15 years of success for Leitner drive solutions

Unrivaled expertise in drive technology

A perfect match between two state-of-the-art systems: The LEITNER DirectDrive gearless drive system and the LeitDrive frequency converter set new standards when it comes to sustainability, reliability, and environmental awareness. What's more, these two solutions – both developed by LEITNER ropeways – have already been impressing scores of customers across the globe for years. LEITNER's drive technologies are built on a unique drive system, outstanding experience, and unrivaled expertise. The LEITNER DirectDrive has been an unparalleled success story for 15 years, ensuring exceptional efficiency in 55 ropeways and more than 310 wind turbines across 22 countries. This efficient gearless drive system was developed by LEITNER and pairs up perfectly with the LeitDrive frequency converter to offer a high-performance concept that is second to none.

Proven, efficient drive technology

The LEITNER DirectDrive works using a synchronous motor that is directly linked to the sheave. It consists of three moving parts – the rotor and two bearings. In contrast to conventional planetary gear drive systems, absolutely no engine oil is required. Since the LEITNER DirectDrive comprises fewer parts and has a lower rotational speed, wear and the risk of breakdown are significantly reduced. In addition to better reliability, another impressive feature of the LEITNER DirectDrive is its considerably lower noise levels. The efficient drive system is complemented by the LeitDrive frequency converter. The perfect alignment between the engine and the frequency converter guarantees a high degree of overall efficiency and a drive motor that runs both effectively and economically in all load ranges. Practical, energy-efficient synergies are achieved by using waste heat from the liquid cooling system to provide heating or hot water. The drive system from LEITNER ropeways has already been installed in a variety of well-known ski resorts, including Kitzbühel, Laax, Zermatt, and Jasna, as well as Špindlerův Mlýn in the Czech Republic, which is run by Tatra Mountain Resorts. In 2015 alone, 16 new installations were equipped with the DirectDrive system.

Thanks to its low noise emissions, the DirectDrive is also making an impressive impact in urban environments, such as in Mexico City and Ankara.

In-house development and production means a high level of expertise

LEITNER ropeways currently boasts 55 reference projects, spread across 22 countries, that are successfully using the DirectDrive system. One of the key advantages of this drive system is that it is produced in-house. Clients therefore benefit from the experience built up by the DirectDrive development team over the past 15 years or so and the unique know-how that goes into LEITNER drive solutions.

This technology, developed for ropeways, formed the basis for LEITNER's first wind turbine, which was built in 2003. While in the ropeway the direct drive system moves the sheave with the help of electricity, in the turbine it produces electrical energy from the wind. Technicians from LEITWIND have designed numerous air- and water-cooled generators and a torque of 200 to 2,300 kN. These generators are already in use in 310 wind turbines.

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