

THERMASPRAY

Protect performance critical surfaces with Thermal Spray coating solutions for improved pump efficiencies

The application of Thermaspray's protective thermal spray coatings reduce degradation processes on performance-critical pump components to extend operating life and improve pump efficiencies for optimised uptime and increased production.

Pumps are essential in many industries including mining, petro-chemical, and power generation. As pumps normally operate in extremely stringent and corrosive environments, they are subject to degradation processes such as mechanical wear, corrosion and cavitation which attack the performance critical surfaces in pumps, leading to increased vibrations, a reduction in service life and a continuous decline in throughput and pump efficiency.

Over the last decade there have been significant technological advancements in the field of thermal spray coating technology with new coating materials and spray processes that significantly outperform the more traditional coatings. Thermal spray refers to a coating process where the coating is produced by the projection of a molten stream of particles onto a surface. "Thermal spray is a collection of techniques which include HVOF (High Velocity Oxygen Fuel (figure 1)), plasma, flame spray, arc spray, amongst others, used to apply materials to substrates," explains Paul Young, Spray Shop Manager at Thermaspray. "These techniques can be applied in any industry where there are surfaces suffering decay."

Thermaspray (PTY) Ltd
Tel: +27 11 316 6520
Fax: +27 11 316 7527
Email: info@thermaspray.co.za
Website: www.thermaspray.co.za

Physical Address:
3 Axle Drive
Cnr Axle Drive & Hammer Rd
Clayville, Extension 11
Olifantsfontein
South Africa

Postal Address:
PO Box 1152
Olifantsfontein
1665



JOINT VENTURE:



Figure 1: Pump casing - thermally sprayed with the HVOF process

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“The manufacture of critical components from optimal wear and corrosion resistant materials are often restricted by cost considerations, so most of the work that we do is on new pump parts for key Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) customers but refurbishment is possible on parts that suffered limited damage,” explain Young. We have the necessary experience and capabilities to produce the final product, new or refurbished, to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM’s) specifications.”

New uncoated parts such as impellers (figure 2), rings diffusers, casing rings and shafts, are normally received from the OEMs in a disassembled state. Once Thermaspray has applied the relevant coatings, the parts are returned to the OEMs for re-assembly. The application of protective coatings to OEM parts offers substantial cost saving benefits to end-users. Coated OEM performance critical parts can be refurbished and re-used whereas uncoated OEM parts are normally so badly damaged that refurbishment is impossible. “Coating of OEM parts often assists in assembly as parts are easier to slide on and off.”

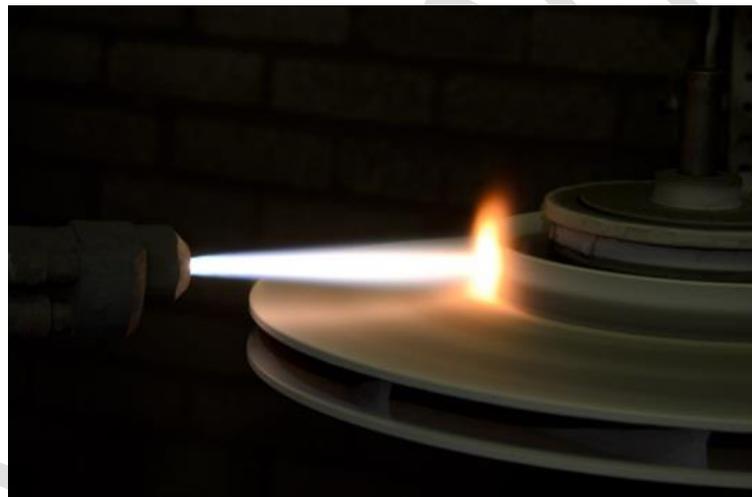


Figure 2: Pump impeller - thermally sprayed with the HVOF process

Young also points out minor faults can occur on component surfaces during the manufacturing process. “Coating these defective parts is a faster and much more affordable repair process compared to the alternative of scrapping and manufacturing a new part. We have the capabilities to take a new part back to what it should be. We can also assist with bringing an undersized part back to size.”

According to Young, Thermaspray is able to refurbish worn parts that have not been too badly damaged by corrosion, erosion and wear caused by rust, acid, salt water, etc. “As these parts are uncoated, we first have to remove the damage – dents or corroded areas - before applying the thermal spray coatings” says Young. The removal of the coating

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material through a grinding or grit blasting process and reapplying the coating can extend both the pump and the coated part's service life by up to three times. By increasing MTBF (Mean Time Between Failure) the extension of the replacement period will lead to substantial savings on replacement costs and keep downtime to a minimum. "Furthermore, refurbishment of a used pump can deliver savings of between 45 and 65% of the cost of a new pump," conclude Young.

Thermaspray, in a joint venture with Cape Town-based Surcotec, offers an extensive portfolio of engineering and thermal spray coating solutions that extend component life cycles to assist OEM and end-user clients across southern Africa in reducing costs and down time thus increasing production. The companies' world-class quality wear- and corrosion-resistant thermal spray coatings, Plasma Transferred Arc (PTA) cladding and Polymer coatings (in partnership with Plasma Coatings USA and Diamant Metalplastic Germany) are augmented by a host of specialised allied services.

About Thermaspray

Thermaspray, headquartered in Olifantsfontein, Johannesburg, has close to 20 years' experience in wear- and corrosion-resistant thermal spray coatings. In addition to providing a comprehensive range of support coating finishing technologies in the bespoke finishing shop, Thermaspray also refurbishes industrial components damaged by wear and corrosion. The company's in-house, metallurgical laboratory is the only dedicated facility of its kind in Africa's thermal spray industry and is equipped to undertake world-class developments and quality control. Thermaspray is a DQS ISO 9001 Quality Management and Eskom level 1 certified company.

About Surcotec

Surcotec is the oldest established thermal spray coating company in the Western Cape. The company has a wealth of experience in thermal spray coatings and mechanical component refurbishing. Surcotec's coating services are supported by a fully equipped engineering workshop and an on-site machining division. A level 1 B-BBEE company, Surcotec is TNV ISO 9001 Quality Management certified and is certified as a level 2 nuclear supplier to Eskom.

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