GEM® CASE STUDY

Pulp & Paper

**GEM® Traps Retrofitted for Paper Mill**

The paper mill is no longer suffering from interrupted production output caused by repeating mechanical trap failure. The paper mill has been in production since April 1989 and produces high quality Light Weight Coated paper (LWC) for use mainly in the magazine publishing and catalogue business.

Prior to 1997, the plant’s High Temperature Treatment (HTT) system was suffering from the drop in heat output caused by mechanical traps which failed to close. Subsequently, the plant development engineer replaced the thermostatic mechanical traps with Thermal Energy International’s GEM Steam Traps and monitored their performance. “For over two years now we have had no failure problems on the HTT system,” reported the engineer, “and we are very happy with their reliability.”

In 1998, problems of water logging and water hammer were continuously troubling the paper mill, along with insufficient heat output from the auxiliary heat recovery heat exchanger which was fitted with conventional 100mm float steam traps. As such, the paper mill replaced the float traps and pumps with four 25mm GEM Traps. “We have had no water hammer problems,” said the plant development engineer. “The performance of the heat exchanger has always been monitored, and since the GEM Traps were fitted there has been no lack of output.”

Following the success of the previous installations, the paper mill implemented a progressive retrofit of all remaining mechanical traps with GEM Steam Traps.

**BENEFITS**

- Cessation of insufficient heat output
- Elimination of water hammer
- Minimisation of water logging issues
- Improved production
- Facility-wide conversion to GEM Traps based on proven performance