

## **motion? plastics! igus presents 166 new possibilities with tribopolymers in Hannover**

**With its high-performance plastics for motion, igus increases sales by 7.4 per cent to 592 million euros**

**Hannover/Cologne, April 25<sup>th</sup> – At Hannover Messe, igus is presenting 166 new products for motion - from printed plastic gear wheels with an outstanding service life to a bionically inspired strain relief system for cables. In a live presentation, the motion plastics specialist will be showing how users of its plastics can increase service life, lower costs, reduce procurement and assembly times and enhance the productivity of equipment with intelligent igus products. In 2016, igus increased sales by 7.4 per cent and is now planning the start of construction of a new factory building this year.**

Never before have so many motion plastics been used in moving applications. In 2016, igus produced 1.2 billion plastic parts in Cologne and exported them all over the world, while also providing cables, drive technology, accessories and offering services such as harnessing. Last year, the company's sales grew by 7.4 per cent to 592 million euros. Out of the total sales, 54 per cent was achieved in Europe, 28 per cent in Asia and 18 per cent in America. In the same period, the number of employees worldwide increased to 3,180. "In 2017, we also have a growth strategy and are planning the start of construction of a new factory building this year. In an area of 22,000 square metres, new space for production, storage and offices will be created in Cologne Porz-Lind", says Frank Blase, Chief Executive Officer of igus GmbH.

### **Costs down, service life up!**

The aim of all motion plastics is to lower costs and increase service life. This is because Tribo polymers continue to have enormous potential in industry. How big this potential is will be demonstrated by igus at Hannover Messe with its 166 new products and offers. "We exhibited at Hannover Messe for the first time in 1987", explains Frank Blase. "30 years later, we will be showing that it is easier than ever before to change from metal solutions to plastic, especially in the area of bearing technology." Compared to its predecessor, the new iglidur G1 bearing

all-rounder doubles the service life at a comparable price. As in the case of all bearing products, the service life of a plastic ball bearing can be calculated online, whereby the service life of the lubrication-free bearings is now up to ten times longer than five years ago. Companies can also save money in the area of low-cost automation: assembly robots suitable for use in industry are available now from just 5,000 euros, including control system, and are already in use in igus' manufacturing facilities. They pay for themselves in a mere four months.

### **Reducing procurement and assembly times**

With the 'roboLink Designer', users can quickly and easily configure a customised robot arm online, from the first axis to the tool, and can visually simulate its movements as well. "The digitisation of online configuration and simulation processes, as well as of manufacturing and shipping, is in full swing for all products", says Blase. One example of this is the drylin SHT configurator, which considerably shortens the time needed to select, configure and order a lead screw module. Users are directly shown documentation for the selection, a downloadable 3D view as well as the price and delivery time. How quickly customers can profit from the benefits of motion plastics, however, is being shown by igus not only on the Internet but also on site in Hannover. For the first wearing metal part that visitors can bring to the stand on any morning of the trade fair, igus will print a tool on the very same day and, in the evening, injection-mould this part using modern tribomaterial. On the booth at the same time, igus will be showing a new SLS material that makes it possible to print gear wheels that are at least six times more resistant to wear than standard materials. Also on the booth, igus will be demonstrating how assembly times can be considerably reduced as well. A new separator system and a honeycomb-shaped strain relief system in the case of the E4.1L energy chain make this possible. Assembly times can be reduced by up to 80 per cent, an achievement that has been proven in igus' own harnessing section.

### **Intelligent products for exceptional reliability**

In order to increase machine operating times, igus develops intelligent solutions that prevent unscheduled downtimes. These include the new isense EC.RC (e-chain Run Control), which monitors the operating state of e-chains. At the same time, the icom communications module has been improved; it collects and transfers all the values of the systems in most cases completely wireless. The

operating states of all moving e-chains and cables are now monitored by a single icom module. Visitors can now experience this live at igus, a booth full of motion.

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**ABOUT IGUS:**

igus GmbH is a leading international manufacturer of energy chain systems and polymer plain bearings. The family-run company based in Cologne is represented in 35 countries and employs 3,180 people worldwide. In 2016, igus generated a turnover of 592 million euros with motion plastics, plastic components for moving applications. igus operates the largest test laboratories and factories in its sector to offer customers quick turnaround times on innovative products and solutions tailored to their needs.

The terms "igus", "chainflex", "CFRIP", "conprotect", "CTD", "drylin", "dry-tech", "dryspin", "easy chain", "e-chain", "e-chain systems", "e-ketten", "e-kettensysteme", "e-skin", "energy chain", "energy chain systems", "flizz", "iglide", "iglidur", "igubal", "invis", "manus", "motion plastics", "pikchain", "readychain", "readycable", "speedigus", "triflex", "twisterchain", "plastics for longer life", "robolink", "xiros", "xirodur" and "vector" are legally protected trademarks of the igus® GmbH/Cologne in the Federal Republic of Germany and, where applicable, in some foreign countries.

**Captions:**



**Picture PMXX17-1**

Metal in the morning, plastic in the evening – The playful metal dinosaur "Rusty" embodies this mission. Live on the booth in Hannover, igus will be producing new tribo injection-moulded parts using printed tools within a mere eight hours. CEO Frank Blase will be showing further new motion plastics products such as 3D-printed gear wheels and bionically inspired strain relief components. (Source: igus GmbH)