

Spring 2024

Best Bits

Your Industry Magazine by BearingNet



BEARINGS



FLUID POWER



MANUFACTURERS



FASTENERS



Keeping Global Transport on Track

NKE Austria GmbH



Remembering Franco Ferrari
Parmafluid S.r.l.



Raising Vital Funds
Quality Bearings Online



Celebrating 25 Years
Vervo Sp. z o.o.

The portal for fasteners and
fixing elements

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ABOUT US

Fasten.it is a network for fastener distributors and manufacturers, helping them to connect, promote their business, find new partners, and sell their products.

The company was established in 2003 as a search engine to help fastener professionals, distributors, manufacturers and end-users find products and partners in the fastener and fixing industry.

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POSTCARD



Sophie, Tez and Stacey



*A message
from the editors*

Let us begin by saying a big thank you for your continued support. The Spring 2024 edition marks the 13th Best Bits magazine. Unlucky for some, but we believe the 13th edition is as gripping as ever!

The last edition published back in Autumn 2023 was a huge success at our 20th User Meeting in Berlin. We have hit several significant company milestones within the last 12 months, and 20 official User Meetings was one of them! In Berlin, we hosted over 500 exhibitors for the first time. This was quite the challenge, but the event was thoroughly enjoyable and successful for all who attended.

One of our proudest achievements was hitting 2,000 members! The BearingNet platform was created with the idea of bringing the bearing and power transmission community together, and fast forward 28 years, the platform now has over 2,000 members from 80+ countries. We would like to say a huge

thank you to every member, as you have all played a vital part in making this happen.

As we look ahead, the BearingNet family is very optimistic and looking forward to a number of exciting projects as the year goes on. To kick off the year, we have this edition of Best Bits magazine, packed full of industry news. As ever, we will also have an Autumn edition later in the year to keep you up-to-date with our members and their latest stories.

We recently welcomed Fasten.it to the BearingNet and FluidPowerNet family, and we are thrilled to be working with them, as well as adding additional products to our portfolio. You can find out more about the Fasten.it team in this magazine.

Events are also a vital part of what we do, which is why we will be attending many industry events globally throughout 2024, meeting new distributors and catching up

with current members. If you see us on our journeys, come and say hello!

If you are lucky enough to be attending our 21st User Meeting in Vienna this October, we cannot wait to welcome you for three incredible days of networking and socialising. We will also be hosting the first ever FluidPowerNet User Meeting which will take place for one day only on the 2nd October prior to the BearingNet meeting.

For more information on User Meetings, visit the meetings page when you are signed in to BearingNet.

Thank you once again for reading this magazine and we hope to see you at some point during the year. If you have any questions or feedback about Best Bits, contact us at marketing@bearingnet.net

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www.bearingnet.net/Manufacturers



www.fluidpowernet.net



www.fasten.it

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Services Ltd**

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The new year brings an exciting rebrand and extended product portfolio for ACORN. An evolution to a whole new identity that extends further than just a logo.



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Providing solutions to industry challenges, Dodge Industrial cuts costly downtime and lengthy maintenance for their customers when it comes to dry kiln fans.



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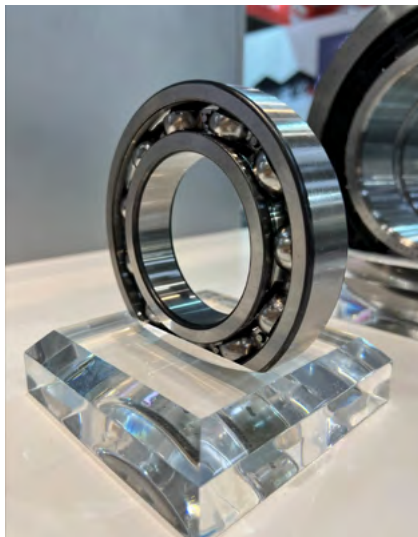
A year has passed since the Parmafluid team sadly lost founder Franco Ferrari. A true gentleman in the hydraulics industry, as well as a capable and visionary entrepreneur.



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Bearings to keep transport moving. NKE Austria GmbH consider essential factors when providing bearings for railway applications used for traction motors and more.



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From bake sales to 150 mile challenges, the Quality Bearings Online team go above and beyond for local Leeds children's cancer charity, Candlelighters.



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New addition to the BearingNet family



Read the latest news from the bearing, power transmission, fluid power and fastener world on the **industrial-now.net** news site! With news features from distributors, manufacturers and associations, it's the most up-to-date news site in the industry. Share your news or latest company updates with our team today — marketing@bearingnet.net.

Pushing the Boundaries of Technology at Lynch Fluid Controls

Lynch embarks on a cutting-edge journey with Matsuura H-Plus 504 CNC machine.

In a significant stride towards innovation and efficiency, Lynch Fluid Controls, a leader in hydraulic motion control manifolds and integrated hydraulic systems, recently unveiled its latest manufacturing capability expansion with the installation of the state-of-the-art Matsuura H-Plus 504 CNC machine. This groundbreaking addition reflects Lynch's commitment to pushing the boundaries of technology, opening new avenues for enhanced productivity and quality in their manufacturing processes.

The installation of the Matsuura H-Plus 504 CNC machine was no small feat, requiring meticulous planning and execution. Over a span of three months, the team worked tirelessly to ensure seamless integration of cutting-edge technology into Lynch's existing CNC machine group. Notably, a new foundation was poured to support the machine's substantial weight on the shop floor. The excavation extended nearly three feet deep and was subsequently filled with a formidable 1,076 cubic feet of concrete, gravel, and rebar, totalling an impressive 80 tons.

This new CNC machine stands out with its ability to manufacture manifolds sized at 80cm x 80cm x 100cm, showcasing Lynch's dedication to versatility and

precision in hydraulic motion control. The significance of this expansion is underscored by Lynch's global presence, as the company designs, manufactures, integrates, and distributes hydraulic components worldwide. Lynch's extensive reach spans 62 countries, serving diverse sectors such as aerospace, military, material handling, entertainment, mining, logging, industrial, and mobile equipment. As a major exporter, Lynch ensures that 50% of its products and services are exported, contributing to its status as a significant player in the international market. With an annual production of thousands of manifolds, Lynch has solidified its position as a Global Centre of Excellence for hydraulic motion control and state-of-the-art manufacturing.

One of Lynch's notable achievements is being a role model for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Canada, demonstrating a commitment to retaining and producing high-value manufacturing jobs across the country. The company's dedication to upholding the highest industrial standards is evident in its certifications, further establishing Lynch as a reliable and quality-driven partner in the hydraulic motion control industry.

The successful installation of the Matsuura H-Plus 504 CNC machine

marks a momentous occasion for Lynch Fluid Controls. Bill Gregory, VP of Manufacturing, expressed his pride and excitement, stating, "I am proud to announce that we cut metal for the first-time last week on the Matsuura H-Plus 504 horizontal machining centre." This achievement is the culmination of a two-year journey that began in December 2021 with a visionary 'wish list' for the new manufacturing cell.

Gregory commended the collaborative effort of the team, acknowledging the collective knowledge gained over the past three decades that contributed to the machine's specifications. The Matsuura H-Plus 504 now stands prominently on the shop floor, marking the beginning of the retirement journey of the first Mazak machine purchased almost 22 years ago. Gregory expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the project, recognising their dedication and hard work.

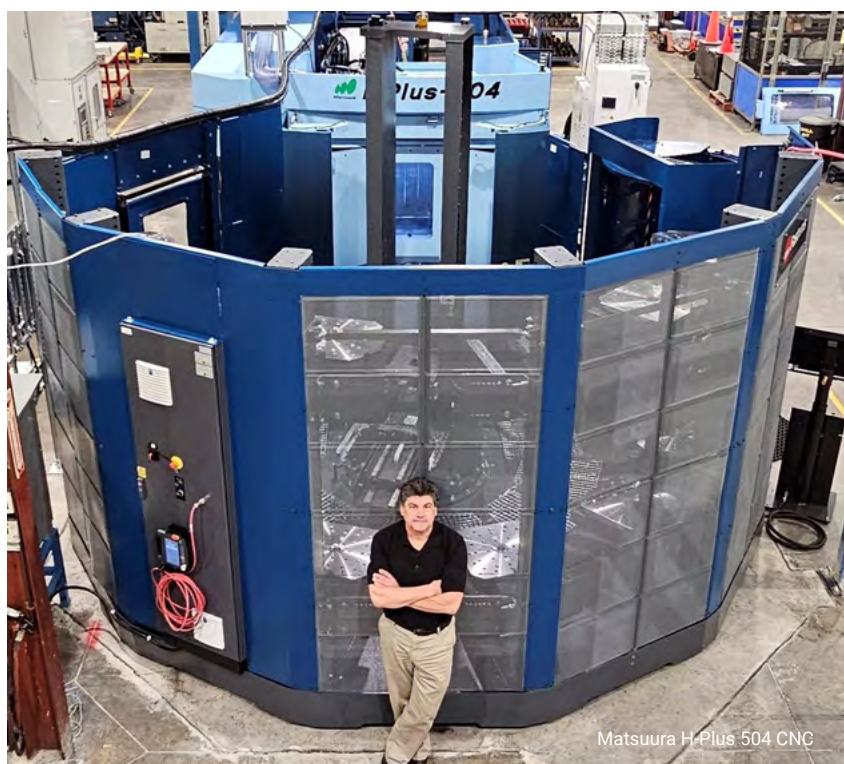
While acknowledging the achievement, Gregory also emphasised that there is still much work ahead to optimise the productivity levels of the new CNC machine. He likened the journey to a series of steps, stating:

"Every journey starts with one step, then followed by another."

This optimistic perspective reflects Lynch Fluid Controls' commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in the dynamic field of hydraulic motion control.

In conclusion, Lynch Fluid Controls' manufacturing capability expansion with the installation of the Matsuura H-Plus 504 CNC machine marks a transformative moment for the company. As Lynch continues to take steps towards optimising productivity, the industry can anticipate further ground-breaking developments from this industry leader.

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Matsuura H-Plus 504 CNC

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HEAVY DUTY WIPES



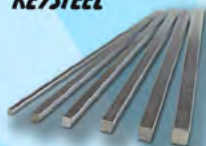
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TAPER ROLLER BEARINGS



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- One supplier
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Carter Manufacturing Contribute Towards Aviation Hydrogen Project

Carter Manufacturing participate in The Future Engine Technology for the Control of Hydrogen (FETCH) project, offering world-class bearing solutions for aviation.

Their renowned technical ability to provide bearing solutions for the most extreme environments is one of the key factors why Carter Manufacturing has been invited to participate in a ground-breaking aviation hydrogen project. The Future Engine Technology for the Control of Hydrogen (FETCH) project is a collaboration of the University of Bath/IAAPS, Cranfield University, along with companies; Carter Manufacturing, Moog Inc., Baker Hughes Druck and Curtiss-Wright.

The collaboration is focused on the development of the key technologies required to exploit the benefits of future aircraft hydrogen fuel systems and has secured match funding from the Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI) program. This is a joint government and industry investment initiative, one of a number of initiatives designed to maintain and grow the UK's competitive position in civil aerospace design and manufacture.

Carter Manufacturing's contribution to this innovative project is to develop bespoke bearing solutions for liquid and gaseous hydrogen applications and is based on their unrivalled experience in developing bearings for cryogenic applications. These include: rocket propulsion, commercial industrial pump applications, along with scientific research.

By stocking high quality bearing brands, Carter, Silverthin, KMS, NMB, THK, IBC and UNASIS in global locations including the UK, Europe and USA, along with providing local engineering support, ensures that these products are optimised in application. Furthermore, Carter's engineering team can optimise bearing designs to give exceptional performance, life and consistency to suit customers' specific requirements.

Bearing material options include races in specialty materials including 440C stainless steel, Cronidur® 30, XD15NW, 52100, M50, M50, along with bearing cages in bronze, steel, silver-plated bronze or steel, Nylon 6/6, PEEK, Vespel, Torlon®, Phenolic and titanium.

Other examples of Carter's expertise include: rolling elements in steel, ceramic, TiC-coated 440C stainless steel and dry film lubrication coatings including moly disulphide, tungsten disulphide, diamond like coating and gold plating.

Carter has recently invested in new UK manufacturing facilities for UNASIS, their sister company, which are now operational and enable advanced manufacturing of customised special application bearings, along with aerospace bearing installation, testing, and removal tools. For example, they are utilising the latest five axis CNC

machinery combined with overhauled grinding and bearing manufacturing machines purchased from a key aerospace bearing manufacturer. Product quality is maintained and improved using Mitutoyo CMM inspection equipment and specific bearing inspection and testing machines.

Karl Brundell, Managing Director of Carter Manufacturing comments, "We are delighted to be part of this ground-breaking collaboration, driving the development and innovation of this important sustainable aviation initiative."

He added, "The FETCH collaboration is an excellent example of our commitment to accelerate the development of hydrogen powered aircraft and underlines our expertise in developing bearings which excel in challenging and complex hydrogen applications."

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DEAR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS!

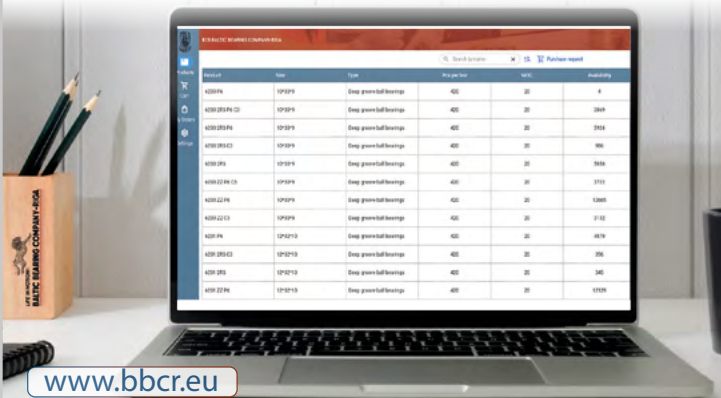
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PIX's Mega Investment Push for Infra with Germany Warehouse Expansion and SAP ERP Adoption

Paving the road for success! As one of the fastest emerging manufacturers of power transmission products, PIX takes on an expansion in Germany.

PIX Germany GmbH's decision to expand its warehouse operations reflects its commitment to adapting to the evolving demands of the market and prioritising customer satisfaction. As the company continues to grow and innovate, the expanded warehouse capabilities position PIX as a formidable player in the competitive world of power transmission products. The move not only benefits the company's operational efficiency, but also ensures that customers can enjoy a seamless and satisfying sourcing experience.

By expanding its warehouse operations, PIX aims to streamline its order fulfilment process, reduce shipping times, and meet the expectations of its rapidly growing customer base. The warehouse expansion includes the addition of more square footage dedicated to storage. This increase in capacity allows PIX to stock a larger quantity and variety of products, ensuring that popular items are readily available for immediate dispatch.

The expanded warehouse is strategically located to facilitate quicker and more cost-effective distribution. This ensures that PIX can efficiently reach

its customers across Germany and neighbouring regions, contributing to a more sustainable and responsive supply chain.

The expanded warehouse incorporates eco-friendly practices, such as energy-efficient lighting, and waste reduction measures, aligning with the company's commitment to minimising its environmental footprint.

'PIX Germany GmbH is the European subsidiary of PIX Transmissions Ltd, the leading manufacturer of power transmission belts and related mechanical power transmission products.'

PIX Adopts SAP ERP Software for Enhanced Business Operations.

The adoption of SAP ERP marks yet another significant milestone for PIX, positioning the company to navigate the complexities of modern business with agility and efficiency. By investing in cutting-edge technology, PIX demonstrates its commitment to providing superior products and services while ensuring sustainable growth in a rapidly evolving market.

The implementation of SAP ERP not only streamlines internal operations, but also positions PIX for continued success and innovation in the competitive business landscape.

PIX is one of the world's most reliable manufacturers of mechanical power transmission solutions, with an extensive range of drive belts, synergistic metal products, and accessories for almost every application in the industrial, automotive, agricultural, and gardening sectors.

PIX is driven to solve real customer problems by developing and delivering an extensive range of products with a compelling performance-to-price ratio, backed up by unmatched customer care by following best industry practices, robust processes, and sound business ethics. The company has overseas subsidiary operations in Europe and the Middle East, in addition to over 250 committed channel partners in over 100 countries worldwide.

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Newtown Bearing Co Expand their Range of QCB Brand Bearings

With a growing band of distributors worldwide, Newtown Bearings are expanding the QCB brand range, reflecting on business growth and product improvements.

Following a substantial company move in 2022 to a 45,000 sq ft facility on the Stafford Park Industrial Estate in Telford, Newtown continue to go from strength-to-strength, investing heavily in the QCB bearings brand.

Brad Thornton, Sales Advisor at Newtown Bearings tells us:

"We are very proud of the QCB brand with its continuous growth and expansion. Many OEMs are now turning to QCB as their preferred supplier, with a global reach and customers as far away as Australia."

True to their name, Newtown Bearings, the Telford-based company provide a wide range of bearings. The QCB brand is known for its well-engineered range of slewing rings and drives, but with on-going product investment, the company is launching new product series and expanding into new territory.

An example would be the QCB Vibratory Screen Bearings, previously supplied exclusively to large international OEMs, and now the range is being extended to trade customers.

"Large international OEMs have been fitting QCB Screen Bearings in large quantities for several years, so we know the quality of the product cannot be questioned" says Brad Thornton, "we now want to extend this offering to our trade customers. Thus, during 2024 QCB will launch the 'QCB Extreme Series' of Vibratory Screen Bearings."

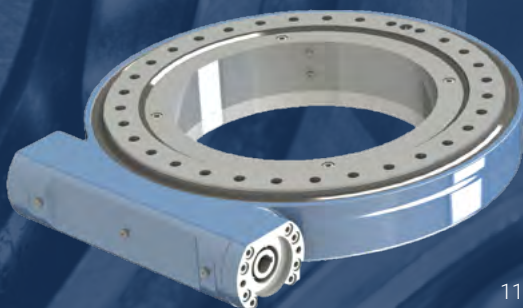
The year-on-year sales growth allows Newtown Bearings to carry out

continuous subtle product improvements, maintaining a key focus on quality. Bespoke designs for special applications require exceptional product components to withstand the harshest conditions. In 2022, unique bearings were designed in-house for offshore engineering projects, as well as large diameter split section slewing rings for UK lighthouses.

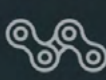
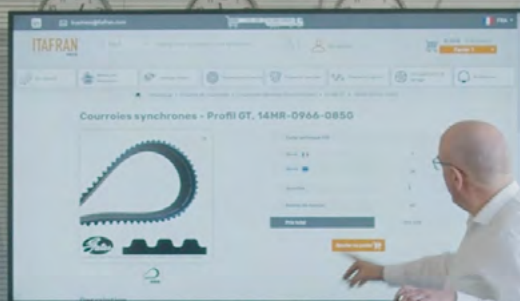
Established in 1958, the family run business has grown significantly, with 55 dedicated staff members across three sites, two in Telford & one in Belfast. As well as investing in product development, Newtown Bearings takes the same approach when it comes to their team, providing staff with opportunities to learn new skills and grow in the business, as well as offering support with relevant qualifications such as engineering degrees.

In 2023, three members of the Newtown Bearings team took part in a charity skydive for former colleague Mark Lowe. Brad, Emma and Rob were the brave volunteers, and raised an incredible £2,585 for Mark Fights Cancer, with proceeds going to three amazing local charities.

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20 Years of Digital Evolution: itafran.com Continues to Grow

Itafran summarise their move to the online marketplace, extending their services globally.

Established in 1976, Itafran is a prominent figure in the French industrial landscape, with a focus on manufacturing and trading power transmission components. With 47 years of expertise, Itafran has earned recognition through successful partnerships with industry-leading brands. The extensive product portfolio encompasses bearings, belts, pulleys, chains, sprockets, and more, delivering a holistic solution for mechanical transmissions.



The Itafran team

Itafran aims to play an active role in the global market. This expansion is based on strategic partnerships, and thanks to BearingNet, many international customers are already benefiting from its services and know-how.

To facilitate communication with international customers, the company has also undertaken the translation of its website into several key languages, including English, French, Czech, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian and German.

This move reaffirms the company's commitment to customer satisfaction on a global scale and facilitates access to products and services for a diverse customer base.

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export@itafran.com
www.itafran.com

In 2004, acknowledging the evolving demands of customers, Itafran made a significant move by introducing itafran.com. This digital transformation was envisioned as a catalyst to enhance accessibility to its products and services, providing an intuitive and efficient user experience.

Imagine a website that is not just a shop window, but an open door to a place where anyone can easily find what they need for mechanical transmission. On this site, you can see all the different types of products they have in a simple and user-friendly way.

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Featured products

Mounted bearings

- ISN (spherical roller)
- Type E (tapered roller)
- Set screw (ball)

Couplings

- Raptor (split tire)

Gearboxes

- Torque-Arm II (shaft mount)
- Tigear[®]-2 (worm gear)



October 2024

VIENNA USER MEETING

The Location >



The Austria Trend Hotel Savoyen is a beautiful and spacious hotel in the heart of Vienna. It is conveniently located less than a 20 minute drive from Vienna International Airport.

The hotel boasts over 300 rooms, and we have reserved 200 of them for the event! These will go very quickly so we urge you to plan ahead. There is an alternative hotel next door to the main event hotel if needed.

What can I do nearby?

We have selected a few things for you to do in Vienna during your free time. We have picked some local attractions, bars/restaurants and places to shop. View the full list by visiting the meetings page on BearingNet.

Sights

- Schönbrunn Palace
- St. Stephen's Cathedral
- Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna

Restaurants

- DASANABOL. — Marina Tower
- Wiener Wiaz Haus
- ef16 Restaurant



Network with global distributors

FluidPowerNet > 2nd October

This year marks a significant milestone for FluidPowerNet as we gear up for our first User Meeting, scheduled to take place in the enchanting city of Vienna on 2nd October.

Established in 2017, FluidPowerNet was created with the vision of forming a platform to enable fluid power distributors to easily buy parts from each other. Since the launch, FluidPowerNet has successfully united 200+ members from 45 countries, transcending geographic boundaries.

Building on the success of its sister company, BearingNet, which boasts a track record of 20 User Meetings, FluidPowerNet is bringing this success to its first ever meeting. This event will bring the fluid power industry together in one place to network and build valuable new business connections.

BearingNet > 3rd - 5th October



20th User Meeting, Berlin 2023

As BearingNet celebrates its 21st official User Meeting this year, we reflect on the remarkable success that has characterised these events over the years. The User Meeting uniquely brings together businesses from across the bearing industry, offering three days of engaging networking in one centralised location.

This year's event will be held in the picturesque city of Vienna, Austria, from 3-5 October. Boasting a remarkable gathering of over 425 exhibitors from around the globe, the User Meeting promises to be an experience filled with networking, enjoyable social interactions and building everlasting business connections. The event presents an exceptional opportunity to engage with existing contacts, explore exciting new connections, and foster enduring business relationships.

We are excited to welcome back familiar faces and extend a warm greeting to new attendees as we come together to network and strengthen business relationships once again.

BearingNet will be covering the event across various social media channels and emails, sharing daily success stories, and highlighting the dynamic interactions that define this exceptional gathering.

Join us as we unveil this invaluable occasion to connect, collaborate, and contribute to the vibrancy of the global bearing industry.

ACORN Unveils Exciting Rebrand and Extended Product Portfolio

The new year brings a new identity for ACORN, with a brand new logo reflecting exciting company developments and transformation within the bearing industry.

ACORN® has started 2024 with an evolution to a whole new identity. This provides a defined mark in the sand to indicate the development of the business, something that brings with it many exciting updates that extends further than just a logo!

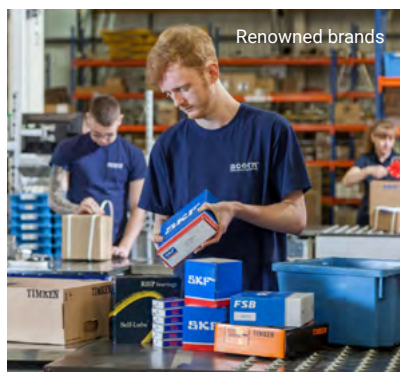
The updates to ACORN's brand reflect the development and transformation of ACORN, aligning the business and its core values with a modern and innovative brand that focuses on people and their commitment to going further to help their customers overcome any challenge.

As part of that commitment, ACORN's decision to introduce a diverse range of products is a testament to its dedication to providing comprehensive solutions to its clients.

Introducing renowned brands

ACORN's stock holding of Centa couplings, includes the Centa flex-A, Centa flex-X, and Centa flex-K types. Centa couplings are designed to meet

the demands of various industrial applications, providing exceptional reliability, precision, and durability, contributing to increased efficiency in machinery.



Precision engineering

SKF, a leader in the bearing industry, is renowned for its precision engineering. SKF super precision bearings, ensuring customers have access to high-performance components that deliver

superior accuracy and reliability in critical applications. ACORN offers a substantial stock holding that allows customers to order in single units or sets for maximum flexibility. Buying from an SKF Super Precision Bearing Partner also guarantees genuine, factory fresh product with full traceability.

Resilient in challenging environments

Extending the existing Timken offering, ACORN is introducing a range of SNT plummer blocks, seals and locating rings as part of its commitment to offering customers high-quality products at a competitive price. With a robust design, SNT housings are resilient in challenging environments, providing a durable and long-lasting solution.

Ultimate food safety

Timken's Corrosion Resistant Deep Groove Ball Bearings are ideal for use in demanding wash-down environments, and as they are NSF H1 registered, they provide ultimate food safety. This only



An expanded product portfolio is only the beginning

stands to strengthen ACORN's already extensive offering to those servicing the food and beverage industry.

Energy efficient

The introduction of TEC IE3 Motors aligns with the growing emphasis on energy efficiency. These motors offer premium efficiency and reduce energy consumption, even when working in wet and dusty environments across various industries and applications. ACORN's Couplings & Drives department offers customers industry-leading experience and are dedicated to finding the best solution for their drives.

Expanding the product range

Following ACORN's appointment as a Schaeffler distributor in 2023, the stocked range of INA needle roller bearings is being extended, further ensuring a comprehensive selection for applications requiring precision and reliability. The stocked range covers the AXK series, BK and HK series, HF and HFL series, and NA and RNA series.

High-performance

FAG, another esteemed brand within the Schaeffler Group, specialises in cylindrical roller bearings. ACORN's addition of FAG CRB further expands its ability to meet diverse customer needs, providing solutions for applications demanding precision and high-performance. These bearings will be available in sizes from 15mm up to 120mm.

ACORN's rebranding and expanded product portfolio demonstrate the company's commitment to staying at the forefront of industrial solutions. By introducing renowned brands like Centa and extending existing ranges from SKF, Timken, TEC, INA, and FAG, the company is poised to meet the diverse needs of its customers while maintaining the high standards it is known for.

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Rotamec Unveils New Branch in Cwmbran, Wales, with Local MP Support

A move to larger premises at Springvale Industrial Estate marks a new chapter in Rotamec's commitment to local and Welsh industry.

Rotamec, a leader in the engineering sector specialising in the repair and sourcing of pumps, motors, gearboxes, generators, and power transmission components, proudly announces the grand opening of its new facility in Springvale Industrial Estate, Cwmbran. The ribbon-cutting ceremony, held in January, was graced by the local Member of Parliament, Nick Thomas-Symonds.



New larger premises

After acquiring Pontypool Rewinds in 2019 and a subsequent tenure in Mamhilad, Rotamec's continuous growth and investment have culminated in this significant expansion. The move to the larger premises at Springvale Industrial

Estate marks a new chapter in Rotamec's commitment to local and Welsh industry.

This strategic relocation allows Rotamec to broaden its team, adding more engineering staff and sales personnel. Emphasising community involvement, the company is poised to offer local aspiring engineers opportunities through apprenticeship schemes, supporting the Welsh industry's skilled workforce development.

Rotamec's Managing Director, Simon Brooks, the driving force behind the company's vision and growth, expressed immense pride in this milestone. "The opening of our new Wales branch is not just a celebration of Rotamec's success, but a reinforcement of our commitment to local community development and the Welsh industry at large."

The company's vision is to become the industry's leading force, underpinned by their 24/7, 365-day service, supply, and installation model. This new facility is a testament to Rotamec's dedication to excellence, aiming to create

numerous career opportunities and apprenticeships, thus securing a robust future in engineering.

The Board of Directors at Rotamec and the entire team express their gratitude for the support received from the community and look forward to serving and growing with local businesses and industries.

About Rotamec:

Rotamec is a leading provider of engineering solutions, specialising in the repair, and sourcing of essential components for various industries. Founded on the principles of innovation and exceptional service, the company is committed to excellence in every aspect of its operations.

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PICARD Share Their Secret to Success and Vision for the Future

An interview with PICARD Managing Director, Hans-Martin Reinhardt.

PICARD has been an active player in the bearings industry for 102 years. A century filled with triumphs and trials, marked by global political and historical events in a rapidly growing industry. PICARD has navigated these times with a substantial dose of ingenuity, diligence, and perseverance. Managing Director, Hans-Martin Reinhardt, reflects on the origins of the family business and recounts what a young woman's ocean-liner trip to America had to do with it all. A look at the present reveals how the company has managed to grow into one of Europe's largest distributors of rolling bearings and linear technology, as well as how PICARD is forging ahead into the (digital) future.

Can you give us some historical insight into the founding of the company? Why did the Picard family decide to go into the bearing business?

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, I was not there in 1922 to witness the company's founding, but what I can tell you from stories told by the Picard family is that one of their aunts was heavily involved in commerce at the time and for this reason decided to embark on a voyage to America. It was highly unusual in those days for a woman to take such a lengthy journey — especially on her own and for professional reasons. There, she encountered various machine elements, including rolling bearings. As a savvy businesswoman, she recognised the potential for a bearings market in Germany.

From a historical perspective this makes perfect sense, since the 1920's — the so-called 'Roaring Twenties' — saw a massive economic and industrial boom worldwide. Machine components were

increasingly in demand. Anna Graef, the aforementioned aunt of Friedrich Picard, had excellent business instincts even at that time. Friedrich Picard liked the idea and eventually joined forces with his aunt and another co-owner to establish the company. Friedrich was all of 14 years old in 1922 when the company was founded.

In the last century, there have been world wars, currency reforms and economic crises, all of which the company has successfully weathered with remarkable resilience — even when it surely wasn't always easy. What's the recipe for success?

Those were indeed difficult times, and it was not always clear that we would make it through them as a company. We were completely bombed out during the Second World War, and post-war restrictions banned the production and trade of rolling bearings throughout the country. But adversity fuels innovation, and PICARD turned to dealing in automotive parts and tools. The Picard family has always been hard-working, goal-oriented, and focussed on achieving what they set their sights on. The company's welfare was always the top priority, which is why even personal interests needed to take a backseat at times. This creative drive was reflected not only in their sales, but in other areas as well — from accounting to IT. The son of our founder, Wolfgang Picard, handled the company's computer programming himself in the 1980's on an IBM 36. A few years later, his son and our current owner, Marc Picard, developed and programmed a comprehensive inventory control system that is precisely tailored to the company's specific needs. What unites the family across generations is

that the offspring learned to shoulder responsibility from an early age — in fact, there was no other option. Unfortunately, both Friedrich and Wolfgang Picard passed away far too soon. As the successor, our owner, Marc Picard, took over his father's affairs at a very young age, thus ensuring the company's continued survival. If you do not have a passion for what you do, it does not work. Of course, you also have to be prepared to take risks.

In our case, this ultimately meant that we were able to grow completely organically without outside help and we are still completely self-sufficient and independent today. I would say that this is the recipe for success at PICARD.

PICARD exclusively supplies specialised technical retailers — since when? What makes this target group so special?

Let me first provide some background: Our little Bochum-based company started out in 1922 as "Fischer-Kugellager-Vertrieb" (FAG). Later, we were the exclusive authorised dealer for Timken and, until the end of the 1980's, authorised dealer for Steyr. This was our identity at that time. But then Steyr was acquired by SKF and our entire business model collapsed. We urgently needed to find a new contract manufacturer or come up with a fresh idea.

So, we did something that was not only unusual for the time, but actually frowned upon - we became one of the first multi-brand dealers, selling products directly from the manufacturers to other distributors. Based on our past experience as an authorised dealer, we had unparalleled knowledge of specialised trade and were familiar with the all-



The old and the new. PICARD in the 1960's (left),

too-common difficulties in procuring specific product types. So, we focused on the purchasing needs of specialised technical retailers. We understood their wishes and requirements. It is perhaps difficult to imagine today the sensation this caused at the time. PICARD as such was completely unknown in those days, since our identity had always been based on the individual manufacturers up until then. This step cost us a measure of sympathy from those manufacturers, due to the strict sales and territorial protections in place when sales flowed almost exclusively through authorised dealers. Selling bearings from different brands made you look inauthentic, but we realised the need for a link between the manufacturers and the retail market. If a manufacturer was unable to meet the needs of specialised trade, we were able to step in and bridge the gap, allowing the retailers to maintain brand loyalty.

This then put us in a position to give technical retailers access to premium brands that were otherwise out of their reach. Although, it was a very risky undertaking for us at the time, in hindsight, it's clear that this step towards independence was the right decision. Our boldness paid off, just as it did later when we became the first trading company to open an online bearing shop!

How does PICARD's current business model differ from its market competitors?

PICARD has always seen itself as an equal trading partner — doing business first with OEMs and now with our retailer customers as well. Serving as a crucial link between the manufacturers and the retailers was and remains our objective to find common interests on all sides. Our range of services for our customers is carefully designed to stand out among the rest.

We offer absolute reliability, timely delivery of ordered goods and the choice between different delivery providers. We guarantee that our customers receive only new, brand-compliant original goods straight from the factory. What makes

us unique in the market is the extent of our inventory. In our warehouse space of more than 10,000 sqm, we carry all of the premium brands, such as Schaeffler, Timken, JTEKT, NSK, SKF, NTN, and NACHI, who together make up the WBA (World Bearing Association). We also offer our customers high-quality alternative brands. We do not restrict ourselves just to the high rollers, we also stock rare, non-core and niche products that are otherwise all but impossible to obtain. This comprehensive approach ensures complete brand availability on the market.

In recent decades, we have expanded our product range to include linear technology, v-belts, seals, and an array of accessories. In this way, we enable retailers to meet their customers' needs from a single source and thus save resources that they can then invest back into better customer support.

Where do you think the industry is heading over the next few years and what role do you see there for PICARD?

Right now, we are in the middle of a digital disruption where customer expectations are changing rapidly. Generations Y and Z are increasingly moving into decision-making roles and transforming the way we do business. I see challenges arising on all fronts: OEMs always need to develop new and innovative technologies to successfully position themselves in the market. For dealers, it is essential to cultivate a professional online presence and shift investments from large regional locations with huge warehouse space, to strategic marketing initiatives. Large inventories tie up resources unnecessarily. Thanks to online trade, there are now numerous drop shipping options that practically make maintaining your own warehouse space redundant.

Though the primary role of the retailer remains creating brand awareness, the approach to achieving this has been fundamentally transformed in recent years. While regional presence and personal interaction were once pivotal for success, the digital age has transformed

the landscape. Today, factors like availability, price, and speed of delivery carry more weight. But these are still not enough on their own. The unprecedented transparency of online trading intensifies competition, such that low prices and fast delivery on their own sway purchasing decisions.

The critical question becomes: What added value can my service bring to my customers? Specialised trade must create its own distinct profile. I believe that, even with the anonymity of the digital age, the importance of personal customer contact endures. Despite the prevalence of online interactions, people still prefer dealing with people.

Will technical retailers continue to be needed as a link between manufacturers and consumers? In my view, distributors will always play a significant role in the value chain from manufacturer to consumer, although precisely what that role will be, remains unclear.

As a company, we at PICARD aim to proactively shape the evolving market, fostering a dynamic relationship among manufacturers, retailers, and consumers. We view the digital disruption as an opportunity to strengthen manufacturers while providing retailers with added value for themselves and their customers.

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PICARD

to the modern premises in 2023 (right)



Revisiting a Moment in Time, Delving Into the BearingNet Archives

We all love a piece of history, so BearingNet's Managing Director, Nicola Beer, looks at a priceless copy of British Manufactured Bearings Monthly Bulletin from June, 1954.

Our shareholder Peter Annis comes from a family of bearing folk. Peter's Great Grandfather, Mr John Bass... (also the name of his son that took over the business and the name of his son, our founder John Bass – very confusing I know!), started BMB, British Manufactured Bearings back in 1946. They specialised in making high precision miniature balls and bearings.

Our founder John Bass (who many of you that have been in the industry long enough will remember), went to work at BMB after finishing school at Brighton College. This position enabled John to tour the world visiting both customers and manufacturers, as well as attending many a trade show. John was a well travelled man who always had a tale to tell about his visits – in fact, it is difficult to mention a place that John had not been to!

We were recently searching the company's history in the BearingNet office, and we came across this little gem! Someone on eBay was selling an original BMB news bulletin which the company produced and printed every month back in the day.

It may have only cost £2.99 from eBay, but for us it is a priceless piece of our history and we thought we would share it with you!

Nicola Beer

BearingNet Managing Director



1995

28 years later...

John Bass... the original founder of BearingNet. The idea came from his paper based inventory sharing magazine which he took to Peter and Gary to bring the online version to life to distributors around the world!

LOOK!



Left to right: Gary Jenkins, John Bass and Peter Annis, 1995



potential danger of ignoring the dust factor in their own production shops.

So great was the interest in the Stand that the Birmingham Mail published an illustrated article entitled "British Bearings in Guided Missiles," describing the vital part that B.M.B. bearings are playing in the National Industries and International Commerce. On the following days many enquiries for quotations were received as a direct result of this generous publicity and we have been invited to supply B.M.B. Products to many customers abroad including Australia, New Zealand, U.S.A., Argentine, Switzerland, Holland and Portugal.

Many visitors including numerous old customers were entertained at the Stand during the fortnight and we were very pleased to be favoured with visits from Mr. and Mrs. John, Mr. Bass, Senior, Mr. Eade, Miss Howard and Mr. Sherwood for several days.

As usual the first few days were rather quiet, but attendance increased considerably towards the week-end with Saturday bringing forth the inevitable herds of young boys feverishly collecting massive stocks of technical leaflets (and anything else not bolted down) for home consumption. Serious interest was most evident during the second week when the majority of buyers attended.

B.I.F. London, 1954

To assess the immediate success of any exhibition, in respect of a specialized product such as ours, is always a difficult thing to do. Of primary importance must be, of course, the presentation and in this respect we were extremely fortunate.

Our stand at Olympia was in all respects a success and by its excellent appearance invited interested buyers to look at and enquire further into our products. For this our Publicity Manager and the stand constructors must be wholeheartedly congratulated.

Being the largest suppliers of 1 mm. balls for ball pens in the world, B.M.B.'s stand was, naturally enough, in the Stationery Section of the B.I.F. Olympia, where we exhibited mainly, an attractive layout of the various types of ball

pass continually between these discs, being wound up the spiral and stripped off reaching the disc where, when they are fed to the hopper, round, and enter grinding discs again. The grinding or milling process is repeated three times during production and may take anything from 16 hrs. to 25 hrs.

the first grinding, such as 0.020 in. of may be removed. balls then proceed to specially built Wild furnace for heating, the process is closely controlled. balls are loaded in a hopper at the of the furnace, are carried through means of a rotating feed, and then shed.

er hardening, a grinding takes followed by a and final grinding, ing approximately in., lapping, bar-, and, finally, packing.

will be noted from the flow sheet that a



Miss Jean Warwick, assembling miniature ball bearings inside the De Luxe Model of the Pressurized Assembly Cabinet which was exhibited on our Stand at the B.I.F., Birmingham

Although the exhibition, which covered household goods, civil, light and heavy engineering was smaller in size than in previous years, it was considered a success by most visitors and exhibitors. It is to be hoped that the new B.I.F. Management Company will not rest too much on precedent, but will adopt a more flexible approach in future years and make realistic changes in the Fair so that we may better meet the increasing competition from abroad.



Mr. Bragg L. with Mr. B. M. B. Ball Pen.

Close-up of the Month

MR. PETER FRYER

Toolroom, Charlwood Works



Born in Manchester, Mr. Fryer spent his early days in Wimbledon where he was educated at Wimbledon College. Apprenticed with an instrument manufacturer, his engineering experience since then has embraced the manufacture of press tools, jigs and fixtures, also hydraulic and mechanical operated special purpose machines. Prior to coming to British Manufactured Bearings, he was Works Manager of a toolmaking establishment in the Midlands. A post which he relinquished because of his dislike of the vicinity and the long travelling distance involved to reach his home in a quiet residential part of Croydon. He believes that contentment is worth far more than riches.

A townsman by force of circumstances, Mr. Fryer finds great pleasure in working in the heart

Toolroom the development nearly general but he rightly section has its output, acquisition with the ment. The ing because internal machinery use of his

od for his and the department.

Liking popular music with a penchant for Strauss waltzes he has varied interests. A rugby footballer for his school, his sporting activities turned to sailing, a keen helmsman, he sailed for many years with the Ranelagh Sailing Club at Putney making several cross channel trips. He has owned various types of boats and must be considered something of an expert as he has been sailing since the age of seven.

A member of the National Rose Society, he has a great desire to produce a new variety, a keen motorist, both under the car and at the wheel, he follows motor racing with zest and here admitted his only dislike which is road hogs. A great dog lover, he keeps two boisterous French Poodles as well as his aquarium where he breeds tropical fish. Mr. Fryer is an inveterate pipe smoker, with a collection of nearly 40 pipes, many of which are beautifully carved briars.

To complete his versatility, he and his charming wife spend many week-ends and holidays camping out, away from the rush of modern civilisation.



Five

B·M·B

MONTHLY BULLETIN



Fig. 2. For larger balls, from 3/8 in. to 3/32 in., these heading machines are used, the wire being cut off and carried between heading dies where they receive rough spherical form.



Fig. 3. Balls from 1/4 in. downwards are ground in batteries of machines of the type seen here. The grinding process may take anything from 16 hrs. to 25 hrs.



Fig. 4. In the manufacture of miniature balls, there is an inspection station after each operation. Visual inspection of this type is used in many cases.

Fig. 5. Works-designed apparatus is employed for the grinding of balls automatically. machines in the foreground for the larger sizes, those in the background being for sizes of 1 mm. and under. The machines gauge to a tolerance of 0.00002 in.





A Symphony of 25 years' Experience with Compressed Air and 20 Years in the Bearing Industry in Poland

Vervo and MTM Bearings look back at 25 years of success, customer relationships and office life.

The core of the old continent, central point of Poland, nestled in the lively city of Łódź, where tradition meets innovation — there is an industrial company with expansive history and rooted experiences.



Distributing the power of compressed air, industrial vacuums, and ensuring the seamless rotation of industrial gears, Vervo with MTM Bearings take centre stage in industry business. Join them in exploring the world of Vervo and MTM Bearings, where efficiency meets experience on the post-industrial streets of Łódź, and where MTM's 20 years is celebrated. The company with 5,000+ satisfied customers, from 40+ countries, offers 3,000+ items of stock with service provided in 10+ languages. These numbers do not stop the ambition of Vervo as they continue to move forward.

Vervo Sp. z o.o. was founded in 1999 with an initial emphasis on distributing Mattei vane compressors. Over time, they broadened scope by introducing new products and services. In 2003, Vervo introduced a line of bearings under its own proprietary brand — MTM.

For many years, the Bearings Department of MTM has functioned as an independent and rapidly advancing segment within their organisation. Due to dependability and timely deliveries, Vervo supply bearings not only to Poland, but also across Europe, and South America.

Motivated by the goal of meeting market demands, their sales personnel assist customers not only in selecting good quality bearings at reasonable prices but also in choosing from an extensive array of seals and essential installation components. The comprehensive selection of bearings, including ball bearings, tapered roller bearings, spherical bearings, bearing housings, and linear technology solutions, has been developed in response to market demands and client expectations.

Vervo is also capable of delivering non-standard products tailored to technical

specifications and material samples provided by customers.

The manufacturing of MTM bearings, a brand recognised for its excellence, occurs exclusively within facilities certified to meet the rigorous standards of Type 9001, Type 9002, and Type 9001:2000. This certification reflects their commitment to maintaining the highest levels of quality and precision throughout the production process.

In their pursuit of excellence, MTM has established strategic partnerships with carefully selected suppliers. As part of their dedication to quality assurance, MTM has invested in a modern laboratory facility. This advanced laboratory serves as the hub for research, development, and quality control. Skilled technicians investigate representative samples of MTM bearings, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the entire product line.

This commitment to continuous improvement and quality assurance provides customers with bearings that surpass expectations. It is a vital component in their mission to deliver bearings of the highest standard to customers worldwide.

In the world of MTM bearings, clients are not just names on invoices; they are individuals with whom they share laughter, challenges, and victories. Some of these connections even blossom into

friendships that transcend the boundaries of business.

Clients are not just customers; they are the unsung heroes who make the wheels of MTM success turn. They are, without a doubt, the most fantastic, loyal, and kind-hearted people in the world. The MTM team believe in the power of genuine connections, and that's why they often find the staff not just discussing orders and deliveries but also swapping stories about life, hobbies, and next holiday destinations. The bonds they've forged, the friendships they've made, and the countless adventures that still await it, is what the MTM team adores most. Of course, work is work, and results are results. In all this, Vervo does not forget how important people are!

If you ever visit Vervo, do not be surprised when you find employees taking a spin on office chairs or playing with fidget spinners. Bearings is their love and grease smell is their favourite perfume - it's all in the name of balancing work and fun.

A hot air balloon flight, ATV races, a competition in the strangest bowling pose, office planting and the sacred notebook of linguistic slips, that is just a tip of the iceberg of strange and interesting office activities that occur at Vervo.

Vervo, has decided to shake up the world of sports by throwing its support behind

a dynamic young football club. Here's to teamwork, excellence, and a winning combination of precision, promise, and the potential to create a squad consisting only of future Robert Lewandowskis!



Football club sponsorship

Go Team Vervo!

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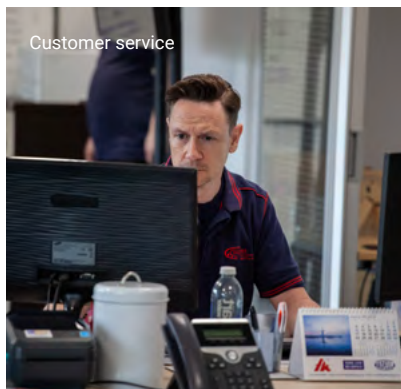
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Industrial MRO Distributor Signet Celebrates 25th Anniversary with a Digital Transformation and Rebrand

Signet redefines industrial supply with a modern identity and cutting-edge platform, enabling clients with 24/7 access, bespoke solutions and thriving partnerships.

Since launching in 1998, Signet has built a reputation for exceptional customer service, personalised solutions, and an agile approach to meeting the diverse needs of industrial businesses. Since the business's inception, Signet has grown into a thriving multi-departmental operation, boasting a team of over 25 individuals across locations in Doncaster, Scunthorpe, and the Trade Department.



This year marks a significant milestone for Signet, not only celebrating 25 years of dedicated service but also launching a comprehensive rebrand of a cutting-edge e-commerce platform. These strategic moves underscore Signet's strong commitment to customer satisfaction

and its position as a leader in the MRO supplies sector.

Recognising the ever-evolving demands of the industry, Signet has embraced digital transformation, launching a user-friendly website and intuitive e-commerce platform. This robust online presence grants customers 24/7 access to a vast product catalogue, personalised

pricing tailored to their specific needs, and real-time order tracking capabilities. With streamlined ordering processes and convenient online management tools, Signet is enhancing efficiency and delivering unparalleled service to its valued clientele.

The rebrand further cements Signet's focus on modernisation and progress. The refreshed logo and messaging convey a dynamic and forward-thinking approach while retaining the core values of trust, reliability, and customer focus that have been the foundation of Signet's success for 25 years. This strategic move goes beyond aesthetics, reflecting a commitment to building solid partnerships and exceeding client expectations in an ever-changing industrial landscape.

"We are proud to be celebrating another successful milestone," says John Pogmore, Managing Director at Signet.

He continued, "Our new e-commerce platform and brand identity represent our commitment to evolving alongside the industry. We are not just suppliers, we are trusted partners, with a goal of providing quality solutions and great service that help to streamline our clients' operations."



Staff members John and Scott

Signet's 25th-anniversary marks not just a moment of reflection but a springboard for future growth. With its focus on digital innovation, strategic partnerships, and dedication to customer satisfaction, Signet is set to solidify its position as a dominant force in the MRO supplies sector for years to come.

Contact here:
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25 years of Signet



Kiln the Game in Cost Savings in the Forest Products Industry

A success story for US-based Dodge Industrial, reducing downtime and costs for customers in the forest product industry with roller bearings.

Dodge Industrial, an RBC company, were faced with an industry challenge with dry kiln fans and the costly downtime caused by lengthy maintenance solutions. To solve this issue for their customer base in the United States of America, Dodge provided a Safety Mount™ solution in the form of mounted spherical roller bearings.

A top manufacturer of lumber products in the United States, owning approximately 1.8 million acres of timberland and operating multiple sawmills and plywood mills, was experiencing costly unplanned downtime when the SAF-style bearings on their dry kiln fans failed.

One of their lumber mills in Warren, Arkansas processes 220 million board feet per year of southern yellow pine. Once received at the mill, logs are debarked, cut to length, cut down to boards, edged, trimmed, sorted, and stacked in preparation for the dry kiln process. The dry kiln process, essential to wood production, dries the wood boards by circulating hot air through a chamber via large, forced draft fans.

The fans used a Dodge competitor's 4-15/16-inch SAF-style bearings, requiring two skilled maintenance workers, six hours of labour, and exact measurements using specialty tools for installation. In this harsh application, unplanned

downtime due to bearing failure was occurring once per year and cost the manufacturer \$40,800 per hour in production value.

The success

After testing the Dodge Safety Mount's easy installation and reliable operation, the customer's plant management decided to standardise their facility on Safety Mount, resulting in an average annual saving of \$163,018.

4x faster installation than the competition

Minimise tools, risk, and time to maximise reliability, uptime, and savings.

The test

Due to continued failures, lengthy installations, and critical uptime requirements in the mill, plant management tested two Safety Mount bearings on one of the fans in their drying kiln.

The results

As a drop-in replacement to the existing bearing, Safety Mount's seamless installation of two hours versus the competitor's six hours of downtime immediately impressed plant management. Without factoring in the increased reliability of the pre-lubricated Dodge® product, the valuable time

savings for increased uptime and the impact on future productivity led them to standardise the mill on Safety Mount.

The why

Shaft-ready out of the box, Safety Mount is a drop-in replacement for SAF-style bearings and features an innovative design with unparalleled advantages over the competition. Its patented dual lock nut eliminates the need for feeler gauges, subjective measurements, and manual calculations, resulting in immediate time savings and improving operational reliability. The patented lock plate utilises a single-bolt securement mechanism for 360-degree placement options with no hammering for a faster and safer installation. Built to revolutionise mounted spherical roller bearing installations, Safety Mount is the premier problem solver for critical applications.

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Four Decades, One Vision: Mineral Circles Bearings' Transformation

MCB celebrates 40 years, overcoming challenges with a resilient logistics transformation.

In 1984, Mineral Circles Bearings (MCB) began in Baghdad, founded by a close-knit family with a big dream. From the collective vision, this unassuming start blossomed into a legacy of unwavering resilience, technological prowess, and cutting-edge logistic infrastructures that celebrates progress.

Imagine the inception — a handful of dedicated family members of which Mr. Amar Ridha was the leader, nurturing the seeds of an exceptional venture. The days were marked by handwritten catalogues, sales orders, and meticulously crafted receipts in an era before digital transformation graced the industry.

From 1989 to 1996, MCB expanded its presence by establishing branches in the United Arab Emirates. A pivotal moment in Mineral Circles Bearings' history unfolded in 1996 with the establishment of their Jebel Ali headquarters, a visionary initiative spearheaded by Co-Founder Mr. Safa Alwan. This transformative step birthed a revolutionary vision — an ambitious leap beyond local confines.

With becoming the go-to bearings supplier in the Middle East and African region as a drive, a momentous order from Japan ignited MCB's journey into the international market, laying the foundation for their global outreach. This strategic shift underscores the need for enhanced logistics capabilities.

This transformation required upskilling and adapting to the complexities of global operations.

Amidst successes, MCB confronted growth challenges, managing a surge in special product requests. Expanding horizons prompted a shift to email-centric procurement, reshaping networks, and pricing. A centralised structure rejuvenated purchase and logistics, redefining operations. Recognising traditional methods limitations for an industry giant, MCB embraced technological integration, partnering with industry leaders like NTN & SNR, SKF, ILJIN, SEDIS, MBS, DAYCO, MUSASHI, CORTECO, and FREUDENBERG, enhancing its logistics standing.

In 2004, the company implemented the 'Facts' ERP system, further streamlining their processes and enhancing their operational agility. These enabled efficient warehousing, logistics and dispatching operations and more precise data analytics, sales, purchase forecasting and customer behaviour.

Until 2008, MCB's warehouse capacity stood at a modest 24,000 sq ft. However, defying the challenges posed by the global economic recession, MCB took a bold step to expand warehousing facilities to over triple the size, showcasing the company's resilience and robustness in the face of adversity. This strategic

move became a testament to MCB's commitment to logistical excellence even during turbulent times.

Mineral Circles Bearings has triumphed over the historical evolution of SKU numbers, seamlessly managing the transition from 5,000 in the 90's to an impressive 10,000 in the 2000's, and around 30,000 today. Navigating the logistical challenges that accompany a higher SKU count, the company strategically implemented advanced Warehouse Management Systems (WMS). This successful shift in SKU numbers reflects the company's adaptability to market trends, positioning itself competitively and consistently exceeding evolving consumer expectations.

In the past half-decade, a significant transformation has occurred in consumer buying habits, marked by a preference for a greater variety of Stock Keeping Units (SKUs) with reduced volume. This departure from traditional purchasing patterns directly impacts logistics processes, necessitating agile and adaptable supply chain strategies.

As a forward-thinking bearing company, MCB have adeptly navigated and successfully adapted to these evolving customer behaviours, ensuring resilience and relevance in a dynamic market landscape.

BGL®

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SLEEVES AND NUTS FOR BEARINGS



Moving into international markets means dealing with diverse geographies, varying infrastructures, and different regulatory landscapes. Each country has its own set of customs regulations and compliance requirements. Adapting to these diverse standards necessitates a robust understanding of international trade laws and customs procedures. MCB enhanced logistics capabilities navigate these complexities seamlessly.

Mr. Hassanein Alwan's tenure marked a transformative phase for the company, propelling it to new heights. His visionary approach to integrating disparate divisions within the department, particularly purchase and logistics, ushered in a significant change. This strategic collaboration not only fostered greater stability but also significantly enhanced operational efficiency.

Realising the necessity for a more comprehensive approach, MCB took a significant step by adopting Oracle NetSuite software. This move catapulted them into a new era of unified and advanced management systems. With NetSuite, they streamlined their order management, enabling swift and precise processing of orders, overseeing shipments, and tracking deliveries. This capability became

crucial in meeting customer needs promptly and accurately. The COVID-19 pandemic posed immense challenges to various industries globally. Many manufacturing facilities faced workforce shortages, operational restrictions, and social distancing measures, impacting production efficiency and capacity. Airfreight cancellations, reduced shipping capacities, and transportation constraints hindered the timely delivery of bearings to international customers, affecting overall logistics efficiency. However, MCB emerged resilient due to its robust logistics operations, enabling successful navigation through these tough times.

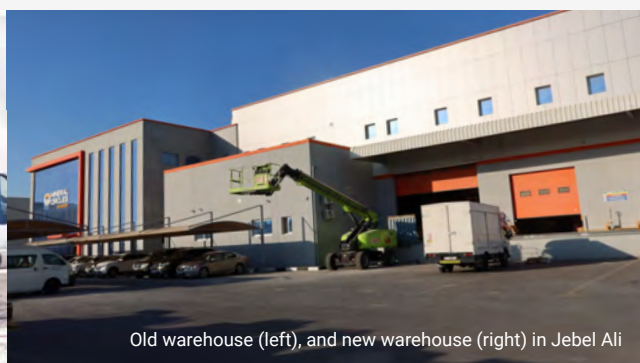
In 2023, MCB marked significant growth and sustainability achievements. The company revealed a newly expanded warehouse, now twice the size of its previous facility, showcasing its dedication to meeting industry demands and adopting responsible business practices. This enhancement allows the MCB warehouse to accommodate up to 12,000 pallets.

The new eco-friendly warehouse, equipped with thermal insulator panels, ensures efficient operations and energy conservation. MCB has embraced modern technology with high-efficiency pallet stackers, enhancing material handling.

To foster a connected work environment, MCB implemented a Wi-Fi 6 Mesh network. Streamlining operations, a unique barcoding system ensures precision in tracking consignments within the expansive warehouse. Safety remains paramount, with MCB maintaining zero accidents to date through safety measures. MCB is set to install solar panels, aligning with its commitment to a greener future and reducing environmental impact. These initiatives highlight MCB's dedication to innovation, sustainability, and maintaining high standards.

The integration of a larger, eco-friendly warehouse, advanced technology, and a commitment to renewable energy positions MCB as a leader in the bearing industry, exemplifying responsible business practices.

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Old warehouse (left), and new warehouse (right) in Jebel Ali

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Franco Ferrari at Parmafluid's 30th celebration



Franco Ferrari

Remembering Franco Ferrari, a Visionary Entrepreneur at Parmafluid

Parmafluid remember Franco Ferrari and his legacy of passion and generosity: a gentleman in the hydraulic industry.

As the one-year anniversary of his passing is marked, Parmafluid want to remember and thank Franco Ferrari immensely. A person of integrity, kindness, and generosity: a true gentleman, "un Signore" as they like to say in Italy.

"He has bequeathed to us the values in which he strongly believed: passion for our job, generosity, attentiveness towards others, professional competence, personal humility, and infinite love for his family. Qualities he always conveyed to everyone with a natural kindness." Says Federico Ferrari of Parmafluid.

Franco Ferrari embarked on his 'oleodynamic journey' in 1969 at Casappa S.p.A. where he dedicated 18 years of his career with passion and loyalty. He embraced values and knowledge that would accompany him in the subsequent years as an entrepreneur, and he always expressed gratitude towards the owners of this company.

In 1987, fuelled by enthusiasm and humility, he embarked on a new venture by founding Parmafluid S.r.l., a Parma-based company specialising in hydraulic systems, alongside Roberto Filippini,

Giuseppe Lanfranchi, and Giovanni Quattrini. For more than 36 years they were not just business partners, but true friends.

In the early years of Parmafluid, the company strategically positioned itself in the market committing to highlight its core strengths: quality, affordability, and expertise. This strategic approach led to Parmafluid becoming the official distributor of Bosch Rexroth, Casappa, Walvoil, Emmegi, Hydr-app and Oleostar, leading brands in the sector. The company's consistent growth paved the way for the establishment of a new production site dedicated to the manufacturing of cylinders, hydraulic systems, and test benches.

Franco had always driven the company towards an international vision with long-lasting collaborations in Europe and beyond, still crucial to the Parmafluid group today. The most significant of these began in 2002 when Franco played a key role in initiating the partnership with VHS Hydraulic Components LTD in the UK, alongside Rob Turner and Daniel Whitehead. VHS remains one of the flagship aspects of the company's business, further developed

in recent years with the acquisition of Neilson Hydraulics.

A serious and competent entrepreneur, remembered by all for his gentility and generosity. Franco always had the families and children of his collaborators in mind: 'How are the boys?' he would ask before discussing work. A capable entrepreneur, but above all, a mentor, a listening ear, and at times a second father to his team, endeavouring to transform his company, Parmafluid, into a second family for many of them.

He has left a significant void in the company and in the hydraulics sector, but his pure and honest example of skill and fairness will guide his partners, his son Federico, and the entire Parmafluid team through both the professional and social challenges of tomorrow.

We join Parmafluid in bidding him farewell as they did a year ago when announcing his passing.

Federico continued, "For us he was a capable and visionary entrepreneur for whom people and families were always a top priority, someone you could always rely on as a loyal partner and friend, a master of hydraulics and life.

"And as a father, the best one you could ever have."

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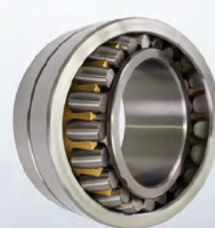
Trade show attendance



30th anniversary celebration



QCB... So much more than slewing rings



Also, Newtown are a leading supplier of hard to source bearings and power transmission products – difficult to obtain and items no longer in production are our speciality.

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Official UK Agents For TR Bearing Units / Rexnord & Link-Belt Bearing Units / SWR Belts



Contact Us:

Call us on: +44 (0) 1952 222400
Email: sales@newtownbearings.co.uk

George Lodge, the First to Implement BearingNet's Webshop Lite Feature

Following a successful testing period, George Lodge & Sons are the first company to seamlessly implement the new Webshop Lite function into their BearingNet account!

Within BearingNet, members have the ability to click the Webshop Lite icon which allows them to instantly place a firm order for the item; reducing time for the buyer, as they have instant access to pricing, and saving time for the seller in replying to RFQ's.

"The Webshop Lite Bolt-On has allowed us to trade within BearingNet as if we have invested in a complete e-commerce webshop, just without the cost!"

Sue Rudd, Sales Manager

George Lodge wanted to make the purchasing process easier and faster for their BearingNet partners and now through the implementation of Webshop Lite they have achieved exactly that. This new implementation enables members to effortlessly place direct orders with George Lodge, streamlining and fast-tracking the entire ordering process.

George Lodge & Sons Ltd has been a distributor of bearing products since the 1920's when it became an authorised distributor for the Ransome & Marles bearing company. This association still exists today as the company are an authorised distributor for NSK bearings who acquired the companies of Ransome & Marles, Hoffman & Pollard (RHP) in the 1990's. Based in Hull, George Lodge & Sons Limited is one of the largest bearing and power transmission distributors in the north of England and has been in business for over 130 years.

Interested in adding Webshop Lite to your BearingNet account? Get in touch with our sales team today for further information or to book a demonstration.

sales@bearingnet.net
+44 1279 844044



George Lodge & Sons:
+44 1482 329553
sales@georgelodge.co.uk
www.georgelodgedirect.co.uk

Simply search for a part number on BearingNet, click the Webshop Lite basket icon in the search results to enter the sellers enquiry page, then choose the quantity and delivery time required. You will then get an instant price to place an order!



NU214

Brand **SKF**

Quantity **12**

Availability **2-3 Days**

Price **USD 12.00**

Terms: 30 days
Carriage / Transport Charge: Ex works
Thanks

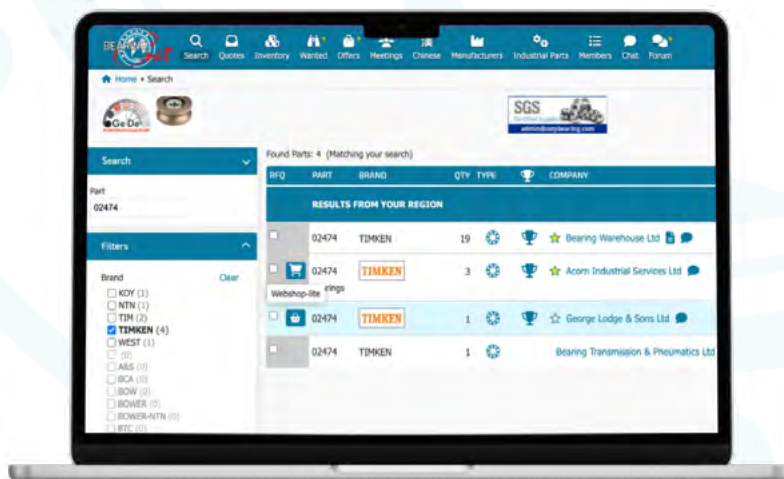
Would you like to send an order?

Quantity of 12 available

Delivery

Total: **60 USD**

You do not have to own your own webshop to benefit from Webshop Lite; generate enquiries within BearingNet. Additionally, you are in control! Set your pricing and discounts accordingly.



Look out for the Webshop Lite basket icon



A Hero's Welcome: GodivaMan Unveils Brand New Clean Room

Godiva Bearings has revealed a brand new state-of-the-art clean room for bearing products at their premises in Dudley.

The team at Godiva is always looking to expand the range of services offered to their trade customers. Recently, the company unveiled a brand new, purpose-built clean room.

"We are pleased to announce that our new, purpose-built, Class 7 clean room, with Class 5 Clean Benches and Laminar flow hood, meeting ISO 14644-1:2015, is now open for business."

Tom Hamlett, Managing Director

A bearing clean room is a controlled environment designed to minimise the presence of airborne particles, contaminants, and other pollutants. Maintaining a clean room is a complex process involving air filtration systems, controlled airflow, and strict protocols for personnel entering and working within the clean room.

Clean rooms are classified based on the level of cleanliness they can maintain,

often measured by the number and size of particles per cubic metre. The classification standards are set by organisations like the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).

The new Godiva facility has three zones; a changing area, a decontamination room and the main clean room. The clean room is used to inspect, cleanse, re-lubricate, re-life, bearings and associated parts within a filtered environment, along with being approved to apply a large range of coatings and lubricants by using their bespoke cabinet and tooling. This applies a solid film lubricant to bearings or linear surfaces.

Whilst the vast majority of products that are expected to pass through the facility are bearings, Godiva has not ruled out other products such as fasteners and high precision machined specials. The clean room has already had a wide range of bearings in various formats pass through. These include miniature ball bearings, needle roller bearings, angular contact bearings, deep groove ball bearings, medical instrument bearings, thin

section bearings, track roller bearings, linear bearings, and metal-to-metal spherical bearings.

As well as providing bearings, Godiva also have over 100 different lubricants in stock including food grade, low out gassing, high temperature and corrosive resistant greases. They also allow the customer to free issue the lubricant of their choice to them.

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www.godiva-bearings.co.uk

GODIVA BEARINGS 



One Million Pound Investment Futureproofs Bowman's Position as a Leading Stockholder

Bowman International look back at a year of facility investment and improvements, with the introduction of automated warehousing facilities and additional storage space.



"Stock is key to customer fulfilment", says Paul Hancock, CEO of Bowman International Ltd – an ethos the manufacturer has worked to since it began in 1972.

Now, after almost a year of improvements, and an investment of nearly one million pounds, Bowman has completed state-of-the-art upgrades to its automated warehousing facilities and the addition of another 550 square metres of space in Oxfordshire and the Midlands. With a focus on automation and storage capacity, these improvements will allow Bowman to continue its growth trajectory

with unrivalled stock-inventory at the centre of its success.

Paul continues: "Customers come to Bowman because they know we hold more than 7,000 product lines in stock and will almost always be able to deliver products faster than our competitors.

"For this reason, investing in the latest warehouse automation technologies was the right next step to futureproof our growth. These technologies significantly reduce human error, and make the picking, packing, and shipping of orders, leaner and faster."

"We live in a world where automation has enabled convenience and speed to become a prerequisite, so if we want to be known for our fast delivery from stock, we must keep pace."

Paul Hancock, Bowman International CEO

Automated picking machines

The jewel in the crown of Bowman's upgrades is a fleet of nine vertical

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New look

7 Million engineer

Centa Couplings | SK
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IN

automated storage and picking machines from Italian manufacturer, Modula. These machines not only optimise the full height of the warehouse space for maximum storage capacity, but also make picking orders up to five times faster than previous processes. The automated system utilises the revolutionary Modula 'Put-to-Light' order picking system which significantly increases picking efficiency and reduces errors.

Built on the 'goods-to-man' principle, these automated vertical storage units are designed so that the products are sent to the operator, rather than the operator having to go to products like in a traditional shelved warehouse. The Modula WMS software system is directly linked to Bowman's new SAP Business 1 ERP system which pushes sales orders through to their warehouse for immediate picking and packing.

Creating space for growth

Bowman has increased its racking by 40% at its split bearing site, and 30% at its plain bearing facility, to accommodate increasing stock levels of both standard bearing lines and special products that are stored for customers in the UK for shipping around the world.

Two substantial new mezzanine floors have been added to the headquarters in Oxfordshire to allow for the stock storage expansion, but also of the company's processing, machining, and 3D printing processes, which in turn has created much needed vacant office spaces for further business growth.

With further space now dedicated to processes like machining, oil impregnation, heat treatment and rolling, Bowman can better serve its

growing base of customers requiring bespoke-engineered bearing products. Bespoke bearing solutions is an area of great potential for Bowman, having recently secured contracts of significant value in the off-road vehicle and wind energy industries.

A digitally upskilled workforce

An upgraded facility needs an upskilled workforce. Bowman's team have undertaken comprehensive training on how to get the most out of the new automated systems.

Paul adds: "In a connected world, it is important that we provide opportunities for our team members to learn and become comfortable with the latest digital and automation technologies in a way that will be useful to them both at Bowman, and in a wider context. The team has really enjoyed learning how to use the new machine interfaces to optimise warehouse processes and make customer fulfilment as lean as possible."

New stockholding in Ohio, USA

In addition to these significant changes in the UK, Bowman has also invested in its first state-side stock holding in Ohio.

Since launching its North American subsidiary and sales office, Bowman Bearing Technologies Inc., at the start of 2022, demand for the company's portfolio of plain and split roller bearings as well as 3D components, has grown significantly across the region.

Alistair Brixey, President of Bowman Bearing Technologies Inc, explains:

"Holding stock inventory in the U.S. was always the plan and we are thrilled to have reached this key milestone. With

inventory in key locations worldwide, Bowman is known for its commitment to fulfilment and fast delivery, and we will offer the same service standards in North America.

"The market has welcomed Bowman's wide range of products, our competitive pricing, quality and passion for problem solving through innovation. With space to put down roots and expand our team in the region, we are confident that our reputation will go from strength-to-strength in the coming years."

Futureproofed and ready for growth

Futureproofing its position as leading stockholder in the bearing industry, Bowman's 12-month schedule of substantial warehouse automation and facility upgrades, plus a new stockholding in the U.S. has already begun benefitting customers and driving growth. The company has expanded its divisional teams with a range of key appointments and has entered 2024 with an above-target sales pipeline of customers needing fast delivery from stock.

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BOWMAN



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TEC IE3 Motors | THK Compact Rails & Telescopic Rails | Tygris Greases
A Needle Bearings | FAG Cylindrical Roller Bearings



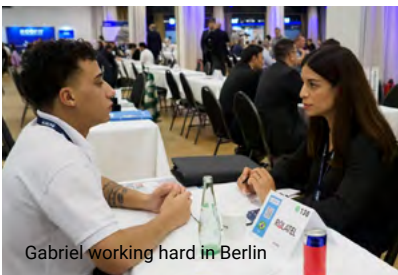
An Interview with: Gabriel Castro, Rolatel Comercio De Rolamentos

Following the 20th BearingNet User Meeting in Berlin, Germany in October 2023, Gabriel Castro from Rolatel talks us through his first ever trip outside Brazil.

Rolatel has been a member of the BearingNet platform for over nine years, so we were keen to find out more about their experience at a User Meeting for the first time. Export/Import Manager, Gabriel Castro dived in at the deep end, attending the meeting on behalf of Rolatel, and taking the huge step to leave his home country Brazil for the very first time.

How was your first experience leaving Brazil and travelling overseas for an industry event?

Travelling internationally has always been a dream of mine. Realising this dream whilst working was extremely gratifying. My first experience of leaving Brazil for an industry event was incredibly enriching. It provided a unique opportunity to immerse myself in an international setting, learn about global industry practices, and connect with professionals from diverse backgrounds. The exposure to different cultures and perspectives was invaluable and broadened my understanding of the industry.



Gabriel working hard in Berlin

Why did you attend the Berlin User Meeting?

I participated in the Berlin User Meeting with the primary objective of networking and cultivating connections within the suppliers. It was integral to our strategy of enhancing competitiveness in the international market. Recognising the significance of staying informed about

the latest industry trends, technologies, and networking opportunities, we aimed to gain valuable insights, explore potential collaborations, and reinforce Rolatel's position as a player in the market.

How was your first experience of the User Meeting?

My first experience at the User Meeting was incredibly positive and proved to be an invaluable learning opportunity. The event provided a dynamic setting for exchanging ideas, gaining insights into industry best practices, and fostering meaningful connections. It was a highly enriching experience that contributed significantly to my professional growth and understanding of the industry.

Can you tell me more about the new connections you made in the industry and finding new business at the meeting?

The User Meeting facilitated the establishment of valuable connections within the industry. I had the privilege of meeting professionals who shared similar interests and goals. Making solid connections, especially with businesses we are already working with, was a game-changer. Face-to-face interactions set the stage for better collaborations and opened new possibilities for doing business together.

How is BearingNet beneficial to you and how does it help Rolatel?

BearingNet has proven exceptionally advantageous for us. Beyond simplifying the process of discovering new suppliers, it has played a crucial role in fortifying our ties with existing partners. The meeting has been instrumental in deepening relationships with current suppliers. Additionally, it has been a key factor in broadening our network and forming meaningful partnerships with



Gabriel Castro in Berlin

new suppliers, making a substantial contribution to the overall growth and progress of Rolatel.

Are you looking to attend the User Meetings in the future and if so, why?

Certainly, I am eager to participate in upcoming User Meetings. The event offers a unique environment for learning, networking, and staying abreast of industry developments. The connections forged during these meetings play a pivotal role in the growth and global visibility of Rolatel.

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ROLATEL



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Headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, EBT Bearings showcases a 20,000 sq. ft., ISO Certified warehouse, an in-house quality control (QC) department complete with Zeiss CMM, a complete line of bearings ready for immediate shipment, and humbly speaking, the best team of employees in the industry. In addition to their Fort Worth facility, EBT Bearings, has a global manufacturing footprint which also adheres to the same ISO Quality Management System and allows for a level of customization, flexibility, and control rarely found anywhere else in the marketplace. In addition to manufacturing their own bearings, EBT is also an authorized distributor for many leading bearing manufacturers, including URB.

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SPHERICAL ROLLER BEARINGS Mining

Keeping the Global Transport Industry on Track with NKE Bearings

From small city trams to busy underground trains, NKE in Austria are making sure that the industry bearings and power transmission components they provide are up to scratch.

NKE Austria GmbH presents its bearings for railway applications used in traction motors and locomotive gearboxes, as well as in railcars, trams, and underground trains.

When designing a rail vehicle, it is essential to consider factors such as loads, speeds, torques and installation space. These factors must also be considered when selecting the power transmission components.

Bearings for gearboxes operate at high speeds and under high loads. They must be able to withstand shocks, vibration, and extreme temperatures. Bearings for traction motors are required to have a long service life. The most commonly used bearing types in rail vehicle gearboxes are cylindrical roller bearings, tapered roller bearings, angular contact ball bearings, four-point contact ball bearings and deep groove ball bearings.

In traction motors, the most typical are cylindrical roller bearings and deep

groove ball bearings. Often these bearing types are electrically insulated, with a corresponding coating on the outer or inner ring. For particularly demanding applications, hybrid variants are available.

The rolling elements of hybrid bearings are made from heavy duty silicon nitride (Si₃N₄), an extremely hard-wearing ceramic. Bearings for gearboxes and traction motors can also be customised and produced to special specifications, for example higher thermal resistance or more stringent tolerance ranges.

"Our design of electrically insulated cylindrical roller bearings and deep groove ball bearings includes an oxide ceramic coating"

says Klaus Grissenberger, Application Engineer with NKE in Steyr, Austria.

"This offers simple, effective protection against bearing damage from currents passing through the bearing." The insulation significantly reduces the risk of damaged raceways and premature ageing of the lubricant and has a dielectric strength of 1000 V and 3000 V with DC or AC voltage respectively.

The electrically insulated bearings have the same dimensions and technical properties as conventional bearings, so they are easily replaceable. Versions available are bearings with insulation on the outer ring (SQ77) or on the inner ring (SQ77E).

Hybrid deep groove ball bearings from NKE are noted for the extremely high degree of protection they offer against damaging bearing currents, prolonging service life, the lubricant, exceptionally quiet running, low friction and associated losses. "Our hybrid deep groove ball and cylindrical bearings represent the premium solution for the prevention of



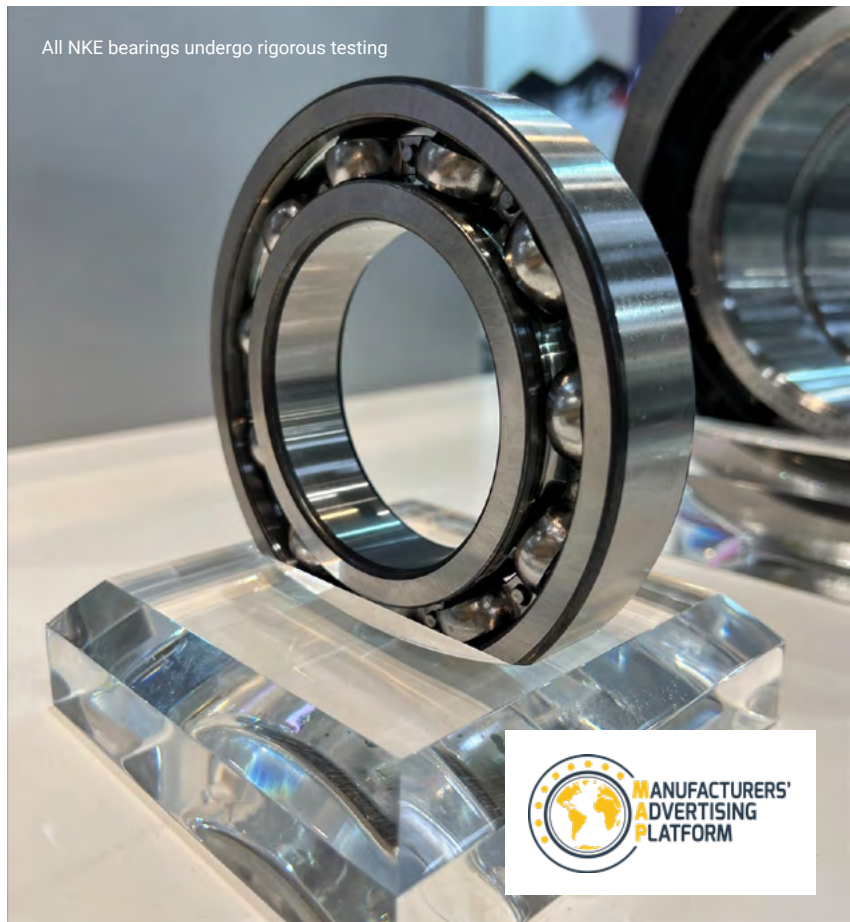
current-induced bearing damage," says Grissenberger. "This is achieved due to the excellent material properties of the ceramic balls, for example outstanding compressive strength and rigidity, low density, and of course the highest possible electrical resistance."

When developing bearing solutions for railway applications, NKE's Applications Engineering department works closely with customers, which include well-known OEM manufacturers, railway operators and service providers. All bearings undergo rigorous, documented quality control procedures. Apart from product development, NKE also offers technical support in the selection of bearings, dimensioning, and condition assessment, and conducts training courses. Since 2005, the Austrian bearing manufacturer has delivered over 40,000 bearings for rail vehicles.

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Rolling Successfully for 53 Years and Beyond (The Largest Needle Bearing Stock in Brazil)

Join us on a journey as we explore Ipanema Rolamentos and their years of expertise and precision within the needle bearing industry.

In this dynamic and competitive industrial world, surviving for over five decades is akin to being a seasoned veteran, a rare find indeed. Allow us to introduce you to Ipanema Rolamentos.

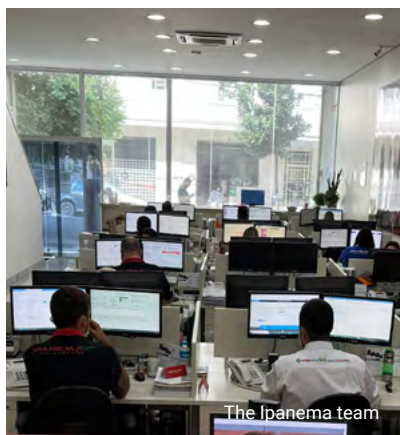
Few companies can solidify their position and maintain relevance for decades. Ipanema is a notable exception to this rule, boasting over half a century of history marked by excellence, innovation, and a dedication to meeting the industry's needs. Ipanema has emerged as a dependable leader in supplying industrial bearings, playing a vital role in supporting the operations of diverse enterprises. The company is now an authorised distributor of renowned brands such as INA, FAG, NTN/SNR, Timken, IKO, BGL, FRM, and Megadyne.

A history of success

The journey of Ipanema is a true narrative of resilience and entrepreneurial vision. Founded in 1969, the company emerged during a challenging period, but quickly stood out in the industrial landscape, thanks to its solid foundation and commitment to quality. Since then, the company has grown steadily, expanding its range of products and services to meet the market's evolving demands.

A commitment to quality

The secret to Ipanema's longevity and success lies in its unwavering commitment to quality. Whether it is



The Ipanema team

providing bearings for heavy machinery or essential components for production systems, Ipanema is synonymous with durability and reliability.

Partnership with customers & huge stock

Ipanema Rolamentos is not just a supplier of industrial products; it is a reliable partner to its customers. The company understands the complexities of the industrial environment and works closely with clients to provide solutions. Whether assisting in selecting the right bearing for a specific application or offering technical support in critical moments, Ipanema is always by its customers' side, providing products or services. It is like they have a time machine but in the form of photos. It is like a family album but with gears and bearings.



Authorised distributor

In our fast-paced industry, having access to a comprehensive and diverse range of parts is the backbone of operational success. Ipanema, with its rich history of over five decades in the industrial market, has set an exemplary standard when it comes to offering a vast and varied stock. The company keeps a wide range of bearings and essential components in stock and ready for delivery. This not only meets the demands of an ever-evolving market, but also provides customers with peace of mind that their projects and operations can continue uninterrupted.

Ipanema's comprehensive stock is more than a competitive advantage; it is a testament to its unwavering commitment to keeping the industry moving, no matter

the challenges that may arise. Proudly, the company holds the largest stock of needle bearings in Brazil. Below, are some old bearings that Ipanema displays as a kind of trophy. Do you remember or have you seen any of these relics?



Legacy and future vision

With more than five decades of successful operations, Ipanema continues to look to the future with determination. Its vision extends beyond being just a product supplier; it aspires to be a driving force behind industrial progress. By investing in technology, sustainability, and operational excellence, the company is preparing for another 50 years of positive impact on the industrial landscape.

A journey of excellence & lasting impact

The story of Ipanema Rolamentos is more than just a tale; it is a narrative of determination, resilience, and a touch of ingenuity. Its photos are the pages of a book that teaches us that persistence and passion are the true engines of success. Ipanema does not just roll; it accelerates toward an exciting and enduring industrial future.

Thus, Ipanema Rolamentos is not just a company but an inspiring example of resilience and determination that echoes through the decades, driving progress and excellence in an ever-transforming industry. Its journey reminds us that, with passion and vision, it is possible to leave an indelible mark and create a legacy that transcends time.

"At 53 years on the road, we are ready to take an exciting leap: to take our products worldwide through export! Our experience in Brazil has prepared us for this international adventure. We want to share our quality with global customers

and show the world what we are capable of. This export project is more than strategy; it is our quest for growth and innovation. We are excited to be part of new communities and international markets.” Guilherme Cestari, Ipanema.

Ipanema will be attending the BearingNet User Meeting in Vienna this year. See them there between 3-5 October 2024.

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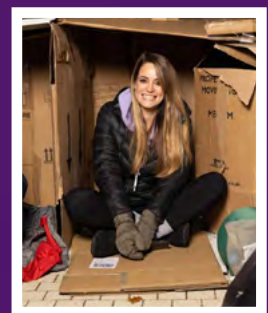
Ipanema hold the largest stock of needle bearings in Brazil

St Albans SLEEPOUT Friday 10th November 2023

We did it! Thanks to the BearingNet community and family and friends, BearingNet raised a total of £1,641.25 for Herts Young Homeless.

After a very damp and uncomfortable night under the stars in just a sleeping bag on some cardboard, we did it. With homelessness in Hertfordshire rising, the team at BearingNet decided to attend the Herts Young Homeless Sleepout event. We are so pleased to have contributed to a huge £48,964 which the event raised for the charity!

Thanks again to everyone who contributed, you could really make a difference to someone's life.



Nicola Beer, Managing Director at BearingNet





The Quality Bearings Online Team taking part in the 150 mile challenge

Quality Bearings Online Supports Yorkshire-based Candlelighters Charity by Raising Over £8,000

Multi-award winning distributor Quality Bearings Online provides incredible support to Leeds children's charity Candlelighters, raising vital funds through various activities.

A Yorkshire-based bearing distributor pledged to support Candlelighters, a Leeds-based non-profit charity which supports families with children who are battling cancer. The team chose Candlelighters as their charity of the year in 2023, with the goal of raising £5,000. They surpassed this target and have raised over £8,000.

Founded in 1976, Candlelighters was formed by a group of parents and medical staff who recognised a need for supporting families with children facing childhood cancer. Since then, the organisation has grown and has created its own family support centre just around the corner from Leeds Children's Hospital.

Denny Maude, CEO at Quality Bearings Online Limited (QBOL), said "Candlelighters has been our charity

of choice for many years, and I have personally seen, first hand, the work they do with families of children with cancer. They give support to those going through the toughest times in their lives, and I am incredibly grateful to the whole QBOL team for their dedication to fundraising and supporting Candlelighters with the fantastic work they do."

Quality Bearings Online is a multi-award-winning company which supplies precision bearings, engineering spares, and technologically advanced lubricants to customers all around the world. The company takes pride in offering trusted brands, expert knowledge, excellent customer service, and swift global delivery. They are also dedicated to making a positive impact and supporting local charities. The team of 22 individuals based in Leeds, Gelderd Road, has

taken part in a number of fundraising activities such as Tough Mudders, abseils, bake sales, and completing the 150 mile challenge.

June 2023 saw five QBOL employees abseil 148 ft down the Moda building in Leeds City Centre. The individuals knew the strength and determination of children and families who are affected by this devastating disease and wanted to take on a challenge to push themselves out of their comfort zones. They managed to raise a whopping £2,580, with QBOL matching all the donations the team raised.

In support of Childhood Cancer Awareness month in September 2023, employees at QBOL took part in the 150 Mile Challenge, set by Candlelighters. The challenge consisted of completing

150 miles within the month by walking, cycling, running, or swimming. To generate some healthy competition, they decided to split their departments into teams. Competitive spirits were high, with all teams fighting for the spot at the top of the leaderboard each week. In the end, the Directors team came out on top by achieving a huge 425.3 miles in total.

In conjunction with their fundraising activities, Quality Bearings Online purchased a private suite at the First Direct Arena in Leeds. This incredible company perk allowed employees to invite partners and suppliers, as well as family and friends, to join them for events at the arena. They used this as an opportunity to raise money for Candlelighters by covering all drinks and food tabs in exchange for donations from their guests. The team were also able to invite children and families from Leeds Children's Hospital to the private box for children's events such as Disney on Ice, Paw Patrol, and Blippi.

Iain Blackwood Hobbs, Partnerships Executive at Candlelighters, commented "We cannot thank QBOL enough for all the support they have given to Candlelighters over the last couple of years. As well as getting involved with different fundraising activities, signing up to challenge events and supporting our campaigns, they've provided some amazing experiences at Leeds First Direct Arena for our families and created lovely memories. We do not receive any government funding and the current financial climate is more challenging than ever, so their fundraising has made a tremendous difference to the charity and the families we support. All of the money raised allows us to continue providing practical, emotional and financial support to families in Yorkshire affected by childhood cancer".

Follow the QBOL team's journey and their future fundraising by following them on social media:

LinkedIn: Quality Bearings Online

Instagram: @qualitybearings

Facebook: qualitybearings

X: @QualityBearings

Contact here:

+44 1133 237793

sales@qualitybearingsonline.com

www.qualitybearingsonline.com



Quality Bearings Online Abseil Team



Families of Candlelighters visiting the private suite First Direct Arena for Disney On Ice



Two QBOL employees visited Candlelighters to help wrap Christmas presents for the children they support.

PFI Bearings: Expanding Horizons in the Motorcycle Industry

As motorcycles and scooters have become more popular in recent years, American brand PFI talk about the comprehensive and wide range of high quality bearing solutions in place.

In the past decade, the demand for motorcycles and scooters has experienced a significant upsurge, driven by their ability to provide freedom of movement in congested urban environments, as well as low environmental impact, and convenient parking options, while being cost-effective versus the other mobility alternatives. The younger consumers actually prefer them as a more adventurous and exciting means of transportation.

At PFI Bearings, the American-based company member of the FERSA's corporate group, the evolving needs of motorcycle manufacturers and riders are well-understood. PFI currently offers an extensive range of high-quality bearing solutions designed specifically for motorcycles.

PFI's bearings are engineered to deliver exceptional performance, reliability, and durability, ensuring smooth operation and enhanced riding experiences. With the brand's commitment to quality and innovation, the main aim is to support the thriving motorcycle market and contribute to the advancement of eco-friendly transportation solutions. PFI bearings cover an all-encompassing array of applications, such as wheel, transmission, engine, clutch, and steering column.

"The PFI motorcycle catalogue arises because we are a leading motorcycle bearing brand in many markets, mainly in Latin America, Colombia being one of our biggest customers. Also, in the last few years we've seen the new trend of increasing electric motorcycles' popularity. Due to the population's upgrowing concern for the environment

and the imperative need to reduce carbon emissions, many consumers are now opting for electric motorcycles as a greener alternative to the traditional gasoline-powered options, which increases even further the demand", says Rami Chirila, PFI's Global Sales Manager.

"At PFI we are committed to developing and distributing sustainable solutions in order to take care of the environment and to satisfactorily meet the customers' requirements"

added Carlos Heron Moreira Ramos, technical support engineer.



FERSA

The PFI motorcycle bearings catalogue showcases the brand's broad range, curated precisely to cater to the latest aftermarket demands.

In line with PFI's mission, the catalogue presents many high-quality bearing solutions, meticulously organised by brand and model and searchable by OE number or application or by dimensions.

The PFI catalogue focuses on leading motorcycle brands, offering unparalleled product quality, particularly the bearings with the carbonitriding treatment for engine applications.

"We curated these models based on their exceptional performance, compatibility with a broad spectrum of motorcycles, and ability to meet the rigorous standards of durability and reliability that PFI and this demanding market stand for" states Rami Chirila about the models chosen for the catalogue. "However, we are committed to continuous updates of applications, increasing the range of makes and models depending on each region and ensuring that our catalogue remains at the vanguard of the market needs" she conveys.

PFI Bearings is a leading North American manufacturer of precision bearings based in Ohio, USA, and for more than 30 years has been supporting the automotive industry delivering quality products to remanufacturers and aftermarket customers worldwide.

With state-of-the-art manufacturing plants and American know-how, PFI Bearings produces high-performance motorcycle bearings that meet the highest quality standards and OE design specifications.

At PFI Bearings, quality is prioritised in every step of the manufacturing process, using advanced technologies and selecting the finest components and materials to ensure the bearings have the highest quality and to deliver optimal performance and reliability.

This dedication has earned PFI an impeccable reputation as a trusted partner in the global automotive aftermarket and remanufacturing industries.

Contact here:
+48 3278 41238
sales-global@pfibearings.com
www.pfibearings.com

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Introducing Fasten.it, Our Brand New Fastener and Fixings Platform

Following the addition of Fasten.it to the BearingNet and FluidPowerNet family in 2023, we speak to co-founder Carlo Ferri and get to know more about the company and services.



Fasten.it officially joined the BearingNet family in December 2023. Carlo Ferri (founder and previous owner), Federica Capelli and Vera Scaccabarozzi, who both work in Sales & Marketing, and are continuing to work with Fasten.it and BearingNet. They came over from beautiful Lake Como to BearingNet HQ to get to know us and start the integration of our companies.

Whilst visiting, we found some time to speak to Carlo to get to know more about the company, its history and the people and services.

What is Fasten.it and what services does it provide?

Fasten.it is the portal for fasteners and fixing elements. We provide services to thousands of platform users globally, allowing them to perform at their best in the fastener market, thanks to many useful and innovative tools.

We also pride ourselves on the promotional content we create for our users. Newsletters are a big part of Fasten.it, allowing customers to tell their story to the industry.

How many companies are on Fasten.it and where are they from?

Currently we have over 6,000 users on Fasten.it. These include paid and unpaid members from a wide range of companies and backgrounds. This consists of distributors, manufacturers, service users, fastener production companies and more, all from small family businesses up to global chain businesses.

Tell us a bit about the history of the company...

Fasten.it was established in 2003 as a search engine to help fastener companies find the items they were looking for. I set up the company together with Paolo Capelli. Having worked in the fastener industry since 1980, I had gained a lot of experience working as a sales manager and travelling around the world; mainly in Europe but having the opportunity to meet customers worldwide.

I started building the business with the help of Paolo (I had the industry knowledge and Paolo had the technical expertise that was needed to build the platform). Paolo was a friend I met through the software house in my previous role.

The first year of the project was creating and building up the search database, as well as offering support and small advertising opportunities. As Fasten.it got bigger, we introduced many more services, including procurement, surplus stock, industry norms, marketplace, product documentation and 'businesses for sale'.

Who makes up the Fasten.it team?

We were a small team located in Erba, just 20 minutes away from the beautiful Lake Como (Italy).

There was myself and Paolo, who sadly passed away in 2021. This was a very difficult time, losing both my business partner and technical expertise, as well as having to face a worldwide pandemic. However, with the help of friends and family we managed to continue and build up a new team.

This team included myself who started the company in 2003, Federica (Paolo's sister) started working with us after she finished university in 2007, her role was sales/marketing and customer care. Then in 2021 we took on Andrea in marketing, Marco in Tech and Vera who had a background in tradeshows and translation services.

Talking of COVID, how did Fasten.it cope with the recent pandemic?

Surprisingly, we saw a high growth in registration to Fasten.it during this period. Italy was one of the worst affected countries in Europe with COVID-19, and many small companies were closing throughout. Fasten.it however, was still very much in demand, and therefore we continued to grow as companies looked for new revenue sources.

Post Covid was a different story for us. After Paolo had gone we hit a roadblock,

and we did not know how to move forward without him. We could not throw nearly 20 years of hard work away, so this is when we found our new team as mentioned earlier. We started working with Marco, a friend and ex-colleague, who helped us greatly with software development, Andrea, was a very good at managing the social media side of the business, and Vera, our fluent German speaker. This allowed us to continue to provide the Fasten.it services and grow even further.

How did the BearingNet partnership arise and are you looking forward to working alongside the team?

We met a few members of the BearingNet team at the Stuttgart fair, and we are looking forward to seeing what the future brings for the three brands (Fasten.it, BearingNet and FluidPowerNet).

Joining BearingNet is a great move for Fasten.it, and also came at a very good time in my life. I am ready to retire, but giving up your 'baby' is something that is so hard to do, it was great to be able to pass it on to a company in a very similar field and to know that there was the opportunity for some of the staff to continue working with Fasten.it.

Federica and Vera will continue to run the day-to-day activities of Fasten.it from Como with the assistance of the BearingNet team.

We are excited for future projects, including the marketplace which we aim to grow and for it to become the engine of the Fasten.it platform. Watch this space!

fasten.it



The portal for fasteners and fixing elements

Fasten.it - What services does it provide?



E-PROCUREMENT



SURPLUS STOCK



SUPPLIER SEARCH



MARKETPLACE



NEWS



DISTRIBUTOR SEARCH



BUSINESS FOR SALE

www.fasten.it is an essential tool for the fastener industry that promotes contact among fastener professionals through innovative and helpful services.

Fasten.it, for more than 20 years, has helped professionals of the fastener field find solutions to their needs. The well-known functionalities of Fasten.it (E-PROCUREMENT, SUPPLIER SEARCH, etc.) have been enriched by a more personal approach and a closer cooperation with its users, thanks to new features such as purchasing consulting, recruitment and the sale/acquisition/merging of companies.

Product Categories

Standard fasteners

Special fasteners

Self-tapping fasteners

Washers and rings

Nuts

Threaded rods and bars

Chains and lifting accessories

Pins / Cotterpins / Parallel keys

Rivets and inserts

Clamps and fast fixings

Fixings

Fastener equipment and services

Raw material for fasteners

Fasteners in stainless steel, superalloys and non-ferrous metals



Paolo Capelli, Fastener Fair, Stuttgart 2013



The Fasten.it and BearingNet team in 2023

Manufacturers' Advertising Platform (MAP)

The Manufacturers' Advertising Platform gives manufacturers sales, marketing, networking and growth opportunities by directly connecting them to their distribution target market internationally.

Whether you need help with sales growth, lead or brand exposure, the MAP directory powered by the online platform for you!

Contact us today to set up a 30-minute demonstration so we can talk you through the MAP opportunities.



Over
35
companies



"As a manufacturer of bearing related tools we especially find the BearingNet annual conventions one of the best platforms to meet face-to-face with bearing distributors from all over the world. It is our way to get our brand and product out there, to create awareness about the added value of providing solutions for bearing assembly and disassembly."

Carol Poelma
Bega Special Tools

Here is the latest list of companies on the Manufacturers' Advertising Platform (MAP):

	A Zeta Gomma S.P.A. Belts & Rollers www.azetagomma.com		Criptic Arvis Ltd Housings www.arvis.co.uk		OKS GmbH Lubricants www.oks-germany.com
	Baart Industrial Group Bearings, Chains & Sprockets www.baartgroup.com		CW Bearing GmbH Bearings www.cwbearing.de		PFI Group, Inc. Automotive Bearings www.pfibearings.com
	Baltic Bearing Company Riga Bearings www.bbcr.eu		Georg Martin GmbH Mechanical Parts www.georgmartin.com		PIX Transmissions (Europe) Ltd Belts & Pulleys www.pixgermany.com
	Bando Belts www.bando.de		HSP Schwahlen GmbH Tools, Housings & Sleeves www.hsp.biz		Precision Bearings PVT Ltd Bearings www.znlbearings.com
	Bega Special Tools Tools & Induction Heaters www.begaspecialtools.com		Iris Chains Chains & Sprockets www.iris-chains.com		PTI Europa A/S Bearings www.pti.eu
	BGL Bertoloto & Grotta Sleeves & Accessories www.bgl.com.br		Kettentechnik Roeder GmbH Chains & Sprockets www.kettentechnik-roeder.de		Ramsey Products Corporation Chains www.ramseychain.com
	Bowman International Ltd Bearings www.bowman.co.uk		KUKKO-Werkzeugfabrik Tools www.kukko.com		RKB Europe SA Bearings www.rkbbearings.com
	Bri-Mac Engineering Ltd Housings www.bri-mac.com		Masta Bearing Housing PVT LTD Bearings & Housings www.mastagroup.com		Rozone Limited Part Washer www.rozone.co.uk
	BTL-UK Ltd (Dunlop) Bearings www.btl-uk.com		MBL USA Belts, Chains, Sprockets & Couplings www.mblusa.com		SWR Europe - van Dinther Antriebstechnik GmbH Belts www.swr-europe.de
	CeramicSpeed Bearings Ceramic Bearings www.ceramicspeed.com		Nachi Europe GmbH Bearings & Automotive Bearings www.nachi.de		Tygris Industrial Lubricants & Chemical Cleaning www.tygrisindustrial.com
	Colmant Cuvelier RPS Belts, Couplings & Mechanical Parts www.colmant-cuvelier-rps.com		NB Europe B.V. Bearings www.nbeurope.com		Ünsal Makina Pulleys, Bearings & Sprockets www.unsalmakina.com
	CPM S.P.A. Bearings www.cpmbearings.com		NBI Bearings Europe S.A Bearings www.gruponbi.com		URB Group Bearings, Sleeves & Rollers www.urbgroup.com
	CRC Industries Europe Part Washer, Oils & Lubricants www.crcind.com		NKE Austria GmbH Bearings www.nke.at		Wieland Group Bearings www.wieland.com



Take a look at the members who have officially joined the BearingNet

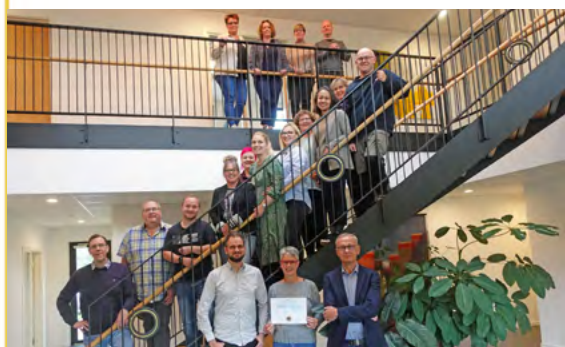
QUARTER CENTURY CLUB

since our last edition.



Contact us

Send us your certificate photos and tag us on socials!



2,000+ members



The BearingNet team in Berlin

1998

117 members

2000

302 members

2006

1,004 members

2016

1,810 members

2023

2,000 members



In the year we hosted our 20th User Meeting, we also reached a new milestone of 2,000 members!

BearingNet is thrilled to announce a new achievement – the platform has reached a milestone of 2,000 members! This achievement not only reflects our dedication to providing a valuable platform, but also highlights the trust and support of our growing community, which we are ever thankful for.

Our website has become a platform for like-minded individuals who share a common interest and a passion for the industry. The diverse backgrounds and experiences of our members contribute to the uniqueness of our community, fostering an environment of collaboration and new business.

Looking back at the site in 1998 with just 117 members, who would have thought that 25 years later we would be providing a very successful online platform with 2,000+ members. To break it down, that is 6,000+ individual users, 2,000+ companies, from 80+ countries worldwide.

While the number 2,000 is impressive, our focus has always been on maintaining the quality of our network rather than simply accumulating members.

Our members have the opportunity to network with hundreds of industry experts from around the world at our annual BearingNet User Meetings, we have just celebrated our 20th one! This type of networking not only opens new doors for business opportunities but also creates space for new friendships, which we all value very much!

To be able to provide a worldwide platform that is easy to use and brings in business to so many of you is what BearingNet is all about, and it is only with our members and hard-working team that we have made this happen. Thank you to everyone who uses our platform.

"We started 'Mission 2,000' six years ago. This was our mission to get to 2,000 company members on BearingNet. It seemed achievable but we soon realised that as many as we gained, we parted ways with, what with constant mergers, acquisitions, then Covid etc. It felt like an uphill battle... however we have now signed up customer 2,000!!!"

Nicola Beer, Managing Director

As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to the continued growth of our community. The journey from 0 to 2,000 members is just the beginning, and there are boundless opportunities for expansion and innovation in the future.

2000+ ▲

Bearing & Power Transmission Distributors

80+ ▲

Countries from all regions worldwide

750,000+ ▲

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