



# Good vibrations

Sanjay Risbood, CEO at Getzner India, is keen that Indian infrastructure companies understand the importance of structure-borne vibrations

INTERVIEWED BY JAYASHREE MENDES

**You have two main products – Sylomer and Sylodyn – that are elastic products for vibration isolation. Could you explain their benefits and use? Explain the MPE performance too.**

Sylomer and Sylodyn are elastomers whose elastic properties are prominent and retained for a long period of time. Hence they can be applied for equipment directly below their legs or below their foundation blocks. Long term performance and the simplicity of the installation are the highlights of Getzner's solution. The solution can be adapted to any construction methodology for the

equipment and the site conditions. This saves time and costs involved for adoption of a vibration isolation system.

**As a manufacturer, how do you design and mass produce products and materials specifically tailored to meet the customer's needs?**

We have our own state-of-the-art manufacturing facility located in Burs Austria where they manufacture standard and tailor-made products. We can manufacture variety of grades of Sylomer and Sylodyn with specific stiffness. With the availability of materials with different

stiffness and the ability to vary the area and thickness of the pads, Getzner can tune their isolation solutions to the desired natural frequency as per the need of the application.

**You are known to consistently make technological breakthroughs that improve safety and service. Could you provide us with a recent example?**

Fire protection and sustainability is increasingly gaining in importance in the construction, industrial and railway segments. The demand for vibration-isolating solutions is on the increase, as

is the demand for fire-retardant materials throughout the world. In response to these requirements, Getzner has developed a range of fire retardant materials for a variety of different applications under the name Sylomer-FR. The introduction of Sylomer FR grade makes it possible to combine effective and reliable vibration protection with fire protection, which is a major advantage. Sylomer FR meets a number of international fire protection standards, therefore providing constant protection against vibrations in areas at a risk of fire.

Example: Fire safety norms are more stringent for rail coaches. Getzner's Sylomer-FR grades pass all the safety norms with DIN5510-2 or the new European standard EN 45545-2.

#### **Getzner successfully installed vibration isolation system (VIS) at Essar Power. What was the scope of works?**

The scope of work in Essar Power Project was to design, supply and installation supervision of the VIS for the motor boiler feed pump (MDBFP) foundations and the fan foundations in the Essar power plants. We installed its vibration isolation system to isolate the MDBFP foundations as well as the seal air fan (SAF) foundations. At the 1,200 MW Salaya plant in Gujarat, engineers faced the problem that the deep-seated block foundations of the pump are located very near to structural columns of the turbine generator building. The requirement was to avoid the transfer of vibrations from MDBFP and SAF foundations to nearby structures.

#### **What are some of the vibration isolators used in construction applications? How do they work?**

Elastomers, air springs and steel springs are the conventionally used vibration isolators. Elastomers are good when natural frequency is needed to be above 5Hz and air springs or steel spring are good for low frequencies of 2-3Hz. Principally all the isolators work on the same phenomenon of elasticity (spring stiffness) and mechanical loss factor (damping coefficient). Every isolation system is a combination of stiffness and damping coefficient. So depending on the requirement of the equipment a VIS with specific property is designed to serve the isolation or damping purpose.



**Installation of the green Sylomer layer at the Salaya plant in Gujarat. The structural column of the turbine generator building is near the VIS (left).**



“Sylomer FR grade makes it possible to combine effective vibration protection with fire protection, which is an advantage. Sylomer FR meets several international fire protection standards.”

**Sanjay Risbood, CEO at Getzner India**

#### **What, according to you, is Getzner's USP?**

Design and construction simplicity, maintenance-free operation and long life expectancy exceeding 40 years.

#### **Do you have different solutions for different regions? If yes, could you point out some differences?**

We do not have solutions based on regions. But we do have solutions based on different applications. Like isolation directly beneath the equipment or isolation below the foundation block of the equipment, etc.

#### **What is happening on the R&D front in India?**

The Indian office takes care of the marketing, sales and support for Indian customers. The R&D happens at our headquarters in Austria.

#### **What are some of the challenges moving forward?**

Our applications are mostly used in the infrastructure industry like urban railways, mainline railways, power, steel and cement. The challenge of moving forward is the performance of the infrastructure industry in India. ☐