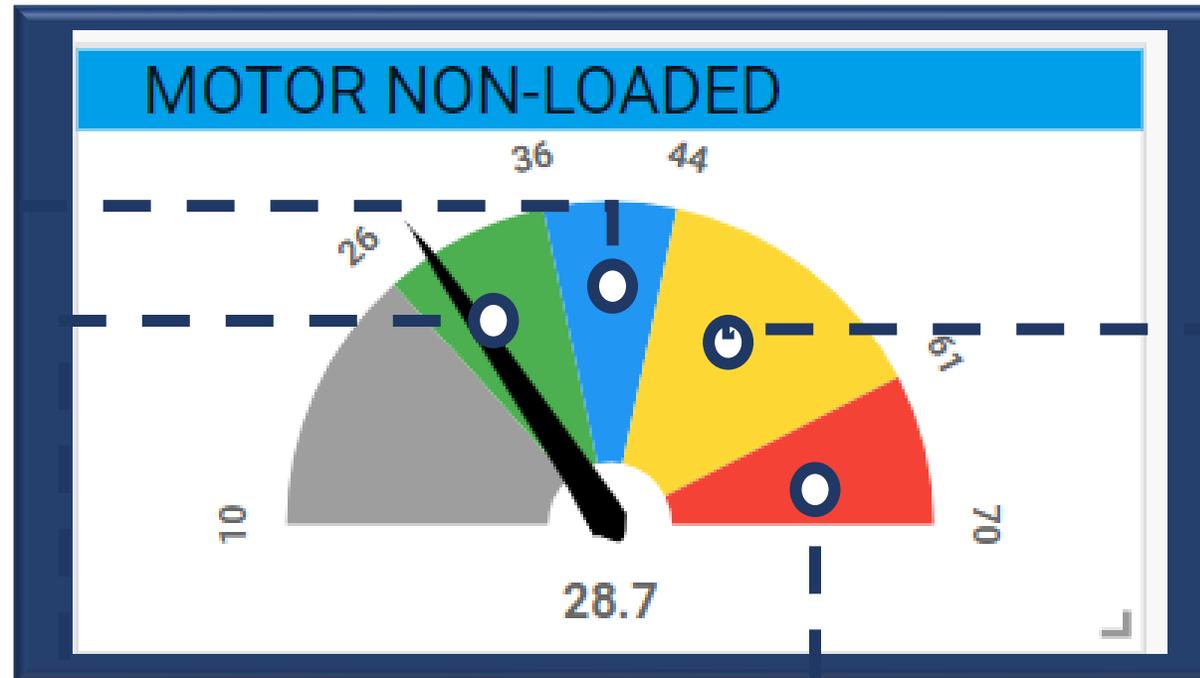
8dB above baseline  
indicates a **lack of  
lubrication.**

### BEGINNING OF FAILURE

16dB above baseline  
indicates damage to the  
bearing – a **failure  
mode beyond  
lubrication alone.**

### HEALTHY BEARING

**Do Nothing!**

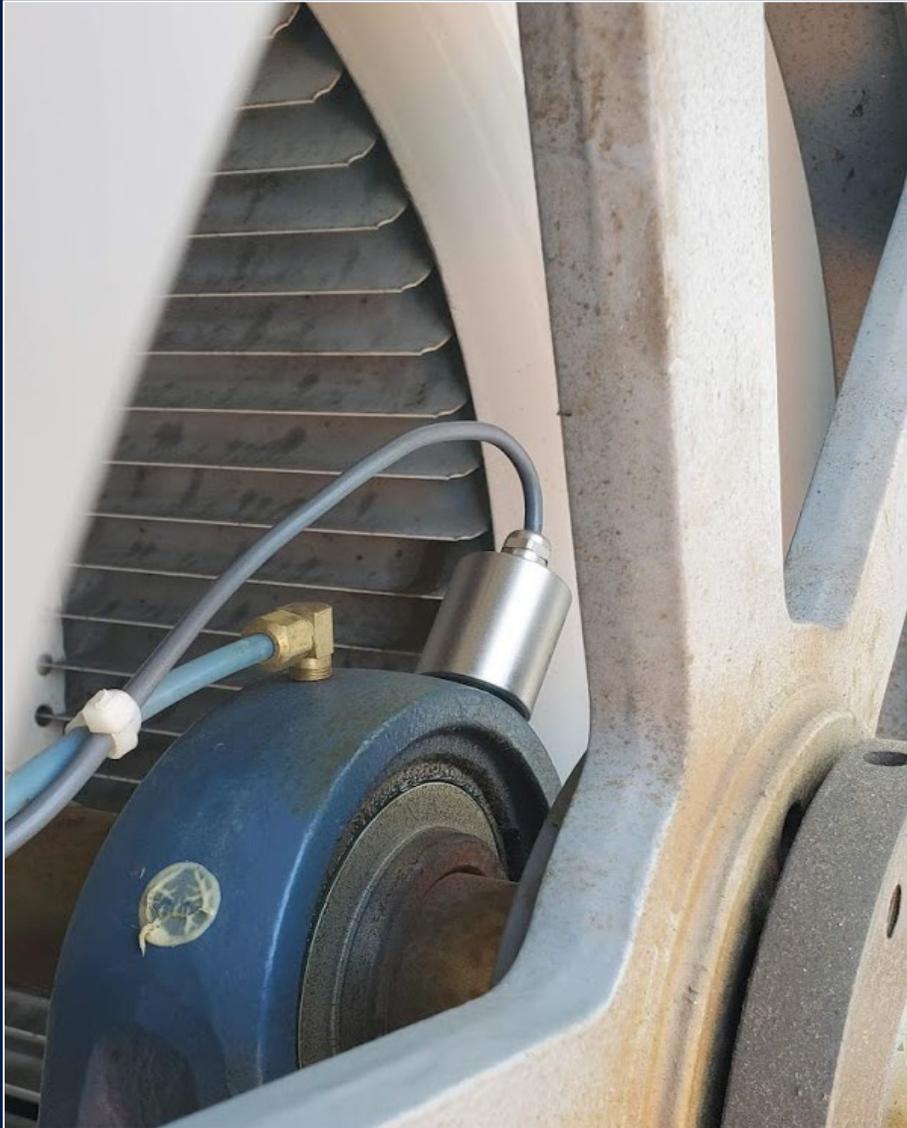


### CLOSE TO FAILURE

35dB above baseline  
means the asset is  
critical – **it is close  
to failure.**

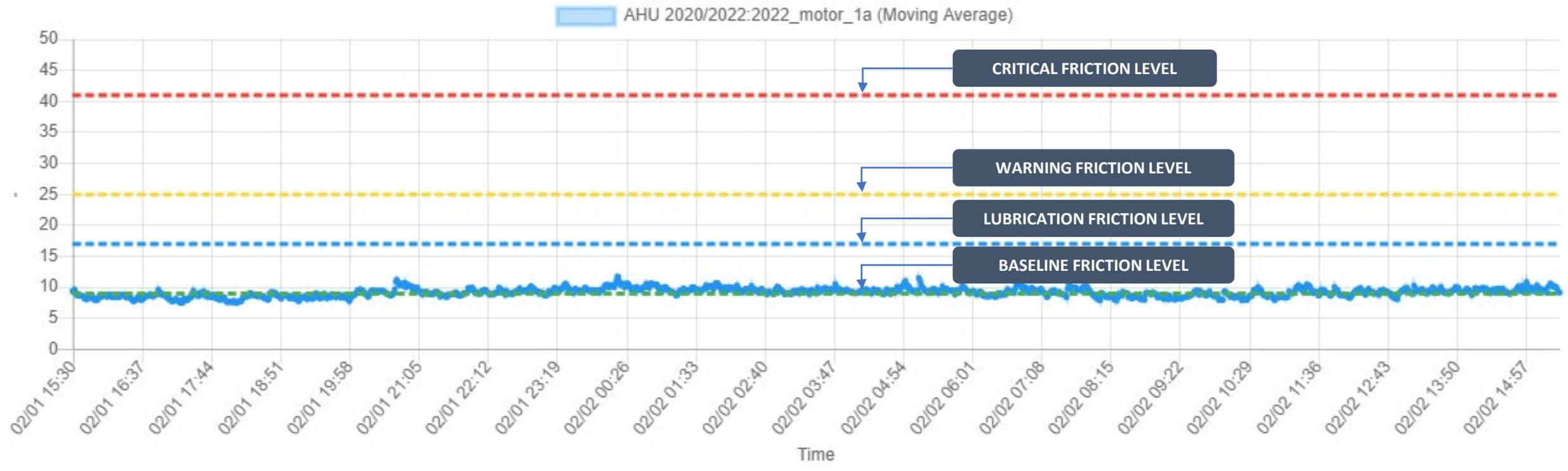
# HOW SIMPLE IT IS TO SEE BEARING INSIGHTS FROM FRICTION

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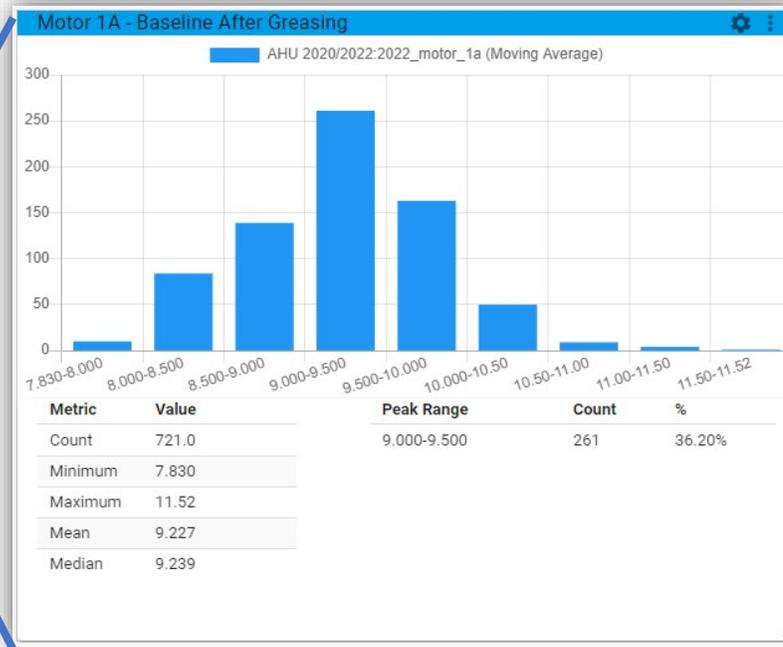
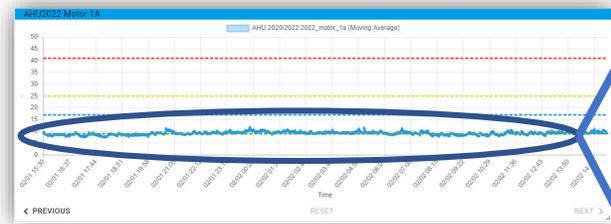


# FRICITION TREND IN A HEALTHY BEARING

AHU2022 Motor 1A



# FRICITION TREND IN A HEALTHY BEARING



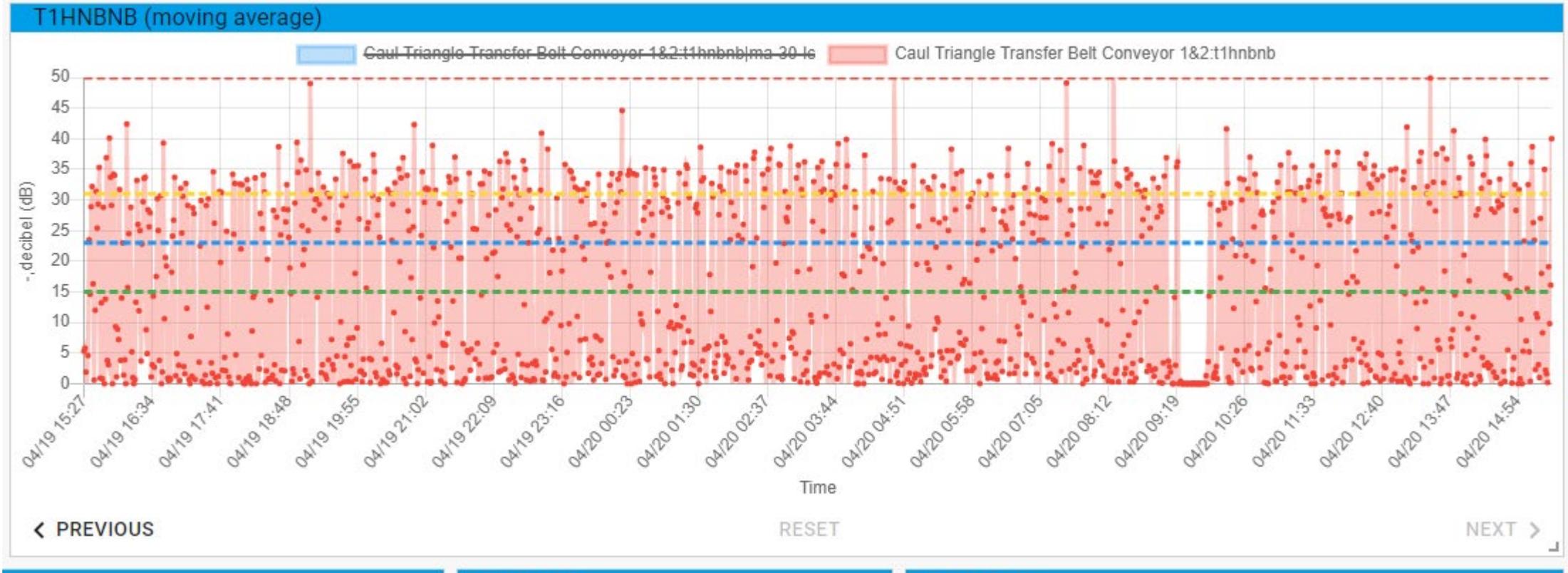
- **TRENDING NEAR THE BASELINE**
- **THROUGH ALL VARYING SPEEDS, THE FRICTION HAS A CONSISTENT CENTER POINT (AVERAGE)**
- **VALUES ARE NOT BOUNCING AROUND. (PEAK-TO-PEAK VALUES)**

**WAIT...**

**DOESN'T THE FRICTION CHANGE  
BASED ON VARYING SPEED  
CONDITIONS?**

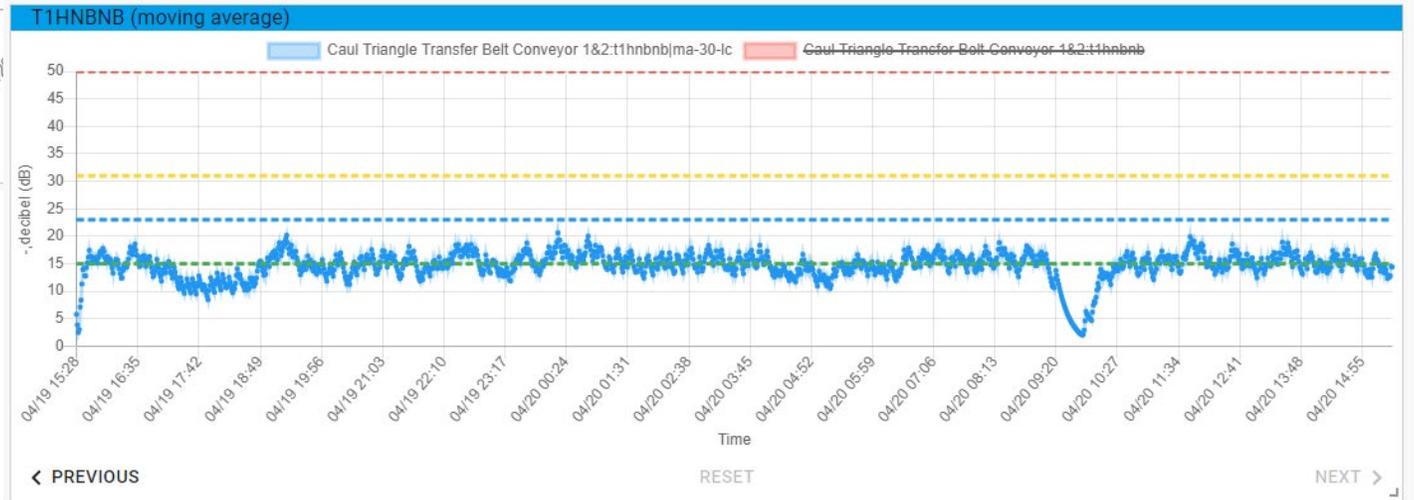
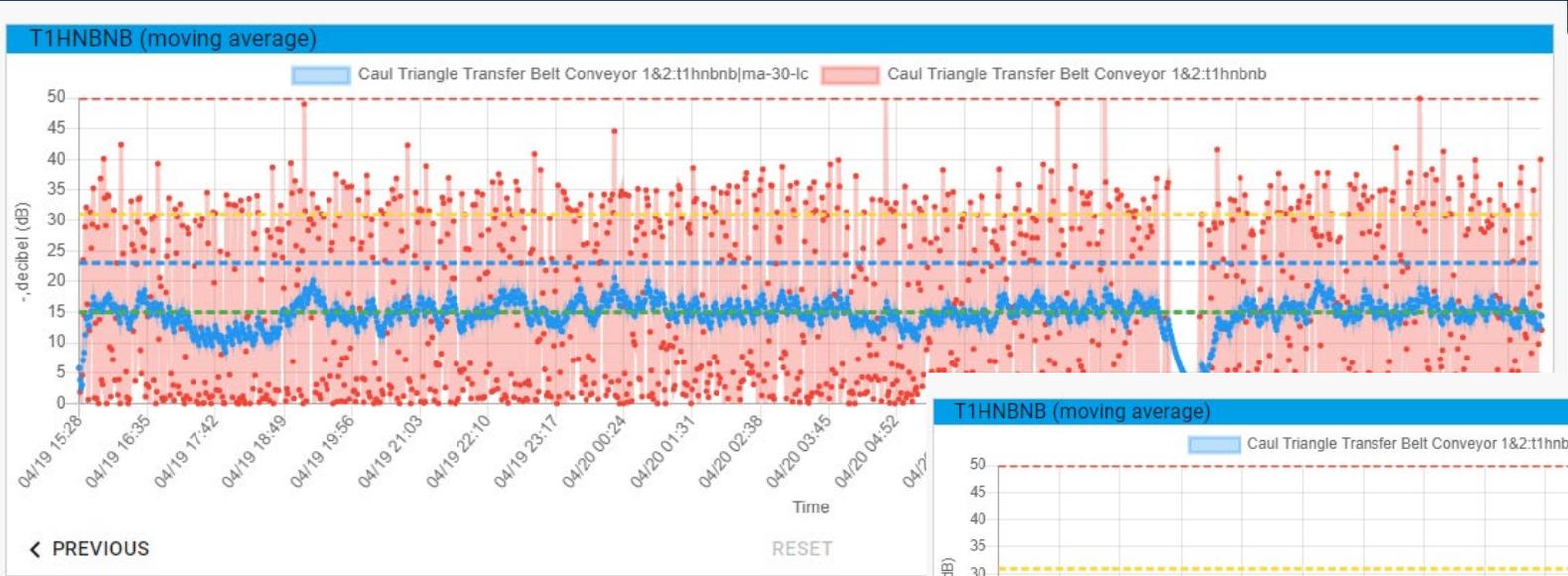
**NO, AND THIS IS WHAT IS GREAT ABOUT ULTRASOUND  
AND MONITORING FRICTION. IN A HEALTHY, PROPERLY  
LUBRICATED BEARING THE FRICTION SHOULD NOT  
CHANGE DRAMATICALLY. A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 2-  
3DB MAY BE SEEN DEPENDING ON THE SPEED  
CHANGE.**

# FRICITION TREND IN A EXTREME LOAD & DUTY BEARING



**○ RAW FRICTION VALES TAKEN EVERY ONE MINUTE**

# FRICITION TREND IN A EXTREME LOAD & DUTY BEARING



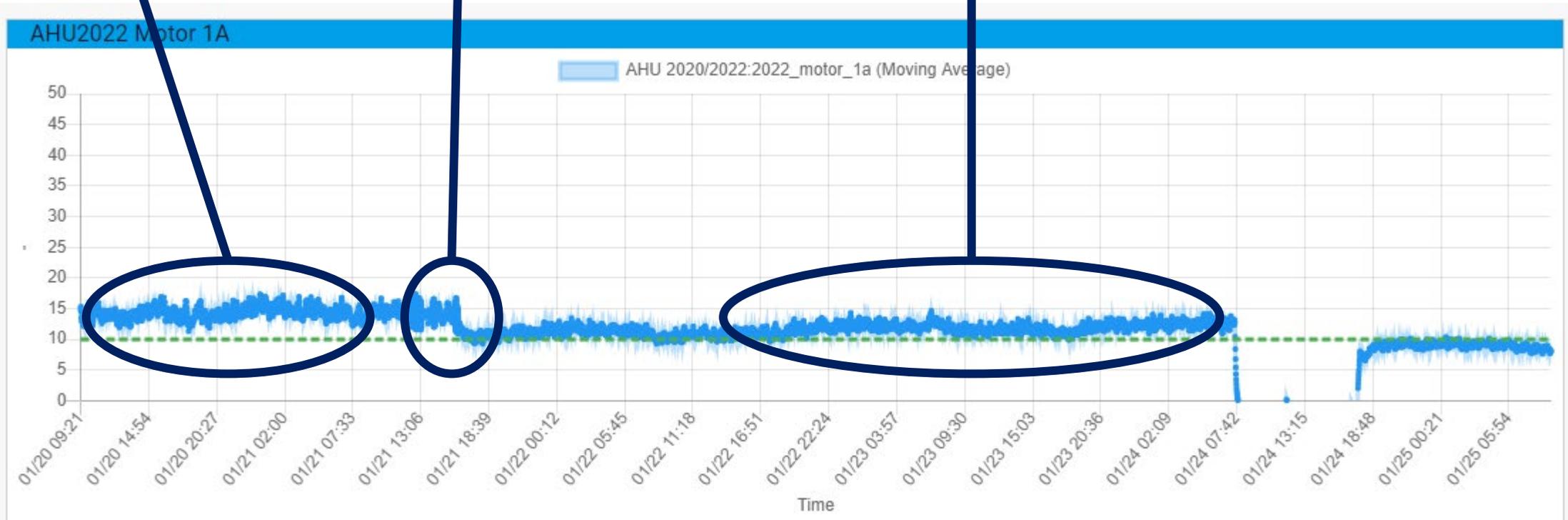
**○ RAW & MOVING AVERAGE FRICTION VALES TAKEN EVERY ONE MINUTE.**

# FRICITION TREND IN A UNDER LUBRICATED BEARING

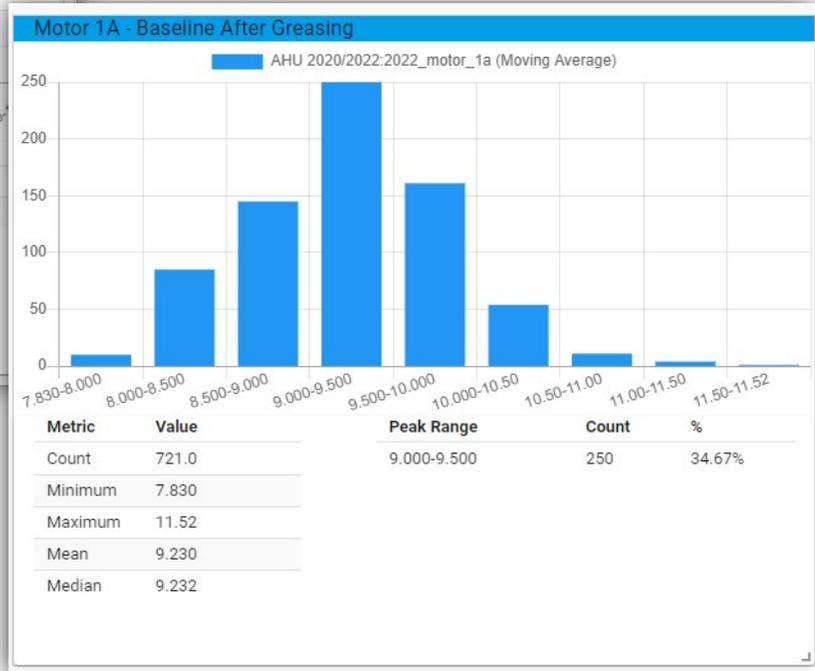
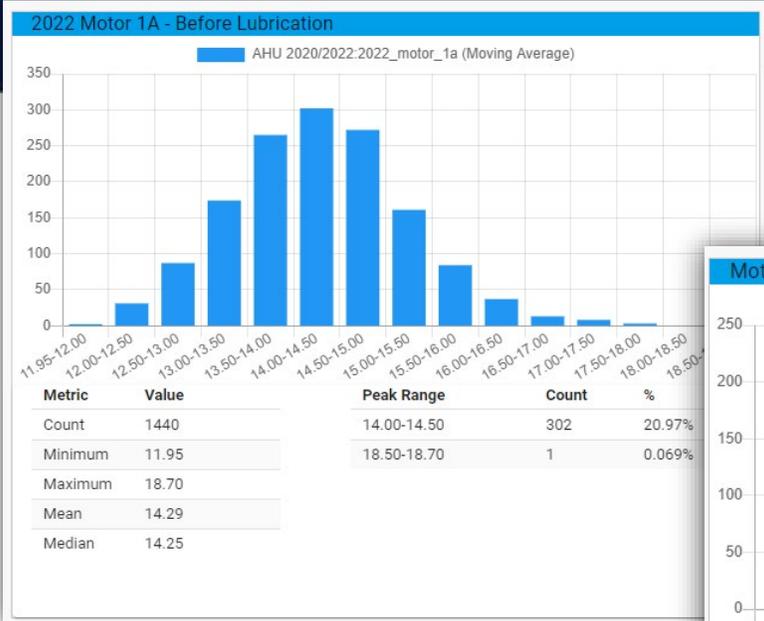
**Initial Friction:**  
Baseline = 14dB  
Peak-to-Peak = 6.75db

**Lubrication Added:**  
Amount of Grease = 15cc

**Friction After Lubrication**  
Baseline = 11dB  
Peak-to-Peak = 3db



# FRICITION TREND IN A UNDER LUBRICATED BEARING



- NOTICEABLE DECREASE IN FRICTION AFTER LUBRICATION
- NOTICEABLE DECREASE IN THE PEAK-TO-PEAK VALUES.
- NOTICEABLE CENTER POINT ON THE HISTOGRAM

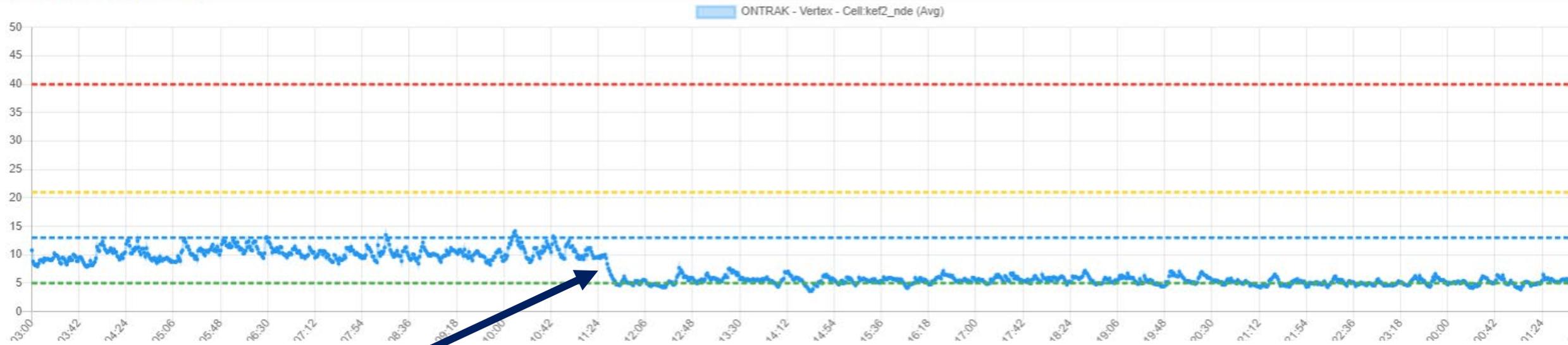
# FRICITION TREND IN A UNDER LUBRICATED BEARING



**NOTICEABLE DECREASE IN FRICTION AFTER LUBRICATION**

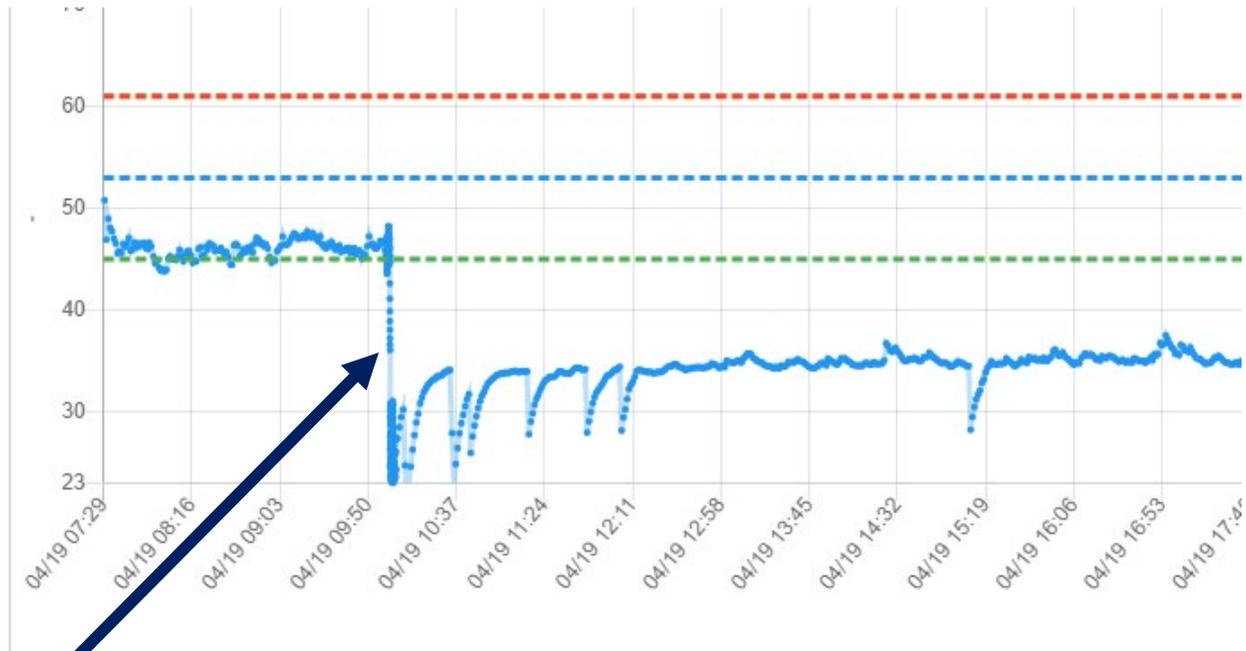
# FRICITION TREND IN A UNDER LUBRICATED BEARING

KEF2 NDE - MOVING AVERAGE



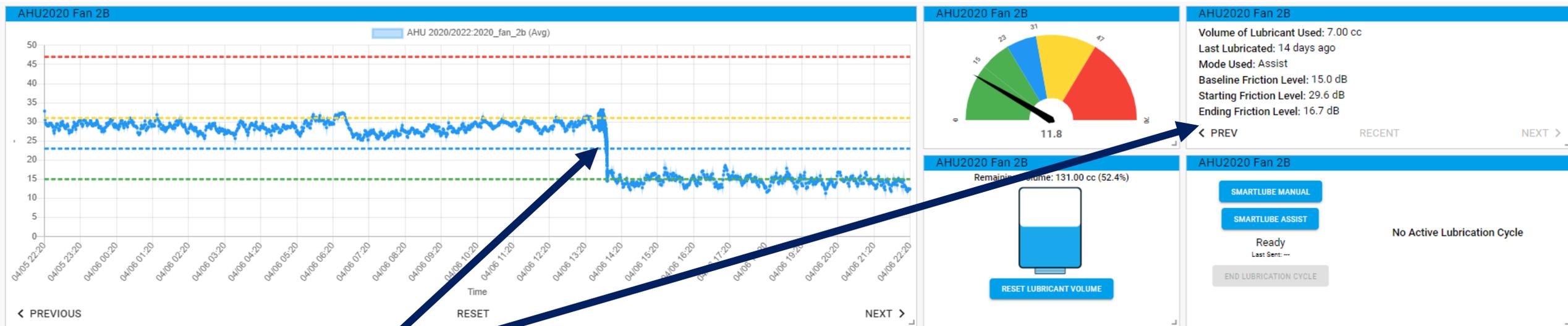
**NOTICEABLE DECREASE IN FRICTION AFTER LUBRICATION**

# FRICITION TREND IN A UNDER LUBRICATED BEARING



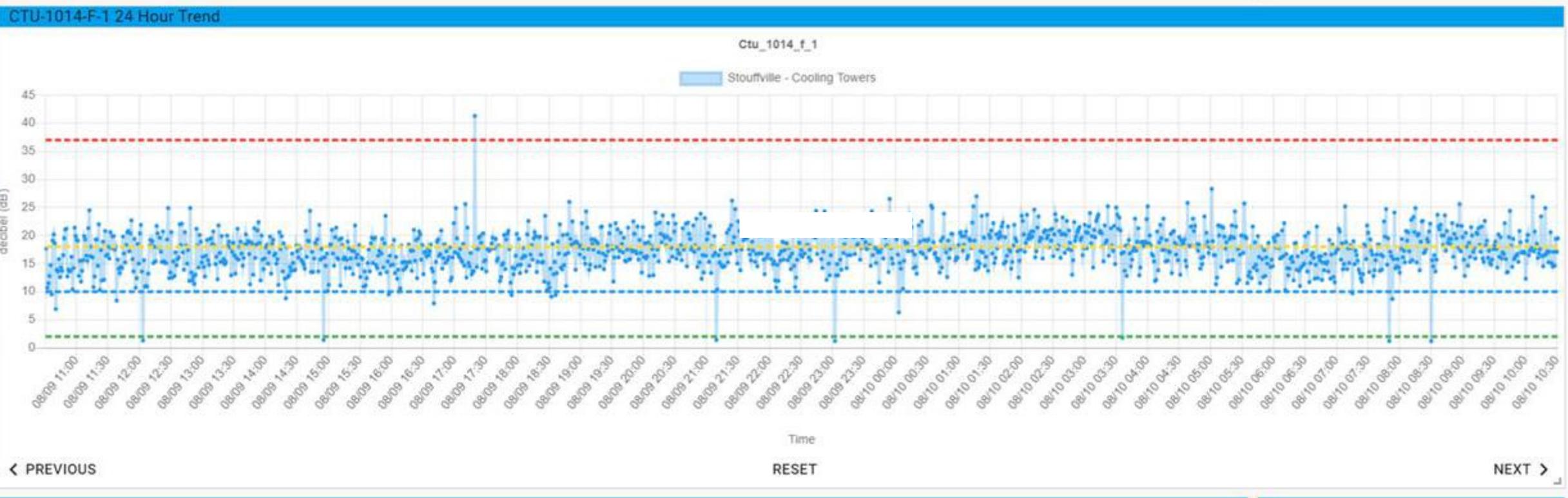
**NOTICEABLE DECREASE IN FRICTION AFTER LUBRICATION**

# FRICITION TREND IN A UNDER LUBRICATED BEARING



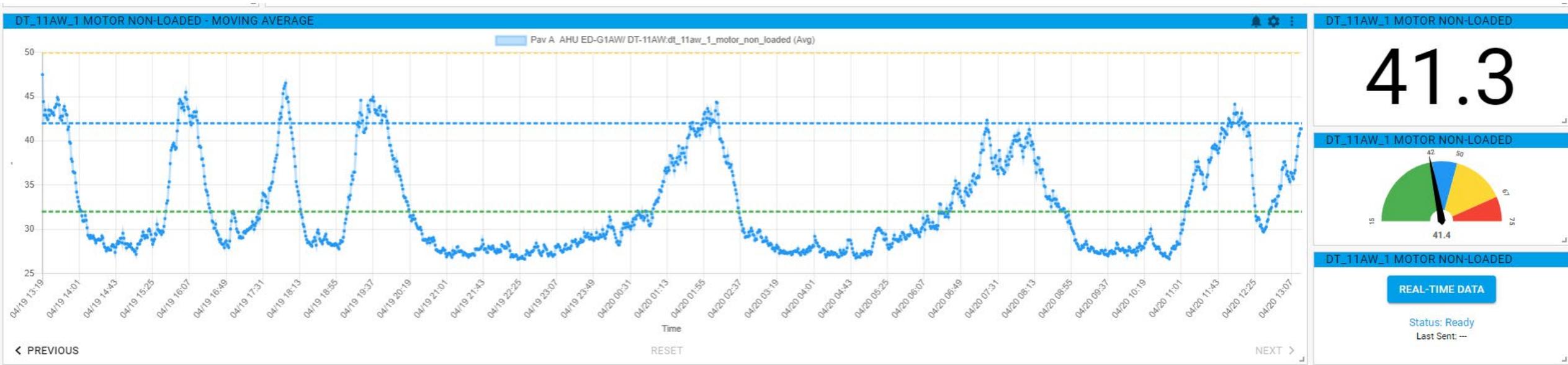
**NOTICEABLE DECREASE IN FRICTION AFTER LUBRICATION**

# FRICION TREND IN A BAD BEARING



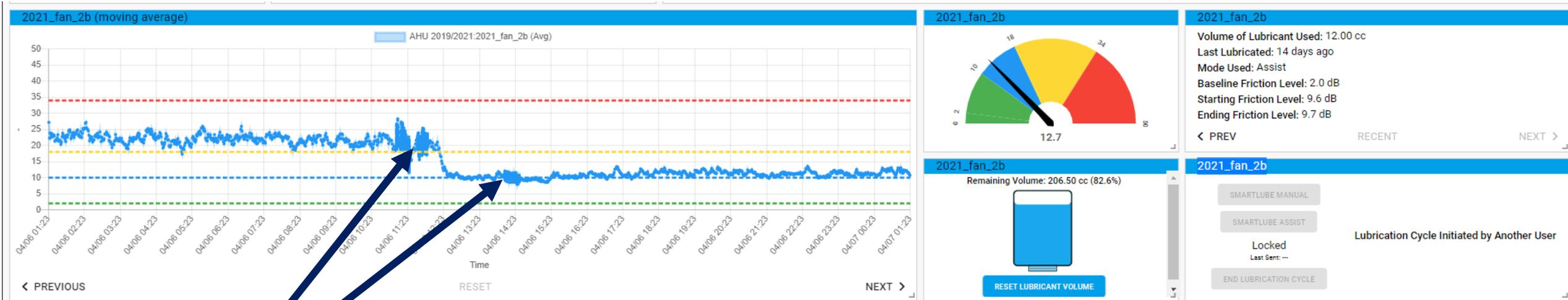
**○ NOTICEABLE IMPACTING IN THE BEARING**

# FRICION TREND IN A BAD BEARING



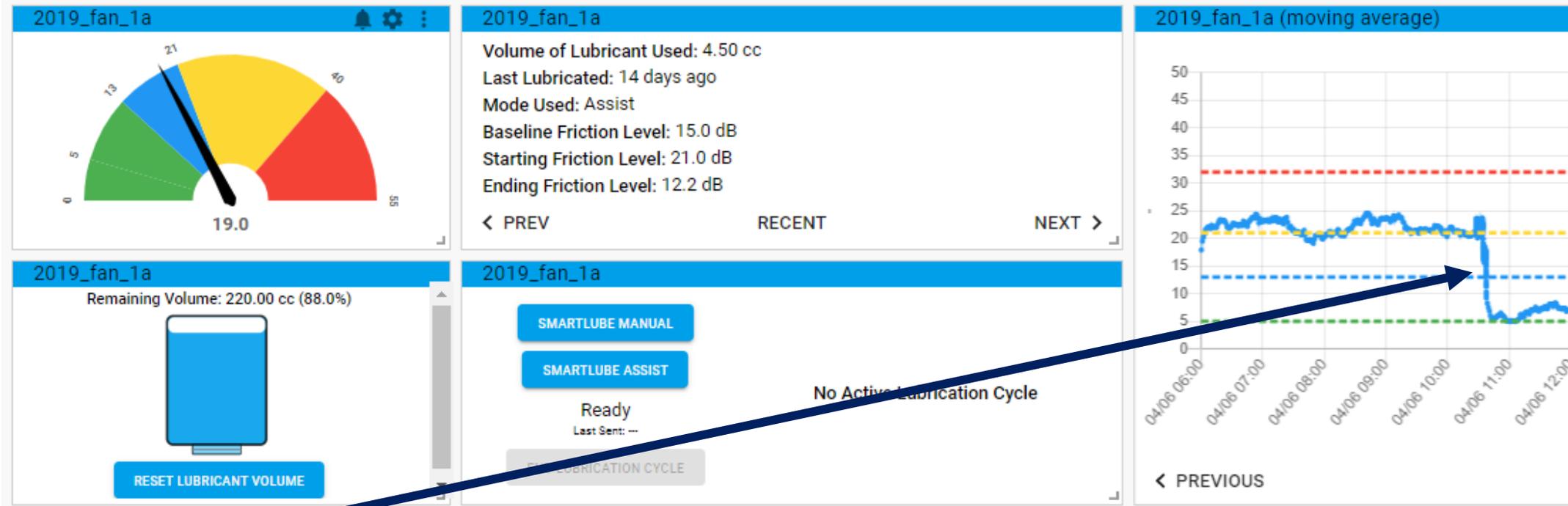
## FRICION TRACKING WITH THE VFD. INDICATION OF ANOMALY IN THE BEARING

# FRICITION TREND IN A BAD BEARING



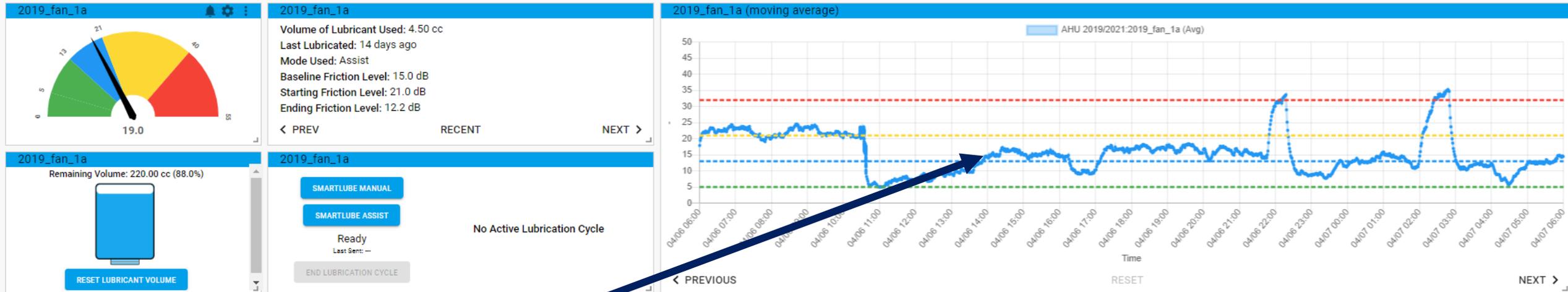
**WHILE THE FRICTION WAS REDUCED, IT COULD NOT BE RESTORED TO BASELINE. EITHER IMPROPER BASELINE OR DEFECT IN THE BEARING**

# FRICITION TREND IN A BAD BEARING



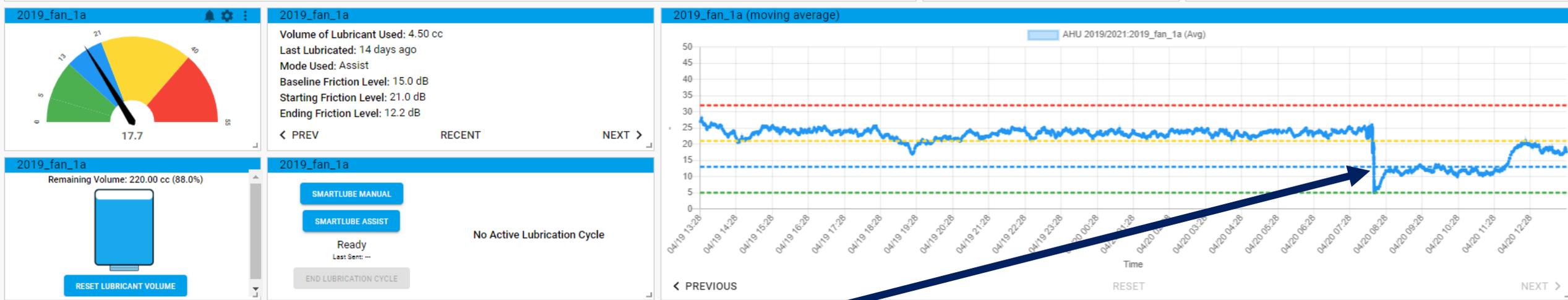
**THIS LOOKS LIKE A SUCCESSFUL LUBRICATION...BUT IS IT?**

# FRICITION TREND IN A BAD BEARING



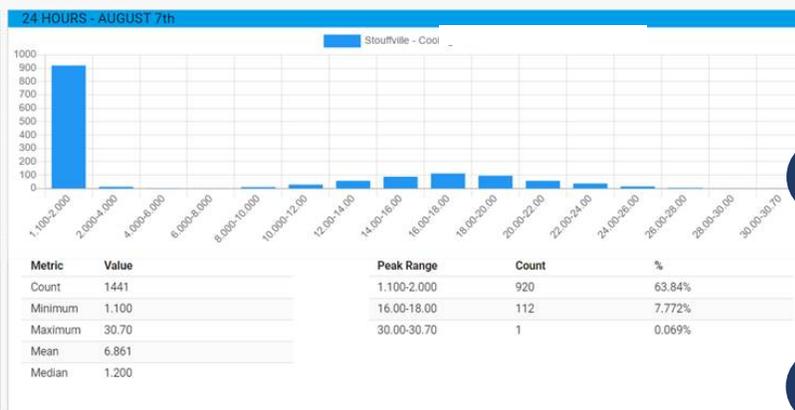
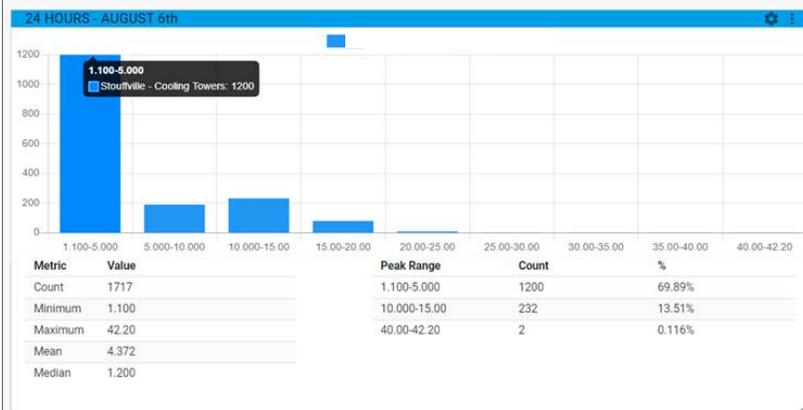
**WITHIN A FEW HOURS OF LUBRICATION, THE FRICTION WAS BACK UP!**

# FRICITION TREND IN A BAD BEARING



**○ EVEN AFTER MULTIPLE LUBRICATION CYCLES DAYS APART**

# FRICITION TREND IN A BAD BEARING



NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN FRICTION OVER 4 DAYS



NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN THE PEAK-TO-PEAK VALUES.

NO SINGLE POINT OF FRICTION LEVEL. BEARING IS BOUNCING AROUND

# HOW TO SET A FRICTION BASELINE

## COMPARISON

WHEN THERE IS MORE THAN ONE BEARING OF THE SAME TYPE, LOAD AND RPM, MULTIPLE BEARINGS CAN BE COMPARED.

EACH BEARING IS TRENDED AT THE SAME TEST POINT. THE DECIBEL LEVELS ARE COMPARED. IF THERE ARE NO SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES (LESS THAN EIGHT DB), A BASELINE DB LEVEL IS SET FOR EACH BEARING.

## SET WHILE LUBRICATING:

- APPLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF GREASE
- IF FRICTION IS **REDUCED**, CONTINUE LUBRICATING UNTIL FRICTION BEGINS TO RISE AND SET BASELINE
- IF FRICTION IS **INCREASED**, DISCONTINUE LUBRICATING. THE BEARING IS OVER GREASED AND THE BASELINE SHOULD BE SET LOWER THAN CURRENT READING
- IF FRICTION REMAINS **CONSTANT**, AND THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF IMPACTING, SET BASELINE AS IS

## HISTORICAL

BEARING DB LEVELS ARE OBTAINED FROM AN INITIAL SURVEY AND COMPARED 30 DAYS LATER.

IF THERE IS LITTLE (LESS THAN EIGHT DB) TO NO CHANGE IN DB, THEN THE BASELINE LEVELS ARE SET AND WILL BE USED FOR COMPARISON FOR SUBSEQUENT INSPECTIONS.

# BEARING LUBRICATION AND HEALTH MONITORING MADE EASY WITH FRICTION

1

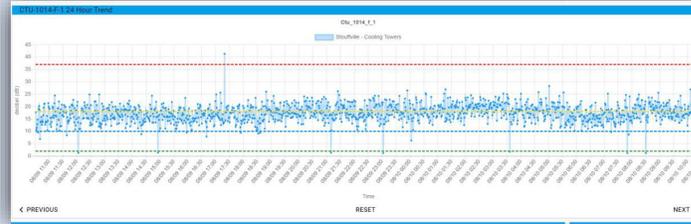
**LOOK FOR A  
CONSISTENT AVERAGE  
TREND VALUE**



**FRICION IS NOT IMPACTED BY  
SPEED. A HEALTHY WELL  
LUBRICATED BEARING WILL HAVE A  
STEADY FRICTION TREND.**

2

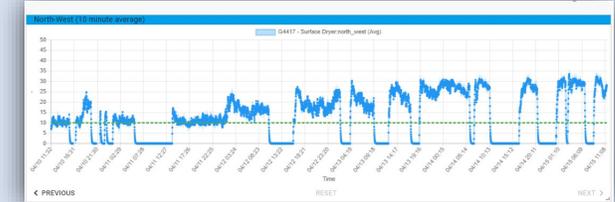
**LOOK FOR PEAKS AND  
VALLEYS LESS THAN 4  
DB IN AMPLITUDE**



**AN UNHEALTHY BEARING WILL  
HAVE FRICTION “BOUNCING”  
AROUND CAUSING LARGER PEAKS  
AND VALLEYS CAUSED BY  
IMPACTING**

3

**LOOK FOR INCREASE IN  
FRICION OVER 30  
DAYS**



**AN INCREASE IN FRICTION OVER  
TIME INDICATES THE BEARING IS  
NOT HEALTHY**

# QUESTIONS?

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## **BEST PRACTICE WEBINAR**

**Wednesday, May 5, 11 a.m. ET**

### **Thermography as a condition detective: The secret sauce to uptime**

Subject-matter expert Craig Haase provides a primer on thermography in maintenance and reliability and how it can powerfully unearth details surrounding your machines' condition and health. Haase will detail customer scenarios and use cases, highlighting how thermal imaging solutions can record, provide alarm notifications, and monitor assets 24/7 regardless of location. He will also discuss the turnkey options available as solutions to common but complicated plant applications.



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