# SmartLUBE Delivers for Midwest Bakery

## PROBLEM

A Chicago-area bakery was replacing the tray support bearings in its ovens on a reactionary basis. Their weekly inspection cycle was resulting in two mechanics spending an average of 20 labor hours per week to replace failed bearings. The premature bearing failures were caused by a combination of the high heat and humidity in the ovens, resulting in lubrication failure and contamination. When BDI was asked to recommend a solution, the bakery was averaging one month of bearing life in this application.

## THE SOLUTION:

BDI suggested SmartLUBE, a solid graphite fill applied to standard bearings to provide constant lubrication and prevent contamination. SmartLUBE can withstand up to 660º Fahrenheit for extended periods and carries an NSF H-1 food grade certification.

## SUCCESS MADE EASIER:

Based on the 12-month average life established in the testing, this bakery documented $726,573 in annual cost savings from the three ovens it has in service. Additional ovens at the customer's other bakeries are presently being retrofitted with SmartLUBE bearings.

The $726,573 cost saving was calculated based on reduced bearing consumption, reduced labor to replace bearings, and increased oven production due to reduced downtime for maintenance. This calculation was reviewed and approved by the customer's plant Maintenance Manager.

**Contact your local BDI branch for more information on application analysis and other BDI Solutions.**