Resolving High Vibration On a Vertical Pump

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Sankar Ganesh – Technical Leader, MENAT

Sankar is the Technical Leader for BHGE Bently Nevada Machinery Diagnostics Services in the MENAT region.

He received a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from Bharathidasan University, India, in 1993.

He has over 20 years experience in vibration field and 9 years with GE Bently Nevada, including rotating equipment balancing, vibration analysis, diagnostics and root cause analysis.

He has published case studies in METS and Turbomachinery symposium.

Mustafa Shalabi – Lead MD Engineer

Mustafa works as Lead Machinery Diagnostics Engineer in BHGE Bently Nevada company, Saudi Arabia since December, 2012.

He is a certified vibration analyst CAT III by Mobius Institute. Mustafa graduated in 2006 with B.Sc. degree in Mechanical Power Engineering from faculty of engineering, Alexandria university, Egypt. He has been working in vibration diagnostics of rotating equipment for over 10 years. He started his career in 2007 as a condition monitoring engineer for rotating equipment.

In addition to his work as machinery diagnostics engineer, Mustafa is working as a Machinery Diagnostics training instructor in Bently Nevada.
Abstract

There is a single stage vertical pump installed in Acetic Acid area in a petrochemical plant. The unit is vertical high pressure (HP) reactor feed pump (High speed single stage, 136 HP, 12338 rpm & 3.444 gear ratio) driven by induction motor through a flexible shim pack coupling.

High vibration levels were observed on the motor, pump and structure for more than 2 years with 1X dominant vibration (1X motor dominant frequency). Assuming that the issue is completely structural as this motor was running well in the past, there were some structural modifications have been carried out at site with inadequate engineering calculations. The modifications were welding a total mass of 220 lbs onto the structure and the installation of braces to the structure which did not yield any positive results. A systematic structural measurement along with the Operating Deflection Shape carried out at site with the help of experts did not reveal a significant issue with the structure itself except for the structural natural frequency being slightly closer to the running frequency of the motor. The timely right decision by the experts to carry out an onsite balancing on the motor, which was intended to remove the excitation force, yielded good results which exposed a mistake in the balancing activities carried out by a local vendor at work shop.

This case study is designed to outline how the high vibration issue was successfully diagnosed using various tests on site including the operating deflection shape, the root cause for the high vibration and finally how it was mitigated.
Machine Details

- The unit is vertical HP reactor feed pump
- Single stage, 136 HP, 12338 rpm & 3.444 gear ratio
- Driven by induction motor (353 HP, 3585 rpm, ball bearings)
- Flexible shim pack coupling
Problem Statement

- High vibration levels on the motor, pump and structure for more than 2 years (0.43 in/sec Peak at steady state)
  1X motor dominant vibration component.
- Bump test showed natural frequency at 43Hz
- Many trials were done by the End User to reduce the high vibration:
  - Total mass of 220lbs were added to the structure
  - Additional supporting braces
- Vibration levels remained as high as the original measurements
Data Analysis—Coupled Run

- High overall vibration levels with 1X motor dominant frequency
- Transient Start-Up / Shut-Down data showed that the unit is running well above the 2nd critical speed
- The highest amplitude while passing the 2\textsuperscript{nd} critical frequency (2.7 in/sec Peak)
Data Analysis– Coupled Run “cont’d”
Data Analysis – Coupled Run “cont’d”

1X Polar-MIB
Data Analysis—Solo Run

- High vibration at same locations as in coupled run
- High residual unbalance response on the motor while passing 2\textsuperscript{nd} critical frequency
- Bode & polar plots confirmed the residual unbalance response
# Data Analysis - Structural measurement

<table>
<thead>
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<th>mm/sec Peak</th>
<th>Coupled Run</th>
<th>Solo Run</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>1X&lt;sub&gt;motor&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
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<td>12.9</td>
<td>11.2</td>
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<td>Str#15</td>
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## Data Analysis - Structural measurement

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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
Data Analysis-Impact Test “Cont’d”

Point#5 showed natural frequency close to the running speed.

Other points showed natural frequency but away from the forcing frequencies.
Data Analysis - Coupled Run ODS (Operating Speed 59Hz)

Solo Run also showed the similar circular motion
Action Taken

- Balancing shot was done by adding total mass of 178 g on the motor coupling hub (2 bolts were attached to the hub).
- Significant decrease in vibration levels on the motor and structure.
- The required final balance shot was 210 g as per vector calculations (at this balance plane; hub).
- There is no access to add final balance weights on the hub.
- It was decided to check the motor cooling fan as a balance plane in order to examine motor response to weights at NDE side.
Weights Added on the Coupling Hub

Red: After
Blue: Before
Action Taken-Cont’d

Coupled Run

Red: After
Blue: Before
Action Taken-Cont’d

Coupled Run

Red: After

Blue: Before
Post Analysis - ODS after balancing at 59Hz

Twisting Motion
Conclusion & Recommendations

- The extremely high vibration levels on the motor, pump and structure -mainly due to motor rotor residual unbalance.
- ODS showed circular motion due to unbalance response.
- In-situ balancing reduced vibration levels to acceptable values.
- After balancing, the twisting motion remained due to the natural frequency of 55 Hz.
- Structure design to be reviewed with the OEM to shift the natural frequency above 20% operating speed.
Lessons Learned

- Extensive measurement and detailed analysis in the field helped to identify the root cause quickly - substantially reduces the duration of unplanned downtime.
- Workshop balancing to be done competently to avoid unnecessary balancing exercise
- A verification of vibration levels at workshop would have avoided downtime and time for troubleshooting exercise in the field.
Thank You