




# The Hidden Costs of Cheap Repairs



## *Why Technical Expertise plays a Critical Role in Equipment Maintenance*

As the industrial world becomes more competitive, reducing costs is key for maintaining an advantage in the marketplace. As such, many end users have become more cost-conscious when approaching equipment repair. In some services- where equipment is not complex and performance doesn't affect process availability or quality- this strategy can provide some benefit. However, the short-term gain of a lower repair price often turns into long-term cost increases when a lack of engineering capability impacts equipment reliability and performance.

The importance of engaging with a facility that has strong engineering capabilities and subject matter expertise was proven during a series of boiler feed pump repairs for a Canadian biomass power plant. Like many biomass facilities, this plant had segmental ring boiler feed pumps, also commonly referred to as BB4 pumps. This is a complex design installed in a high energy, critical application, with numerous stacked and nested components that must be kept in alignment. 

In this case, a small shop had completed several repairs that had resulted in high vibration and performance issues. These pumps were a legacy design that was no longer supported by the OEM and required engineering knowledge to properly refurbish and set the balance device. As such, it was important to find a repair partner that had a strong understanding of pump design. The plant worked with Hydro's Scotford facility to bring these "bad actor" pumps back to optimal performance.

Read the full case study in [World Pumps](#)' March/April 2025 edition [here](#).