



grindex

Case study:

Pumps for new housing in Stockholm, Sweden

Grindex new series of dewatering pumps are designed to last three times longer in abrasive applications compared to previous pump generations. In this case study from Sweden, they are up for a tough test.

One of the critical factors for the building of 3,000 new homes within a few years are the seven submersible dewatering pumps from Grindex installed deep in the bedrock below south Stockholm. These are keeping the Skanstull-Solberga high voltage cable tunnel dry.

We are working with five parallel fronts at the moment, this enabling us to maintain a pace of around 80 to 100 metres per week, explains Peter Ahlgren at the construction company Oden Anläggningsentreprenad. Peter is the blasting supervisor for the new high voltage cable tunnel.

Room for more residents

The tunnel is one of a number of major construction projects in progress around Stockholm. Ten kilometres of 220 kV high voltage cable cutting straight through residential areas will now be replaced with cables laid through the new tunnel. This will provide sufficient attractive land near Stockholm city for some 3,000 new homes.

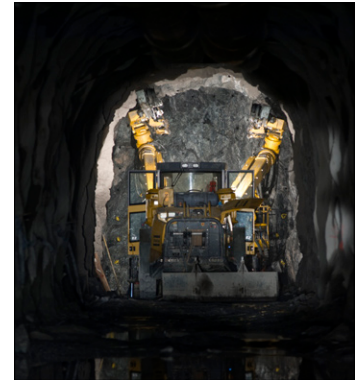
Pump breakdown is not an option

Two of the five tunnel fronts are blasted from the middle outwards and accessed via a subterranean transport tunnel. Work on both fronts takes place in turns, blasting on one while clearing away the rubble on the other. During our visit at the west front, two men are working beside a drilling rig. Drilling has just stopped and some 65 pieces of four metre deep holes covering an area of 20 m² are being filled with explosive. The rock is granite with seams of diabase, a very hard stone. Wear on the drill bits is harsh and the drills need large quantities of cooling water. After cooling the drills, the water runs down to the tunnel floor. Reliable pumps are needed to keep operations going, these having to operate continuously to keep the water out. A breakdown would have immediate and serious consequences.

Without reliable pumps we can't work and the project would be immediately and adversely affected. It is very important for the pumps to work properly if we are to keep up to the schedule, continues Peter Ahlgren. We need to pump out 300 litres of water every minute when we're drilling. It's 50 metres to the surface, so the pumps need to stand up to a good deal of strain, but so far they have functioned well and we are working according to plan.

Put to the test

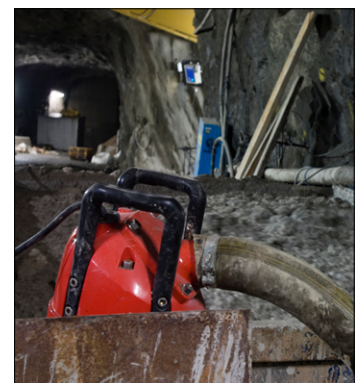
Wear and tear on the pumps is considerable. The water near the drilling rig is full of drill cuttings. The effect this has can be compared to liquid sandpaper which rubs constantly on the internal parts of the pumps.



Behind the drilling rig are explosives filled in the drilled holes.



Peter Ahlgren is the blasting supervisor for the tunnel project



A Major pump in a sedimentation tank

