

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] The present invention relates to a bearing system for a rotor in rotating machines, ~~as specified in the preamble of patent claim 1.~~

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] EP-A1 1619355 relates to a steam turbine rotor which is rotatably supported in the longitudinal direction, in ~~hi~~-this instance, turbine components provide for chambers being formed around the rotor and are exposed to an inner and outer pressure which are different. The turbine has at least one water-powered shaft bearing component to accommodate the rotor, whereby this component along with the turbine component are sealed one after the another in the longitudinal direction.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] This object is achieved by the disclosed bearing system ~~disclosed in patent claim 1.~~ Preferred embodiments of the invention will be understood from the dependent claims and the following description of preferred embodiments.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Fig. 2 shows in a schematic sectional view the basic structure of a component having a combined bearing and seal which is included in the present bearing system;

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Fig. 7A ~~Fig. 7 A~~ to 7D shows schematically another embodiment of a stator provided with among others guide blades in perspective and section view, respectively, and seen projected into a horizontal plane.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] Brushes correspond partly to the longitudinal, axial ribs mentioned above, but, instead ~~in stead~~ of being of solid material, "~~solid wood~~"-these are made from brushes having minimal radial threads.

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] ~~By one configuration it is~~ It has been confirmed that for some applications, prior art ~~patterns a pattern~~ to achieve roughness in the stator, such as hole-pattern, honeycomb structure, etc., will not provide for sufficiently effective damping at low excitation frequencies. In such cases, it is found advantageously to alter the roughness pattern, whereby they are formed having longitudinal ribs or brushes and the like to reduce the rotation of the gas film and thereby the cross coupling stiffness of the gas film.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] In addition or as an alternative to the latter, the pattern in the stator can be formed in a manner that the flow resistance is higher in the direction of the rotating direction, e.g. at an inclined hole-pattern. Thereby, the rotation of ~~the~~ gas will be reduced relative ~~relatively~~ to the prior art.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] These embodiments involve that the stator is formed in a manner that the gas rotation within the sealing and bearing clearance is minimal, to achieve sufficiently effective damping at low frequencies. As mentioned above, this may be achieved generally and as examples having longitudinal ribs, brushes or by forming

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a hole-pattern, whereby the gas flows more easily to the rotating direction. Similarly, one or more segmented annuluses may be situated in the stator, with or without injection/extraction of gas to achieve the same effect. The stator may be provided with at least one of an axial rib, a brush or guide blades adapted for damping of gas rotation. Further, the stator may be formed with a bore having an uneven structure,