

## SMURFIT WESTROCK & SKF: ACCELERATING SUSTAINABILITY AND RELIABILITY IN THE NETHERLANDS



**Smurfit Westrock's commitment to a circular economy is more than a principle- it's a proven practice. For example, at their Roermond mill, they transform recovered paper into new packaging solutions, closing the loop and reducing waste.**

**For years, Smurfit Westrock's Dutch paper mills 'Roermond Papier' and 'Parencu Renkum' sites worked closely with SKF to keep their operations running smoothly, with a focus on remanufacturing large bearings that are critical to their production.**

The relationship between Smurfit Westrock and SKF is built on trust and agility. At Roermond Papier, the process begins when new and remanufactured bearings are sent with the rolls to the repair shop. Once the old bearings are removed, they are packed up and sent back to Roermond. Smurfit then invites SKF to perform a pre-inspection to determine whether remanufacturing is possible. If so, SKF organizes next-day transport from Roermond to our Circular Solution Centre in Gothenburg, Sweden. Within three weeks, the customer receives an offer from SKF, and just four weeks after placing the order, the remanufactured bearings are back on site, ready for use!

This close collaboration means that SKF visits Smurfit Westrock Roermond Papier about three times a year, remanufacturing around 30 large-size bearings annually. The benefits are clear: a significant reduction in bearing consumption costs, guaranteed availability of bearings at any time, and substantial savings in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. *"Remanufacturing 30 large size bearings a year is not just good for our bottom line - it's good for the environment"* shares the manager maintenance at Roermond Papier.



At Smurfit Westrock Parenco Renkum, the story is similar but with its own unique challenges. For many years, Smurfit Westrock has sent bearings to SKF for remanufacturing. Sometimes SKF performs the pre-inspection, and sometimes Smurfit Westrock does it themselves. The partnership is so strong that, from time to time, Smurfit Westrock asks SKF to speed up the remanufacturing process. Last year, when Parenco Renkum faced a planned stop, they needed a transfer roll bearing remanufactured in just one week! Thanks to the close relationship, SKF delivered.

Beyond remanufacturing, SKF provides a range of additional services to Smurfit Westrock. “We supply bearings and seals, maintain condition monitoring and oil circulation systems and conduct bearing analysis on components taken out of the machine by condition monitoring.”, explains Rob Bouwmeester, Application Engineer, SKF Industrial Market Benelux.

SKF also provides technical training to Smurfit Westrock's teams, ensuring that everyone is equipped with the knowledge needed to maximize equipment performance. The technical team's feedback is wonderful: “SKF's training and analysis help us get the most out of our equipment. It's not just about fixing what's broken—it's about preventing issues and improving performance.”



Pre-inspected bearings are ready to be shipped to the Industrial Service Centre in Gothenburg for remanufacturing

SKF visits Parenco Renkum every three months to discuss bearing supply and remanufactures about 20 large size bearings per year for the site. The benefits mirror those at Roermond Papier: cost reduction, availability, sustainability and high output from the paper machines. Remanufacturing isn't just about saving money. It's about being sustainable and future ready.

Together, Roermond Papier and Parenco Renkum remanufacture around 50 large bearings annually. This translates into significant cost savings, guaranteed availability of critical components, major CO<sub>2</sub> reductions, and reliable, high output paper machines.

The story of Smurfit Westrock and SKF is a perfect blueprint for growth. The proactive approach, agility, and commitment to sustainability show how we can strengthen our business and inspire our customers.



SKF Application Engineer pre-inspecting the bearing on-site

“The ability to remanufacture a transfer roll bearing in just one week was exceptional. It's only possible because of our close relationship with SKF. We avoided costly delays and kept our papermachine output high.”

Smurfit Westrock Parenco Renkum

“We have an arrangement with SKF that allows us to send new and remanufactured bearings with the rolls to the repair shop. The process is fast and efficient, and it means we always have the bearings we need, whenever we need them.”

Smurfit Westrock Roermond Papier

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