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# CASE STUDY: GATES BAGS BIG SAVINGS ON POTATO CHIP SIZER

### Problem:

- This major snack manufacturer was using non-Gates synchronous rubber belts on its potato chip sizer equipment.
- The belts broke frequently, lasting two weeks at best and often failing after only 24 hours.
- Over a 6-month period, 27 belts were replaced causing more than five hours of downtime.
- Resulting downtime cost the company significant dollars per hour in maintenance expenses, replacement belt cost, and lost production.
- They wanted to greatly reduce the downtime caused by belt failures.

### Solution:

- The snack manufacturer collaborated with Gates and their local Gates distributor to identify a solution.
- The non-Gates belts (2248 mm x 30 mm) were replaced with standard and stocked Gates 8 mm pitch PowerGrip® GT<sup>2</sup> belts (2200 mm x 30 mm) on three chip sizer units.
- A simple adjustment of sprocket centerline distance to accommodate Gates standard belt length took only 15 minutes per drive.

### Benefits:

- While competitive belts lasted from one day to two weeks, Gates PowerGrip GT<sup>2</sup> belts ran for 21 weeks and were still going strong without replacement.
- The company planned to run the Gates belts until the first one failed in order to establish a best practices maintenance cycle that could be shared by all plants company-wide via their maintenance system.
- Gates standard-size PowerGrip GT<sup>2</sup> belts are stocked by the distributor and available immediately versus a 2-week lead order time for the previous belts.
- Downtime savings far outweighed the minimal cost difference between competitive belts and Gates PowerGrip GT<sup>2</sup> belts.
- By switching from the competitive belts to Gates PowerGrip GT<sup>2</sup> belts, the company's "Documented Savings" are estimated at \$226,869.42 for this application.
- *"The difference in belt cost is no money at all compared to the elimination of downtime and aggravation,"* said a company representative.