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Editor

Steve Sabin

Design & Production Coordination

Earl Stewart

Design

Gina Massa

James Wyanski

Graphics

Dan Connor

Wei Zhang

Michael Digioseppe

Circulation

Karen Schanhals

Printer

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Questions, suggestions, and letters to the
editor may be addressed to:

ORBIT Magazine
1631 Bently Parkway South
Minden, Nevada USA 89423
Phone: 775.782.3611
Fax: 775.215.2864
e-mail: orbit@ge.com

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to our second issue of ORBIT for 2006. In my last note to you back in March, I suggested that we'd be supplementing the condition monitoring content of ORBIT with articles that discussed the broader topic of reliability. As I'm sure you noticed from the cover, we've done just that in this issue. MRG's Bob DiStefano and GE's Larry Covino have teamed up to write a very informative article on what reliability is and why it can be so powerful in transforming the operating results of a business.

You'll also find a closely related article that was submitted to us by E.ON Benelux, chronicling their reliability journey over the last 25 years. A significant part of that journey was migration from primarily time- and usage-based maintenance strategies to condition-based strategies. Although condition-based maintenance is merely one facet of an overall reliability program, it is a vital one and the article provides an excellent overview of not only the thought processes used in making the change, but the results E.ON has achieved along the way.

We round out the issue with several application articles that you'll likely find relevant. The first deals with the well-known rotor dynamic relationship between stiffness (k), mass (m), and the effect this has on a rotor's characteristic vibration frequency. John Winterton, one of our long-time machinery diagnostic engineers, contributed the article based on a recent job he completed for a customer where this principle was used to both diagnose and correct a problem. For our many readers interested in another condition monitoring technology—lubricant analysis—we're pleased to present part 2 of an article that appeared in our July 2005 issue of ORBIT titled "Oil Analysis 101." The contributor for the article is Dan Walsh of National Tribology Services, who has extensive experience in this field and is well qualified to comment on the practical aspects of establishing and sustaining a successful lubricant analysis program as part of your condition monitoring activities.

Finally, you'll find a case history from one of our customers in Canada, Inco Ltd. It summarizes their experiences with vibration monitoring on some of their critical mining equipment. The article underscores an important aspect of condition monitoring that we can never repeat too often: the need for dynamic and transient data, not just static trend data.

