

Best Bits

30th Birthday Edition

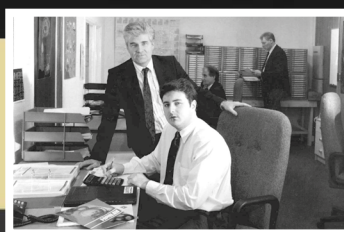
Your Industry Magazine



by BearingNet



Powered by Women
Ljubex International d.o.o.



50 Years in Business
HAYLEY DEXIS



A Generational Transition
Kettentechnik Roeder GmbH

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MESSAGE *from the* EDITORS

Welcome to a very special edition of our industry magazine, Best Bits!

This year marks 30 years of the BearingNet platform, and we want to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to the people involved. Whether they were part of the initial idea and development of the platform, helped with growth and changes, or members that have been with us from the start of our journey, we want to recognise every person and their contribution to the success of the BearingNet community. We couldn't have done it without you!

You can read more about our 30th birthday and celebrations on **pages 6-10**.

We have thoroughly enjoyed receiving your news and reading your stories in this Spring edition, and we would like to thank over 30 BearingNet and FluidPowerNet members for their contributions towards the biggest Best Bits to date.

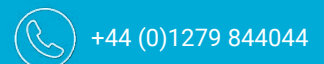
So, what can you expect in this magazine? From big company milestones and anniversaries, to stories dedicated to the people behind the company name, you are in for a treat. Our cover stories include Ljubex International in Serbia, with a story of growth over 35 years, and how women have become a key part in making their business successful. HAYLEY DEXIS in the UK is also celebrating a milestone this year, reaching 50 years of business, reflecting on changes and a product portfolio that has expanded dramatically over the years. Our Manufacturers' Advertising Platform member of over 10 years, Kettentechnik Roeder, in Germany embarks on a new journey with Jana Roeder beginning a generational transition and planning the future of the family business.

As ever, we hope you enjoy reading this edition of Best Bits magazine. If you have any feedback or would like to feature in the Summer edition, please get in touch!

Gus, Sophie, Chloe & Henry



Contact us



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Keep up to date with the latest event and platform news on social media



@bearingnet

The view from the BearingNet HQ in rural Hertfordshire, England



Cover Stories

14

Ljubex International

Powered by Women

"Who runs the bearings world? Girls." An article title that will certainly catch your attention! Serbian bearing distributor, Ljubex International, prides itself on a successful family-run business of over 35 years, with two-thirds of its employees being women. Ljubex states, "Being a woman in heavy industry still raises eyebrows, especially in the Balkans." [Read more on page 14.](#)



20

HAYLEY DEXIS

50 Years in Business

Founded in 1976 in the West Midlands, United Kingdom, HAYLEY DEXIS is proudly celebrating half a century! Starting with a singular focus on industrial bearings, the company's product portfolio has expanded dramatically since its foundation 50 years ago. HAYLEY DEXIS has maintained one key founding principle: the focus on people. [Read more on page 20.](#)



25

Kettentechnik Roeder

A Generational Transition

A new chapter begins at German manufacturer, Kettentechnik Roeder, with qualified Industrial Engineer, Jana Roeder, stepping in to the driving seat. The planned transition for Jana will span the next two to three years. Kettentechnik Roeder has been part of the Manufacturers' Advertising Platform on BearingNet for over 10 years. [Read more on page 25.](#)



Don't Miss...

18

PICARD

Partnership with NKE FERSA



38

Özevren Rulman

The Power of a Promise



54

R&M Bearings

Attending Every User Meeting



Contents



- 6** **BearingNet**
Celebrating 30 years of business
- 11** **GAES Group**
Coordination, synchronisation, and teamwork
- 13** **M&M Intercom**
A new advanced search capability
- 14** **Ljubex International**
Who runs the bearings world? Girls
- 16** **Codex**
Not just another B2B webshop
- 18** **PICARD**
Built on experience, shaped for the future
- 20** **HAYLEY DEXIS**
Proudly celebrating 50 years in business
- 22** **Tinex & Bell**
A merge to strengthen operations in Slovenia
- 24** **Ipanema Rolamentos**
Succession in family business
- 25** **Kettentechnik Roeder**
A new chapter begins
- 26** **Seals & Industrial**
A strong start and an even stronger future
- 28** **MR Accesorios Industriales**
Three generations and 80 years
- 30** **W+A (Wälzlager und Antriebstechnik)**
25 years and digital development
- 32** **BearingNet User Meetings**
Celebrations in Warsaw and heading to Brazil
- 34** **Fersa**
Supporting distributors with Fersa Care
- 35** **BMI (Bearing Manufacturing India)**
Evolving with changing market trends
- 36** **Ivor Group**
The hidden advantage of being born in adversity
- 38** **Özevren Rulman**
Making a promise isn't easy
- 40** **Rubix**
Innovation and sustainability
- 41** **AMC (Albion Motion Company)**
New year developments
- 42** **CeramicSpeed**
Condition monitoring
- 44** **RKB**
Built for heavy industry
- 45** **Tecma Drive**
Evolution to technological partner
- 48** **Kozikoğlu Rulman**
A seven-generation trade journey
- 50** **Carter Manufacturing**
25 years and global expansion
- 52** **Acorn Industrial Services**
A milestone for Protorque
- 54** **R&M Bearings International**
30 years alongside BearingNet
- 56** **FluidPowerNet**
FluidPowerNet Showcase
- 58** **Hi-Des**
A new strategic hub in Shanghai
- 59** **Hydro ZNPHS**
Authorised Atos service centre
- 60** **Flowfit**
Driveline Solutions acquisition
- 61** **F.O.R.T. (Forniture Oleodinamiche Ricambi Trattrici)**
From Central Italy since 1967





1996 - 2026

BearingNet is born!

1996

BearingNet is available online 1997

A new wanted page was created 1998

A new quote system was created 2000

500 members, 1 million lines of inventory

2001

First User Meeting held in Prague 2005

New placement student, Nicola! 2007

A new advanced search available 2008

Best Bits magazine is launched

2014

Manufacturers' Advertising Platform was launched 2016

Nicola becomes Managing Director 2022

20th User Meeting hosted in Berlin 2023

First South American User Meeting in Rio and BIGGEST User Meeting to date in Warsaw!

2026

Cheers to many more years!

BearingNet Turns 30!

Joining the company 19 years ago as a Placement Student in 2007, Nicola Beer, now Managing Director, talks us through the history and future of BearingNet.

30 years of BearingNet... Wow!

As a small team working from a remote English village, we have achieved so much during the last 30 years. I would like to say a very big thank you to all our members (over 2,000 of you!) and everyone who has been part of the development and growth of the platform over the years. Whether you have been with us from the very start of our journey, back in 1996, or have recently been welcomed to the community, we want to recognise every person and their contribution to the success of the platform. An extra special thank you goes to Peter Annis and Gary Jenkins, the original founders that brought the idea of BearingNet to life.



Nicola Beer

Peter and Gary are still very involved, Gary works with the Tech team in the office on a Wednesday, Chris and I have an hour virtual call with Peter every week; Peter is now our mentor. Staying in contact with Peter and Gary is really important to us, they both have so much knowledge and understanding of the business and are also great friends too.

You may have noticed the special insert in this magazine to mark 30 years of the BearingNet platform. This tells you everything you need to know, from the history and how the idea of BearingNet came about, to some throwbacks of how things used to look, our growth and change throughout the years, the people behind it all, and looking ahead to the future. The concept of BearingNet came about in 1995, from Peter's Uncle, John Bass. John had the Bearing Exchange magazine where he used to publish paper-based inventory lists amongst distributors, so they could see who had what in stock. When the internet happened in 1996 Peter and Gary (from Peter's basement) took this idea and put it online. The software was designed from scratch to craft a unique tool for the bearing & power transmission industry; one that would eventually revolutionise the global bearing industry!

Today, in 2026, we can say that BearingNet has successfully connected businesses together from over 80 countries worldwide. We now have over 2,000 companies on the platform with almost 20 million lines of inventory. We have a great team here at BearingNet, we pride ourselves on being kind, helpful and with the skills of the 20 staff we continue to do everything in-house, from the tech development to content creation. We have made so many great relationships in the industry over the years and are lucky to call so many of our members good friends.

As a team, we want to recognise this brilliant milestone and celebrate our 30th birthday in style. Throughout 2026, we will be marking the occasion in various ways, but the Warsaw User Meeting is the perfect place to celebrate with over 550 of our members! Our 23rd official User Meeting on 12th-14th March will have more of a celebratory feel, allowing long-standing industry peers and friends to reminisce on past meetings, great memories, and success over the years. Of course, there will still be two full days of the all-important BearingNetworking. Make sure you stay for the Farewell Dinner, there will be a live band for the first time (they previously appeared on a famous Polish talent show), plus games, the famous BearingNet quiz and a DJ for the after party!!

Keep an eye on our social media channels for further updates and announcements.

See you soon!

Nicola Beer
Managing Director



The Celebrations Begin in Poland...

This March kickstarts a year of celebration, marking an incredible milestone for the BearingNet platform. The Warsaw User Meeting will be our biggest event to date, bringing over 550 global attendees to one location in the heart of the Polish capital. Many of our members say that User Meetings are the highlight of their calendar year, and a must for catching up with industry peers, meeting new faces, and celebrating success together following the networking sessions. We will host a special Farewell Dinner in Warsaw featuring a live band!

Our 23rd
User Meeting!



Old Town Market Square, Warsaw



A few photos from over the years

John Bass and Gary Jenkins



2002

2002



Jenny Palling networking at an exhibition in France

John Bass and Rita Simoncelli (BKR Service s.r.l)



2002

1996



Peter Annis and Gary Jenkins



2015

Nicola, Peter, Jenny and Chris at EPTDA Barcelona

2002



Annecy, France conference

2000



Peter and Gary in Steyr, Austria

THE PEOPLE BEHIND...

BearingNet User Meetings

User Meetings are all about bringing people together from across the globe to network and socialise within the BearingNet community. As we celebrate BearingNet's 30th birthday, let's look back at some of the key individuals who helped shape the User Meeting, from 88 attendees in Prague in 2005 to over 550 attendees in Warsaw in 2026.



Peter Annis



Gary Jenkins



Jenny Palling



Nicola Beer



Chris Howard

Matt Seaman

Ania Walton

The history of

USER MEETINGS

In 2005, the official BearingNet User Meeting was born, taking place in Prague, Czech Republic. The idea behind the event was to enable distributors to connect, network, and socialise in one location. 21 years on, the BearingNet User Meeting has become a key date in the calendar for companies within the bearing and power transmission industry, taking place in Europe, North America, and later this year, South America. For our 23rd User Meeting we are back in Warsaw, Poland, this is the event's third visit to the Polish capital, with previous meetings held in 2006 and 2018.

Take a trip down memory lane and see how our User Meetings have evolved over the years. If you are interested in attending one of our User Meetings, scan the QR code or head to www.bearingnet.net/events for more information.

2005 - 2015



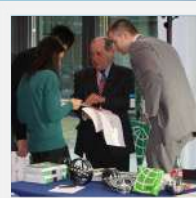
Prague 2005



Lisbon 2007



Barcelona 2009



Berlin 2011



Chicago 2012



Amsterdam 2012



Rome 2013



Riga 2014



Atlanta 2014



Miami 2015

2015 - 2025



Hamburg 2016



Washington D. C. 2017



Madrid 2017



Warsaw 2018



Las Vegas 2019



Dublin 2022



Orlando 2023



Berlin 2023



Vienna 2024



Washington D. C. 2025



Scan here to learn more about our User Meetings and view previous events



BearingNet User Meetings

A Big Thank You to Every Quarter Century Club Member!

The BearingNet team would like to say a massive thank you to all of the members that have helped BearingNet thrive over the past 30 years with their continued support.

Scan to view the full Quarter Century Club member list:



Over 250 members and counting!



Roeirasa



T.O. Sletteboe AS



Bearings 2000



PTI Europa A/S



Rodamientos y Suministros Sicoris S.A.



GAES Group



Friedrich PICARD GmbH



Gea Commerce - 5 Ltd



Newtown Bearing Company



Example of a trainera boat

Coordination, Synchronisation, and Teamwork

How aligning people, processes, and technology drive results at GAES Group, prioritising action over theory.

Efficiency in people and machines

In the industry, efficiency, performance, synchronisation, and reliability are constantly discussed. These concepts are applied to machines, processes, and systems, but are rarely applied with the same rigour to how people work. Experienced engineers and technical sales professionals know the truth: projects do not fail solely because of calculation errors; they fail when the team is not rowing in the same direction.

At GAES Group, work is not limited to hours, drawings, or budgets. Teamwork is treated as a practical discipline, not a slogan, and action is prioritised over theory.

The Trainera Principle

Traineras provide a clear example of a system in operation. Thirteen rowers, a coxswain, and a single objective: to move forward. Each rower has a defined role, the cadence must be precise, and coordination must be total. A single mistake breaks the rhythm and penalises the entire team, just as in a production line, a power transmission system, or an automated cell.

Originally used in fishing, speed made the difference between success and failure.

Today, the principle is the same in the industry: a lack of coordination reduces efficiency and failing to understand the system as a whole limits performance.

To experience this firsthand, the GAES team organised itself into groups of thirteen per trainera and, guided by professionals, confronted a simple truth: only by working together can progress be made. There are no individual shortcuts, success requires synchronisation, commitment, and shared responsibility.

Integrated solutions and legacy

This approach is also reflected in the way GAES Group works with its clients. The company is not merely a distributor of industrial components. It offers comprehensive, customised solutions. As in a trainera, the goal is not to assemble isolated parts, but to ensure that the entire system works. Each component is selected, integrated, and adjusted according to the client's objectives, not according to a catalogue.

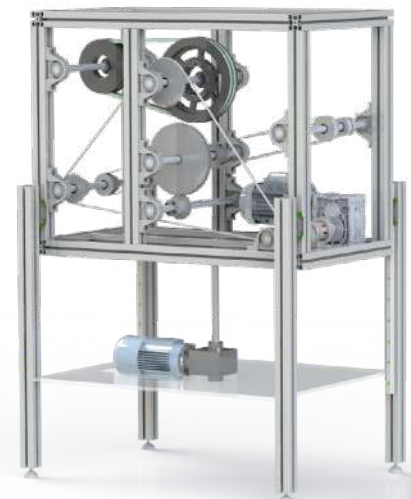
Teamwork at GAES Group also spans from the past to the present. Success is built on those who came before, just as no system is created from scratch. Knowledge, experience, and continuous improvement accumulate: every piece matters.

Rowing together is not a metaphor. It is an operational reality. On the water or in industry, without coordination there is no performance. And without a cohesive, tailor-made solution, no project reaches port.

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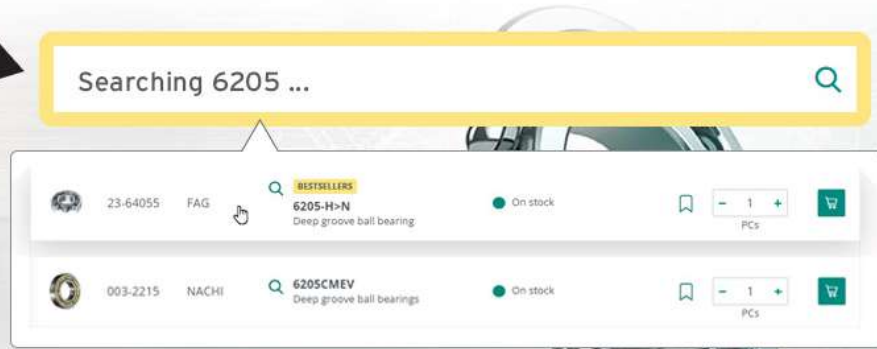


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M&M Intercom Introduces New Advanced Search on B2B Platform

With an upgraded advanced search using integrated AI, the M&M B2B portal experience becomes faster, clearer, and more productive for users.

Slovenian distributor M&M Intercom's new search allows for a faster and better experience online, allowing customers to focus on what really matters, keeping their operations running smoothly.

The update introduces an enhanced advanced search that supports queries by product codes, dimensions, standards, materials, brand names, suffixes, and applications. Relevant results are delivered in real time, even when search inputs are partial or contain minor typing errors.

The search functionality now includes an integrated AI component that helps interpret user intent and adapts to search behaviour over time, allowing the system to better anticipate user needs and display more relevant results more efficiently.

A key improvement is the ability to recognise and interpret different product designations and suffixes. For example, a search for a bearing marked 6205 LLU will also return technically equivalent alternatives such as 6205 2RS, 6205 2NSE, and similar variants, providing a clearer overview and supporting faster product selection.

To address the complexity of industrial products, the advanced search also enables precise result refinement using filters such as technical specifications, product groups, brands, availability, and industry-specific parameters.

The new M&M Intercom search system is continuously optimised to deliver consistent and highly relevant results across a large and growing product portfolio. This means less time spent

searching, fewer ordering errors, and greater confidence in product selection.

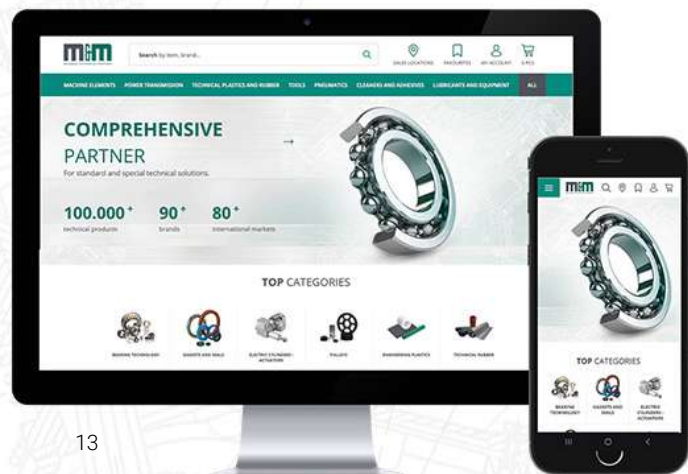
In addition to the search upgrade, M&M Intercom has expanded the language options on its B2B portal, which is now available in English, Spanish, German, Slovenian, and Croatian. Further languages are planned as part of ongoing digital development and international accessibility initiative.

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Who Runs the Bearings World? Girls.

Meet Ljubex International: A 35-year legacy. Second-generation led. Official Schaeffler & ZVL distributor for Serbia. Trusted by industry. Powered by women.

If you were starting your own company, would you name it after yourself? One Ljuba from Serbia had a clear, unequivocal answer to that question: absolutely yes.

Ljubex International is a family-owned company based in Belgrade, Serbia, that has, for more than 35 years ensured production plants run without downtime.

Ljubex began as a one-man show. In the early (and rather turbulent) 90s, Ljuba, the company's founder, decided to step into entrepreneurship and start his own company. At the time, this was an unusual (and brave!) move in Serbia. The former Yugoslavia was on the brink of collapse, the economy was unstable, and Ljuba had a small child at home (Tamara), with another on the way (Tamara's younger sister).

Nevertheless, Ljuba chose a path that only a few dared to take back then, and founded his own company, symbolically named Ljubex. The word 'International' was added intentionally, reflecting his ambition to engage in foreign trade as well.

Fast forward 35 years: primarily through the BearingNet platform, Ljubex has exported to almost every continent. Ljubex packages have travelled as far as Argentina, Poland, Germany, the United States, and even New Caledonia.

Ljubex is also the first-ever distributor of Schaeffler in Serbia, celebrating 30 years of partnership this year. Coincidentally, this is also the year Tamara turns 39, the same age Ljuba was when he founded the company.

Tamara is Ljuba's daughter, and for many years, that is mostly how the market knew her. That changed a little over three years ago, when she decided to join the company after a career in the Government of the Republic of Serbia, retail, and e-commerce.

Her arrival was almost accidental and, therefore, unexpected. A regional Marketing Director in a company backed by one of the world's most significant investment funds leaves that position and the e-commerce industry... to sell bearings!

When Tamara first started appearing in the industry and attending meetings, many assumed she would get bored and eventually give up. Instead, she says she is having the best time of her professional life.

At the time she joined Ljubex, Tamara had no idea how relevant the topic of second-generation leadership would soon become, not only in Serbia, but across the entire region. Much of Serbia's private, family-owned sector was founded in the same period as Ljubex, meaning the first major generational transition is now underway.

Joining a family business and transitioning from the first to the second generation is a great privilege, but it also

carries great responsibility and, some would say, pressure due to expectations. Respecting what was built does not mean preserving it unchanged.

Before joining Ljubex, Tamara had an honest conversation with Ljuba about expectations. She told him:

"I will come, but only if we are going to change things."

Change, in this case, means understanding and respecting existing values, experience, and knowledge, while having the courage to take steps forward and do things differently. Over the past three years, Ljubex has been transforming from a classic distributor



into a modern industrial solutions partner. The company's focus has expanded beyond supplying bearings and preventing failures to helping customers optimise maintenance and reduce costly downtime through predictive maintenance.

Managing Director,
Tamara Stančev



Yet, transformation is not only about strategy or technology, it is also about leadership culture. That is why Ljubex introduced its own values system last year, built around proactivity, reliability, responsibility, and team spirit.

Although Ljubex operates in what many still consider a 'male-dominated' industry, two-thirds of its employees are women. Some have been with the company for more than 20 years, like Ivana, a Sales Support Specialist who joined Ljubex at the age of 20 through a student employment program. Others joined less than six months ago, coming from large international systems, such as Würth.

"Being a woman in heavy industry still raises eyebrows, especially in the Balkans," Tamara explains.

"But credibility is not built through stereotypes; it is built through competence, consistency, and results."

At Ljubex, leadership today is collaborative, data-driven, and forward-looking. The company continuously invests in knowledge, systems, and

people, professionalising processes while preserving the entrepreneurial spirit that defined it from day one.

So, who really runs the bearings world? Those who understand that reliability is built daily. Those who lead with knowledge, innovation, and responsibility.

And increasingly, girls.

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Not Just Another B2B Webshop: Codex Focuses on the Engine Beneath

In an industry already saturated with B2B webshops, the latest launch from Codex stands out for a different reason: it is less about adding 'another ordering portal' and more about upgrading the technology behind how distributors handle their supply chain.

Codex was among the first companies in the bearing and power transmission sector to introduce a B2B webshop, launching its first version back in 2008. Now, that early digital experience has been transferred into a new and faster system, reflecting how purchasing expectations have evolved across the supply chain.

From webshop to digital infrastructure

The key development behind Codex-shop is the shift in purpose. While traditional webshops often function as static ordering environments, newer systems increasingly act as operational tools, built to reduce friction between distributor teams and the end users they serve. In this context, Codex-shop is designed to support faster response times, more accurate product selection, and smoother order processing across daily workflows.

A brand-new user experience

Codex-shop introduces a redesigned user experience that reflects modern B2B standards: simple navigation, clear structure, and a streamlined path from search to checkout. Rather than requiring users to adapt to a rigid interface, the platform is built around real distributor routines, supporting both urgent, time-sensitive orders and planned replenishment.

Logistics options that match end-user expectations

As delivery speed becomes increasingly tied to distributor competitiveness, Codex-shop is supported by new logistics partners and flexible shipping options,

including next-day delivery. This reflects a wider shift in the industry: end users now expect lead times and delivery choices similar to those in consumer markets, and distributors must meet these expectations while maintaining efficiency and cost control.

Search technology as a competitive advantage

One of the most notable improvements is the new and enhanced search function, developed to reduce time spent filtering through large product catalogues. Users can search and filter by size, specifications, and more than 50 product attributes, supporting more precise selection and reducing the risk of incorrect ordering. In an environment where speed matters but accuracy is critical, search performance becomes more than convenience, it becomes a measurable advantage.

Localised access for international teams

With distribution increasingly operating across borders, Codex-shop is available in 12 languages. This multi-language environment supports smoother adoption by sales and purchasing teams, reducing friction in daily use, and helping ensure consistent ordering processes across regions.

Self-service as part of modern distributor operations

Codex-shop also includes self-service tools designed to reduce manual administration. Users can reorder

frequently purchased items, download invoices, track order history, and manage account settings within the same platform. This reflects a wider trend: modern B2B platforms are increasingly expected to support internal efficiency, not only purchasing.

A platform shaped by long-term digital development

Rather than positioning Codex-shop as a simple webshop upgrade, Codex appears to be placing emphasis on technology, speed, and workflow integration; a response to how distribution is changing. As end users demand faster service and clearer information, digital tools like Codex-shop are becoming central to how distributors compete, communicate, and deliver value.

In that sense, Codex-shop represents more than a refreshed interface; it is a modern foundation for ongoing digital development, with a significantly stronger position for future upgrades and new functionality.

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codex





Midland Bearings in Partnership with FK Bearing Group



Established in the West Midlands in 1984, our company has grown to become one of the UK's largest importers and wholesalers of bearings, supplying customers across the UK and Western Europe for over four decades. With a stock holding of more than twenty million items and a 100,000 sq ft warehouse, our business specialises in a comprehensive range of Chinese, Japanese, and Western European branded bearing products. Supplying both the bearing trade and original equipment manufacturers, the company is recognised for its breadth of range, product availability, and industry expertise. All stock is held centrally in Kingswinford, West Midlands, enabling same-day distribution throughout the UK and efficient worldwide shipping. Supported by a highly knowledgeable sales team with a combined experience exceeding 200 years in the bearing industry, customers benefit from expert advice alongside fast and reliable service. In December 2024 with the launch of our new online webshop, the platform has been designed to provide quick and convenient access to the full product range, allowing customers to browse, check availability, and place orders with ease, reinforcing the company's commitment to service, efficiency, and continued investment in the future.

We are the exclusive sole distributor for FK Bearing Group across the UK and Ireland, providing customers with direct access to one of the world's most respected manufacturers of high-performance bearing units.

FK Bearing Group is internationally recognised for its precision engineering, exceptional quality, and innovation across a wide range of industrial applications. As the sole distributor, we offer a comprehensive product range backed by technical expertise, reliable availability, and dedicated local support.

Our partnership with FK Bearing Group allows us to deliver genuine FK products with confidence, ensuring consistency, performance, and long-term reliability for our customers. From standard solutions to specialist applications, we work closely with clients to meet exact requirements while maintaining the highest standards of service and support throughout the UK and Ireland.

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Online Trade Portal

Access to 20 million components
Worldwide delivery available
Next day UK delivery





PICARD & NKE FERSA: Built on Experience, Shaped for the Future

The long-standing partnership between German distributor PICARD and Austrian manufacturer NKE FERSA is one to be admired, dating back to the early 1990s.

What makes a partnership truly strong in the technical distribution market? It thrives on shared goals and mutual trust, grounded in reliability and experience.

These qualities have defined the collaboration between PICARD and NKE FERSA for decades. Rooted in the legacy of Steyr Bearings, their partnership combines industrial heritage with modern engineering excellence and logistics expertise. Today, PICARD ranks among the world's leading NKE distributors, with a portfolio of over 7,000 products and consistent exceptional availability.

A partnership with strong historical foundations

The origins of the collaboration between PICARD and NKE FERSA go back to the Steyr Bearings era. When the Austrian manufacturer was privatised in the 1990s and former executives went on to establish NKE, PICARD remained a trusted partner throughout this transition.

"For many decades, PICARD was an authorised distributor for Steyr Bearings, which naturally created a long-standing relationship built on trust," explains Hans-Martin Reinhardt, Managing Director of PICARD. When NKE was founded,

continuing this cooperation was the logical next step: "The NKE FERSA brand represents a natural evolution of our shared history."

By the late 1990s, PICARD had already begun systematically stocking the NKE brand (recently rebranded NKE FERSA), laying the foundation for today's strategic partnership.

PICARD: Inventory strength and market availability

Nowadays, PICARD is one of the strongest NKE FERSA distributors worldwide and holds the largest external NKE FERSA inventory on the market. With more than 7,000 stock items available, including deep groove ball bearings, cylindrical roller bearings, self-aligning ball bearings, tapered roller bearings, large-size bearings and hybrid bearings, PICARD ensures exceptional product availability for the technical trade.

"Our logistical strength perfectly complements the breadth of NKE FERSA's premium product range,"

Hans-Martin summarises.

"Being recognised as an NKE FERSA Platinum Member highlights both the quality and the intensity of our collaboration."

This inventory expertise enables fast response times and reliable supply chains, a decisive factor for distributors and technical wholesalers.

NKE FERSA: Engineering expertise and sustainable manufacturing

As a manufacturer with its own production facilities, NKE FERSA develops solutions tailored to the specific requirements of modern industrial applications. A strong R&D network and ISO 14001 certification underscore the company's commitment to quality and sustainable manufacturing.

In addition, NKE FERSA has proven specialist expertise in areas such as cylindrical roller bearings, maintenance and repair applications, flanged and housed units, and customised bearing solutions. This technical depth allows the company to respond precisely to complex industrial application requirements.

Close cooperation with PICARD ensures that concrete market and customer needs

flow directly into product development. "We are able to pass specific customer needs straight on to the manufacturer and actively contribute to the development of new solutions," says Hans-Martin.

A partnership on equal footing

From NKE FERSA's perspective, the cooperation with PICARD goes far beyond a traditional supplier-distributor relationship.

"This partnership is built on a shared history and deeply rooted values," explains Stefan Weidmann, Sales Director at NKE FERSA. Its origins lie in the Steyr Bearings era when PICARD was already a reliable and successful contract partner. "This DNA is exactly what connects NKE FERSA and PICARD."

Over the years, this has evolved into a partnership characterised by trust, transparency, and collaboration on equal terms. The close personal ties between PICARD's management and the industrial heritage of Steyr continue to play a key role in this success.

Added value for technical trade

The partnership delivers clear benefits for distributors and technical wholesalers.

"Our distribution partners benefit from premium quality at attractive conditions, combined with outstanding product availability," says Stefan.

A large part of the product portfolio is available around the clock via PICARD's online shop and can be delivered within 24 hours from the Bochum warehouse. In addition, customers benefit from comprehensive technical support, combining PICARD's market proximity with NKE FERSA's engineering expertise.

Looking ahead: a partnership with perspective

Both companies are firmly focused on the future.

"We see tremendous potential in our partnership with PICARD and expect our cooperation to intensify further," says Stefan.

With a shared commitment to innovation, quality and sustainable growth, PICARD and NKE FERSA aim to continue shaping the bearing market and setting new benchmarks for technical trade in the years to come.

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PICARD premises from 1972 - 1990



Leading UK MRO Trade and Export Specialist HAYLEY DEXIS Celebrates its 50th Year in Business

HAYLEY DEXIS, a leading UK Maintenance, Repair, and Operations (MRO) trade and export specialist, is proudly celebrating its 50th year of business in 2026.

Since its foundation in Blackheath, West Midlands, in 1976, the company has successfully transformed from a local stockist into a national powerhouse, built on half a century of strategic growth and unwavering principle.

The company's journey began with a singular focus on industrial bearings, which remains a cornerstone of its current offerings. However, its product portfolio has since expanded dramatically to cover the entire MRO spectrum. Today, HAYLEY DEXIS holds an unrivalled inventory level of over £40 million across critical product categories, including bearings, fluid power, seals, power transmission, and lubricants. This immense stockholding is backed by authorised distributor status for many of the world's leading manufacturers, such as SKF, NSK, Schaeffler, Festo, Norgren, and SMC, ensuring trade customers receive 100% genuine products and the latest innovations.

The unwavering focus: stock, service, and people

Amidst the industrial supply sector's rapid evolution, HAYLEY DEXIS has maintained

one key founding principle: the focus on people. The company firmly believes that while digitalisation is essential for modern efficiency, maintaining physical locations and having expert staff accessible by phone is critical to providing industry-leading, quality customer service.

"We place a huge amount of value on the people within our business. We believe this is the best way to support our customers in the trade. Our team is staffed by people with decades of experience."

"Ultimately, we want to see our customers succeed, so this is why we place such an emphasis on delivering a quality service every time,"

emphasises Sam Noakes, who leads the Trade division and is the son of founder Bernie Noakes.

The partner's advantage: empowering the trade reseller

A cornerstone of the company's operational strategy is its dedicated support for Trade Resellers, recognising them as crucial partners in the industrial supply chain. HAYLEY DEXIS acts as a seamless extension of the reseller's own inventory and expertise, allowing partners to increase their product breadth and technical capability instantly without tying up capital.

The most critical service offered is the ability to drop-ship orders directly to the reseller's end-customer with Anonymous Drop-Ship assurance. This process is completely anonymous, removing any reference to HAYLEY DEXIS as the supply partner, which is vital for protecting the reseller's brand and client relationships. Furthermore, resellers gain next-day access to the company's full, multimillion-pound stock profile and benefit from full, in-house technical support from specialist product teams across all major categories. For those dealing internationally, the dedicated export team manages complex global logistics,

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SKF

AUTHORISED
DISTRIBUTOR

COOPER



FAG

offering consolidated shipments, multi-currency transactions, and necessary customs documentation for worldwide trade.

Investing in the next 50 years

The 50th anniversary year is marked by significant investment, signalling a strong forward trajectory. Major projects are underway, including a substantial HQ renovation, the establishment of a new distribution centre, and a major overhaul of IT infrastructure.

Work on the new national distribution centre, and the update to the company's existing six warehouses in Halesowen, West Midlands, began in April 2025 and will reach completion this year. The new distribution centre is envisaged to lead to the retention of loyal staff members for many years to come. This also provides ample capacity to recruit new employees across a broad spectrum of roles that are required to support continued company growth.

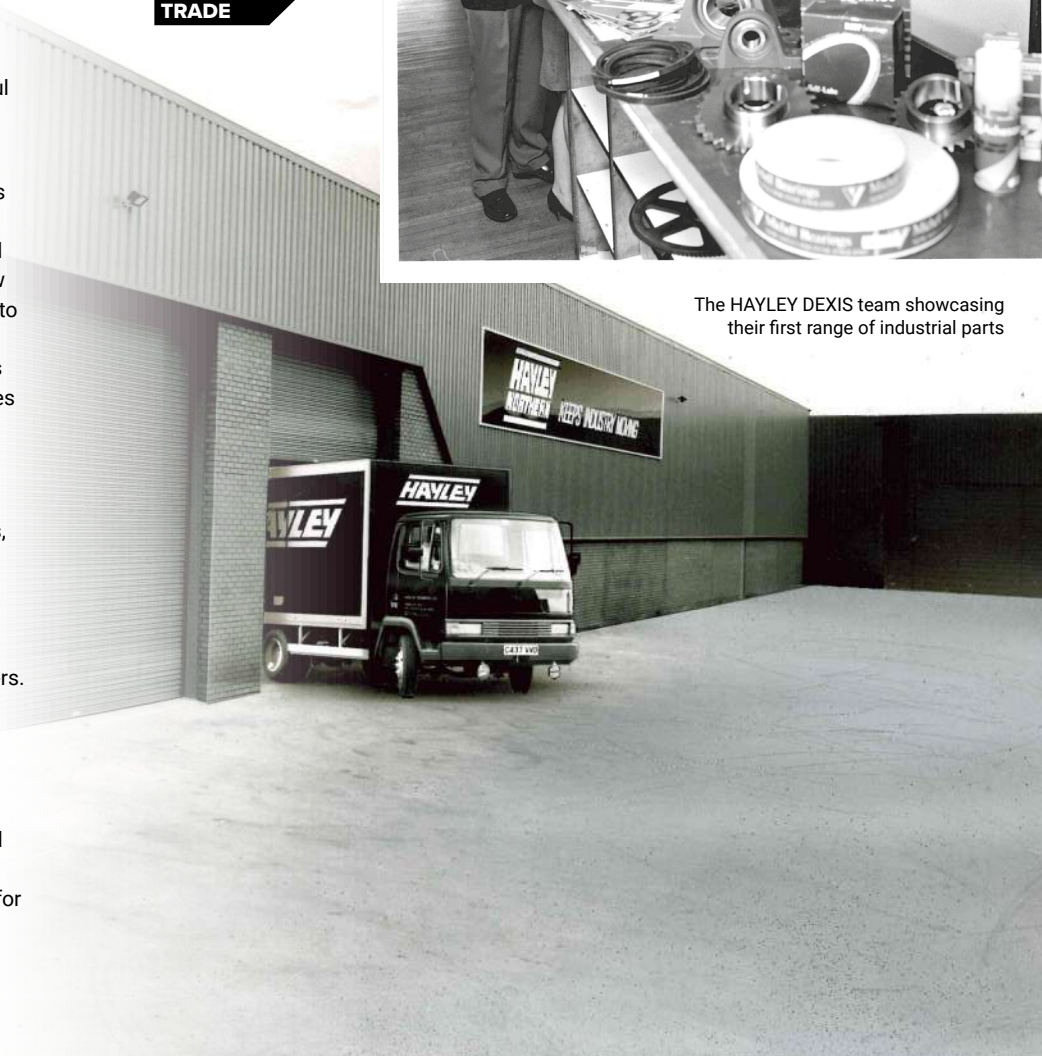
These exciting projects and expansions, combined with the ongoing securing of new authorised distributor statuses, reinforce the company's commitment to continuously improving availability, service, and support for its trade partners.

For five decades, HAYLEY DEXIS has proven its resilience and dedication. By marrying massive stockholding and technical authority with an unwavering focus on people, the company is poised to remain a leading MRO specialist, ensuring continued value and success for its customers in the decades to come.

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The HAYLEY DEXIS team showcasing their first range of industrial parts



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HAYLEY DEXIS | Export - HQ

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HAYLEY DEXIS | Trade - Northern

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Two Become One: Tinex and Bell Merge, Strengthening Future Operations Worldwide



Tinex and Bell, two well-established Slovenian companies operating within Axel Johnson International's Power Transmission Solutions (PTS) business group, have merged to create a stronger and more competitive organisation.

This significant merger officially took effect on 26th September 2025, with the new company operating under the name Tinex & Bell d.o.o.

Both companies have served the same industrial market for more than 35 years and have built strong reputations for quality, reliability, and technical expertise.

The decision to merge is a strategic step aimed at strengthening collaboration, improving efficiency, and delivering greater value to customers across the region. By consolidating their operations into a single, unified organisation, Tinex and Bell can leverage their complementary strengths while maintaining a strong local presence.

Merging under one brand brings customers greater accessibility, a wider range of products, service offerings, better technical support, and a unified organisational structure. The company operates in accordance with the highest quality standards (ISO 9001),

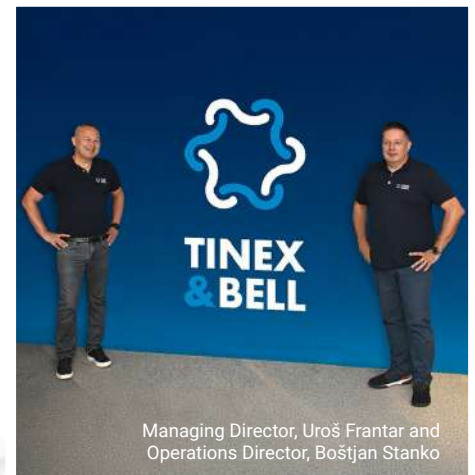
environmental responsibility system (ISO 14001) and occupational health and safety (ISO 45001), which confirms their focus on sustainable and responsible business.

"Together, our vision is to become the leading regional provider of technical solutions that combine quality products, technical knowledge and sustainable approaches, for a safe, efficient and competitive industry of the future."

"At Tinex & Bell, we believe that the true value of an industrial component only shines when it is backed by superior service. That's why, in addition to traditional sales, we have built an entire ecosystem of technical support that ensures greater reliability, longer

component life, and lower operating costs for your machines and teams. When time is money, our responsiveness is your advantage."

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Managing Director, Uroš Frantar and
Operations Director, Boštjan Stanko



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Official distributor for world known brands



The Future is Here: Succession in Family Business

Passing the torch wisely: How Ipanema is implementing succession planning for Brazil's key economic drivers.

Ipanema Rolamentos talk us through their top tips for succession. Family businesses are the backbone of many economies worldwide, and Brazil is no different. These companies, often with deep roots in local communities and industries, make up a huge part of our economy. Whether it's in agribusiness, big retail chains, or important factories, family-owned businesses are what drive innovation, jobs, and wealth across all of Brazil. But for them to last and keep succeeding, it depends on something super important and often overlooked: good succession planning.

The handover of leadership and ownership from one generation to the next is a crucial moment. It can either make the business grow even more or lead to its downfall. Here in Brazil, where personal and family ties often get very mixed up with the daily business operations, the stakes are high. Without a clear, well-discussed, and professionally organised succession plan, these businesses can face internal fights, lose their way, become less efficient, and, in the end, be worth less. The strong emotions that come from family relationships can make things even more complicated, making it tough to make objective decisions without outside help or solid internal rules.

For manufacturers, it's essential that their authorised distributors are stable and keep operating well. Distributors are the golden link between the manufacturer and the end consumer, handling logistics, sales, customer contact, and market insights. The success of a manufacturer is tied to what its distribution network can achieve. If a key distributor, especially a family-owned one, goes through a poorly managed succession, the ripple effects can be serious. This could mean disruptions in deliveries, a sharp drop in sales, brand damage due to inconsistent service, or even completely losing market access in a certain region.

That's why manufacturers need to actively talk to their family-owned distributors about their succession plans. This isn't just a tip; it's a fundamental strategy.

Manufacturers should:

- **Encourage early planning:**
Push distributors to create very clear and documented succession plans, well before any change happens
- **Offer help and guidance:**
Provide access to best practices, workshops, or professional consulting services focused on family business succession
- **Bring succession into discussions:**
Make succession planning a normal topic on the agenda during strategic reviews with distributors, checking if they're ready and offering support if needed
- **Know the key people:**
Have a good understanding of how the distributor works and who the important employees are, both family and non-family, to spot potential successors
- **Reduce risks:** Create backup plans for situations where a distributor's succession might not go well, to ensure continued market presence

Ultimately, good succession planning is about keeping the legacy alive, ensuring the business continues, and helping long-term growth. For Brazilian family businesses, it's about protecting their invaluable contribution to the economy. For manufacturers, it's about protecting those crucial distribution channels and securing future market share. Taking a proactive and organised approach to succession isn't just good business practice; it's vital for lasting prosperity.

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Guilherme Cestari,
Director at Ipanema





Jana Roeder and Marcus Roeder



Connecting link for chain with special attachment



Conveyor chain with special attachment

A New Chapter Begins at Roeder: Generational Transition as a Strategic Growth Driver

Kettentechnik Roeder in Germany embarks on a new journey with Jana Roeder beginning a generational transition and planning the future of the family business.

In the power transmission industry, a successful generational transition is a decisive lever for long-term stability and future scalability. At Kettentechnik Roeder, this transformation is already well underway, as Jana Roeder joined the company on 1st January 2026, and the next development phase of the family business officially began. The full handover is planned over the next two to three years.

As a qualified Industrial Engineer, Jana Roeder brings a robust interdisciplinary skill set tailored to the requirements of modern industrial value creation. Her blend of technical insight, analytical leadership capability, and business-oriented thinking serves as a strategic performance driver; especially in a sector increasingly defined by automation, digital processes, and integrated customer solutions.

The transition roadmap is designed as a structured, multi-stage transformation program. Core elements include targeted knowledge transfer, a step-by-step onboarding into operational leadership responsibilities, and strategic initiatives to further develop the company's portfolio. Jana Roeder is already actively involved in process optimisation, quality management, and organisational modernisation; initiatives that are

visibly strengthening the company's future alignment.

For customers and market partners, this well-prepared generational shift sends a clear signal: continuity in technical standards, dependable service levels, and at the same time a fresh wave of innovation that unlocks additional market potential. The combination of decades of experience with a modern leadership perspective sustainably reinforces Roeder's competitive positioning.

With Jana's official start on 1st January 2026, and the planned transition in the years that follow, Roeder is setting a strong course for the future. The next era of the company is prepared, strategically

anchored, and guided by a clear vision. The future of the family enterprise is in highly capable hands, creating a powerful foundation for continued growth.

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Managing Director, Marcus Roeder

Seals & Industrial Services: A Strong Start and an Even Stronger Future

Since opening on 1st July 2025, Seals & Industrial Services has grown beyond expectations, building a friendly and trusted team, settling into a new office, and expanding stock to better support customers.

The last few months have marked an exciting and rewarding chapter for Seals & Industrial Services, as the company continues to invest in the people, the facilities, and the service the company provides to their customers. From new premises to operational upgrades and community support, Seals & Industrial Services is proud to share an update on how the business is developing.

One of the most significant milestones for the company has been the completion of their brand-new office, which they are now fully settled into and enjoying. The fresh, modern workspace has already had a positive impact on the way they work, offering a bright and comfortable environment designed with both productivity and collaboration in mind. Beyond providing additional space for growth, the new office has helped bring

their team closer together. The dedicated dining area has quickly become a central part of the working day, with colleagues enjoying spending lunchtimes together, sharing ideas, and building stronger connections. This sense of togetherness is something the company truly values and believes plays a key role in their continued success.

Since opening the new premises, the Seals & Industrial Services team have also taken another step forward in strengthening their brand presence. Their van has been fully customised with their logo and contact details and is now out on the road representing the brand wherever it goes. This not only increases visibility but also reinforces their commitment to professionalism and reliability when supporting customers on-site and across the region.

At the heart of their operation is their warehouse, which is now fully stocked, fully operational, and set up to deliver fast, dependable service. They currently hold over 15,000 stock items, covering a wide variety of sizes, materials, and specifications to meet the diverse needs of their customers. By carrying such a comprehensive range in-house, Seals & Industrial Services can offer same-day dispatch on many products, helping customers minimise downtime and keep their operations running smoothly. The warehouse setup is designed around responsiveness and flexibility, ensuring that whether requirements are routine or urgent, they are well positioned to deliver.

To further enhance their warehouse operations, they have made targeted investments to improve efficiency and accuracy. One of the most impactful



A brand-new office workspace for the Seals & Industrial Services team

upgrades has been the introduction of the company's mobile weighing system. Rather than transporting stock to fixed weighing stations, they now take the scales directly to the stock. This change has streamlined the picking process, reduced handling time, and significantly improved accuracy. The result is faster order fulfilment, increased productivity, and a smoother workflow for their team; all of which directly benefit their customers.

Alongside business growth and operational improvements, the team are especially proud of the steps they've taken to give back to the community. They have officially launched their Charity Partnership and Giving Plan, an initiative that is very close to their hearts. In December, they made a large and highly successful donation to the local food bank head office and were fortunate enough to be invited to visit and see first-hand the incredible work being done to support those in need. Being able to contribute in a meaningful way and witness the impact of that support reinforced just how important this initiative is to the business.

Looking ahead, Seals & Industrial Services is pleased to share that over the coming months they will be supporting Birmingham Dogs Home. This is a cause that resonates strongly with the entire team. Supporting an organisation that provides care, protection, and a second chance is something they all genuinely care about, and the company is excited to play a small part in helping them continue their vital work.

As Seals & Industrial Services moves forward, they remain focused on continued growth, increasing their stock range, welcoming new team members, and further strengthening the service provided. You can keep following their journey on social media as they share updates from Seals & Industrial Services and continue to support their customers every step of the way.

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/sealsindustrial/services/



Strengthening brand presence with new van logo and contact details



The warehouse is the heart of the Seals & Industrial operation

A Family Story: Three Generations Delivering Industrial Solutions

Eighty years of manufacturing excellence, family leadership, and industrial commitment. Director, Emilio Santos, tells us the story of how MR Accesorios Industriales came to be.

“Today, I want to honour the legacy of my parents, Manuel E. “Lolo” Santos and María “Bity” Mercado, founders of Casa Santos in 1945, a company born with a clear purpose: manufacturing high-quality bearing housings for Argentina’s growing industrial market.”

What began as a plumber block factory soon expanded, and by the 1960s the company incorporated the production of pulleys and large industrial chains, strengthening its capabilities and building strong, long-lasting partnerships with clients and suppliers.

Over the decades, the manufacturing lines evolved significantly. Today, MR Accesorios produces a wide range of bearing housings, including SN, SNL, SAF, TVN, FNL, and SONL types, engineered for reliability across the most demanding applications. They also continue to manufacture pulleys and industrial chains while commercialising bearings, industrial belts, couplings, and a broad selection of industrial accessories. These product lines represent the technical heritage

of Casa Santos and the foundation of the company’s contribution to the industrial sector.

“As the business grew, so did our family’s commitment. Over time, all nine of us, my brothers, sisters, and I, joined with enthusiasm, responsibility, and a shared spirit of teamwork.”

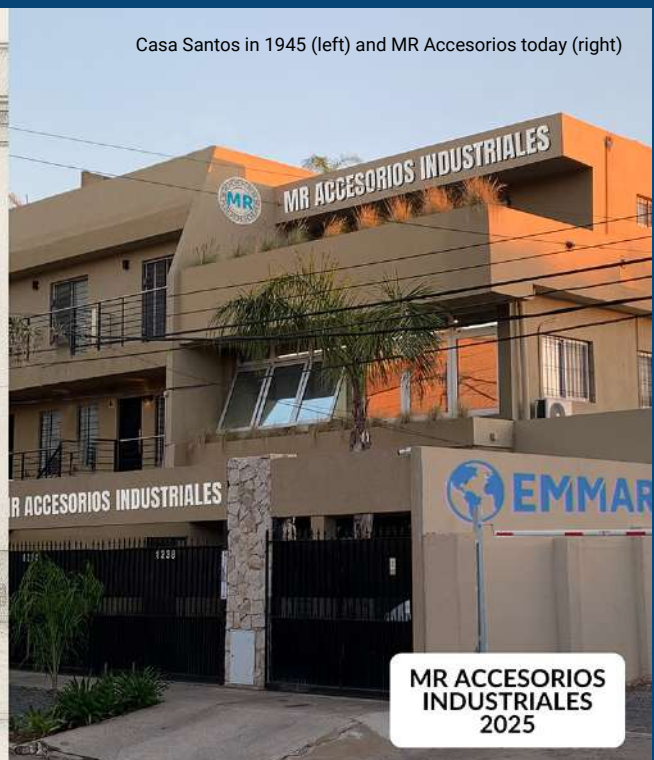
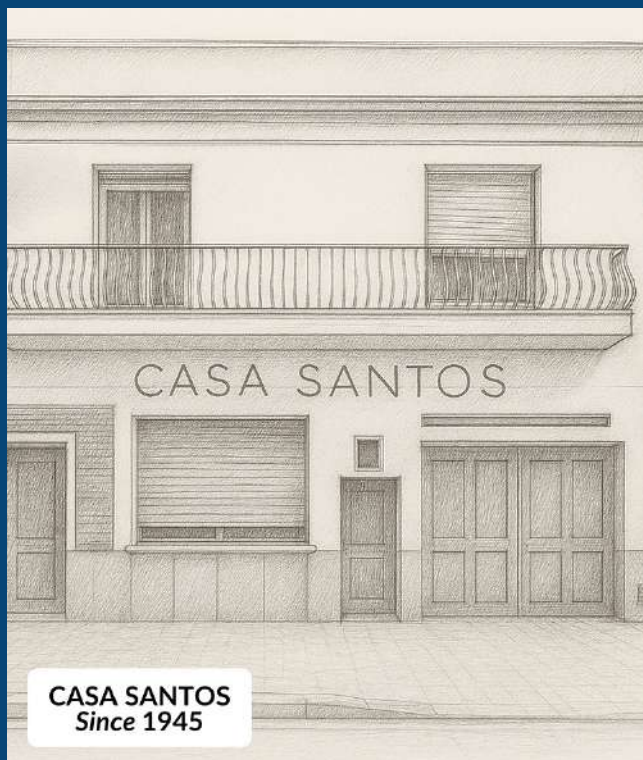
“Together, we faced the challenges of an ever-changing national landscape, always standing alongside our customers and suppliers as trusted allies. Our strength was never only in the products we made, but in the people and values that shaped every step of our journey.” Emilio explains.

In 2005, Emilio Santos acquired the company and took on the role of Director, continuing the family legacy under MR Accesorios Industriales SRL, together with his wife, Mariana Calicchio, who brought a global vision to the business.



Mariana Calicchio (left) and Emilio Santos (right)

They expanded their commercial reach throughout Latin America, offering a comprehensive distribution catalogue. This evolution was made possible thanks to the incorporation of Emilio’s sons: Manuel A. Santos, General Manager and specialist in the international industrial market, and Ramiro Santos, Sales



Casa Santos in 1945 (left) and MR Accesorios today (right)

Manager with deep expertise in belts and industrial accessories, both of whom are now leading the company into a new era.

Throughout this journey, MR Accesorios also succeeded in building a highly skilled team across sales, administration, and logistics. Their professionalism and dedication allow them to provide technical guidance, personalised service, and reliable support, qualities that have positioned them as genuine allies to both suppliers and clients. They consider this human capital one of their strongest competitive advantages.

Guided by this same spirit, seven years ago the company opened its Miami headquarters, allowing them to support a wide range of companies through the importation of high-quality products from Europe and Asia. From this strategic location, MR Accesorios now serves industries from Alaska to Ushuaia, ensuring efficient distribution and technical support across the entire American continent.

"It is challenging to summarise eight decades of work in just a few lines, but I felt compelled to share the story of a company built through

perseverance, teamwork, and the vision of three generations.

"Our journey is deeply rooted in our ikigai, the passion and purpose that give meaning to our work and our lives. And as we look to the future, that same purpose continues to drive us forward." Emilio concludes.

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Emilio with his team in Argentina



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25 Years of W+A: THE HOME OF *DRIVE*

'Technology that connects. Service that moves.' W+A celebrates a quarter of a century as a successful family business, putting the focus on people and digital development.

For 25 years, W+A has stood for quality, reliability, and customised solutions in technical wholesale. Founded in 2001, as a father-son project, the company has developed into a successful medium-sized family business with over 40 employees and more than 30,000 items in stock. Today, W+A is a sought-after partner for wholesale, industry, trade, and mechanical engineering, with regional roots and international recognition.

"From the outset, our aim has been not only to supply products, but to create genuine solutions," says Sven Bäuerle, CEO of W+A.

"Technical expertise, personalised advice and a willingness to always go the extra mile have made us successful for over 25 years."

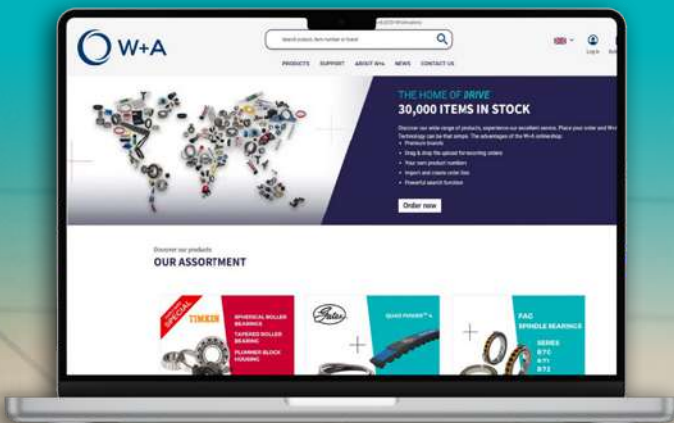
The W+A portfolio includes classic components for roller bearing technology, linear technology, drive technology and sealing technology. One of its particular strengths lies in custom-made products and customer-specific services. Flexibility, speed, and in-depth technical expertise enable tailor-made solutions that are precisely tailored to customer requirements. "Our customers appreciate that we listen, think proactively and take responsibility," Sven Bäuerle continues.

A key success factor in recent years has been the company's consistent digital development. W+A's first online shop went live back in 2013, setting an early example of digital customer proximity. In 2023, this was followed by a comprehensive redesign of the shop with a modern design, improved user guidance and expanded functions. "For us, digitalisation is not a completed project,

but an ongoing process", emphasises Anika Bäuerle, CEO. "We are constantly developing our digital systems to make processes more efficient and to make it as easy as possible for our customers to access our services."

As a family business, W+A consistently focuses on long-term relationships. Customers, suppliers, partners, and employees are seen as part of the team. This attitude shapes the corporate culture and is a key factor in the company's success. "Our employees are our company's greatest asset. Their commitment and expertise form the basis of our sustainable growth," says the management team.

Sustainability and social responsibility round off W+A's self-image. The company switched to a paperless office back in 2007. The company headquarters



Sven Bäuerle, W+A CEO





Wälzlager und Antriebstechnik GmbH

were built in 2011 and 2012 with a focus on energy efficiency and climate neutrality. By signing the Klimawin BW climate agreement, the company has made a clear commitment to ecological, economic, and social responsibility. "For us, sustainable business is not a trend, but a matter of course," explains the management team. Under the motto 'In the region. For the region.' W+A has been an official sponsor of the Langenargen Festival since 2019 and supports local cultural and social projects.

"25 years of W+A is a milestone for us, and at the same time a clear mission for the future. With digital innovation, personal proximity, and a strong team, we want to continue on our path consistently,"

summarise Sven and Anika Bäuerle.

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W+A standard range, custom-made products and customer-specific services



Get Ready... It's Time to Network in Warsaw!



Over 550 of you will be celebrating BearingNet turning 30 in Poland's capital city this March, and we cannot wait for another action-packed 3 days of business and socialising.

So, what can you expect at the Warsaw User Meeting? If you are attending for the first time, we always kick off our events with a Welcome Reception, allowing everyone to settle in following their travels, catch up with industry friends and meet new faces before the main networking begins the following day. To make the process easier for new attendees, the first 30 minutes will be a First Timers' Reception, exclusively for you to ask any questions you may have and get a feel for the event.

The next two days will be in the main event hall, where everyone comes together to network and talk business. Many companies take advantage of our online meeting planner, scheduling their meetings and availability in advance. We know that networking can be tiring, so we provide refreshments throughout the day, as well as a buffet lunch!

At the end of the three days once the business is done, we bring everyone together for the Farewell Dinner. This allows members to dress up, indulge in some food and drinks, and enjoy the entertainment, which will include a live band, a range of games, and photo opportunities! This is a great chance to build on the existing and new connections you have made during the User Meeting.

If you are attending, come over and say hello to the BearingNet team. We love catching up with our members and hearing your thoughts on the platform and User Meetings. You can find us at the registration on the first day in the hotel reception, as well as at the Welcome Reception. We will also be present at the BearingNet table during the networking days if you need any assistance. If you don't manage to catch us at these times, we will all be at the Farewell Dinner on the final day to say goodbye.

We look forward to catching up with the BearingNet community in Warsaw.

See you soon!

The BearingNet Team

Scan here to learn more about User Meetings:



Follow us on social media?
Search the official event hashtag:

#UMWARSAW26



WHAT TO EXPECT

in Rio de Janeiro

Breaking New Latitude

BearingNet sets its sights on South America...

We are excited to announce that the BearingNet User Meetings are expanding into a third continent in 2026. This will be our very first User Meeting in South America and #UMRIO26 will be hosted from 30th September – 2nd October 2026 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We thought Rio de Janeiro would be the ideal location for our ever-growing list of South American members who have been joining us at our famous User Meetings over the last couple of years.

BearingNet has held previous User Meetings in the United States of America, including Washington D.C., Orlando, Florida and Las Vegas, Nevada. The Washington D.C. User Meeting in 2025 was our biggest US User Meeting to date with over 170 attendees, and since then, the BearingNet platform has seen significant growth, now with over 2,000 global distributor members trading daily. We want to give all our members the chance to network and build relationships with other like-minded industry professionals at our events.



Key Information

125+ Expected global attendees

3 days of networking

Brand-new location

5-star Grand Hyatt hotel

Exclusive bedroom rates

778 sqm event space

Grand Hyatt Rio de Janeiro



What can you expect in Rio?

Similar to our other User Meetings, on the first day, we will host the First Timer's Reception just before the Welcome Reception; the second day is when the networking begins! There will be refreshments available throughout the day and when the networking is done, attendees can unwind at the Farewell Dinner. If you are attending, come over and say hello, we love catching up with our members.



The User Meeting will be held at the 5-star hotel, Grand Hyatt, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil adjacent to the Praia da Alvorada beach. The hotel is just 40 minutes from RIOgaleão International Airport. We have reserved 100 bedrooms in the hotel for BearingNet members, allowing you to be at the heart of the action and ready to connect with other bearing and power transmission professionals.



Register here!

Scan below to get things rolling...



See you in Brazil!

Fersa Care: The Global Service that Supports Workshops and Distributors in Every Repair

The Spanish multinational, through its brands Fersa, PFI Fersa and NKE Fersa, provides specialised training, personalised technical assistance and an international network of experts to ensure safer, more efficient replacements backed by Fersa.

In a market where every job counts and reliability is essential, having technical support and fast, efficient solutions makes all the difference. With this vision, Fersa, specialised in mobility solutions and high-performance bearings, delivers Fersa Care. A comprehensive service designed to stand by distributors, workshops and rebuilders, not only through high-quality products, but also through a complete value proposition that delivers safety and confidence in every replacement.

Fersa Care was created with a clear goal: to make professionals' day-to-day work easier and provide the support they need to tackle any repair with real guarantees. Because true value is not only in the part itself, but in everything that comes with it: expert advice, training, the right tools, and a service that responds when it matters most. In this sense, Fersa Care becomes a support network designed to improve the workshop experience while delivering the best possible service to the customer.

Training and support for everyday workshop needs

Ongoing training is one of the key pillars of Fersa Care. Through the specialised seminars it offers, workshops and distributors gain access to technical content focused on bearings and other mobility solutions, with a practical approach aimed at professional installation and preventing failures.

This training is reinforced by personalised technical assistance,

helping professionals resolve questions, optimise diagnostics and identify the most suitable solution for each application, with direct support from the Fersa team.

Authorised workshop network: more trust and stronger support

Another key element of Fersa Care is access to the Fersa authorised workshop network. This distinction, which originated in Spain and is currently being rolled out globally, recognises professionals who meet the brand's standards. These workshops have been audited and approved, work according to processes endorsed by Fersa, and have the right tools and equipment to install the brand's products, ensuring a safer and more reliable service.

In addition, Fersa Care has a network of specialised technicians across different group subsidiaries, enabling closer and more agile support anywhere in the world. This structure strengthens response capability and ensures customers can access technical support, guidance and assistance whenever and wherever they need it.

"We want workshops and distributors to feel supported at every step, from product selection to installation and incident resolution.

Fersa Care is a way of bringing our proximity and commitment to professionals' daily work," says Rafael Paniagua, CEO.

Specialised knowledge, also in digital format

Fersa Care also focuses on regular digital training, with specialised webinars delivered in different languages and tailored to various applications. One example is the sessions offered by the group brand NKE Fersa, aimed at the wind energy, railway and industrial sectors.

These trainings cover, among other topics, technical advice and the benefits of its industrial solutions, such as SQ77 series insulated bearings, featuring coatings that provide electrical insulation, or hybrid bearings with silicon nitride rolling elements, which prevent current flow and improve wear resistance. These technologies are interchangeable with standard bearings and help increase reliability, reduce costs and improve performance in electric machinery.

With Fersa Care, the company strengthens its commitment to the work of distributors and professional workshops, consolidating a proposition that combines knowledge, support and guarantees, so that every repair can be carried out with greater peace of mind. A service designed for those looking for something more: working with backup, confidence and without worries.

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The Fersa team in action



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BMI Bearings Reach 40 Years: Evolving with Changing Markets

2025 marked 41 years for BMI Bearings, having evolved from an importer of bearings to a manufacturer-exporter from India, while staying family-owned by the second generation.

Understanding market trends and being able to change the direction of the company accordingly has been the key to success, and that's exactly what BMI Bearings has done.

Back in 1974, Mr Snehal Sheth started the company with five years' experience in the bearing business at an SKF authorised distributor in Mumbai. With that experience and a great deal of zeal, he started trading bearings, with all energy focused on sourcing obsolete and hard-to-find bearings. In the 1980s, as the customer base grew, he became involved in the import of bearings from Europe, as not much manufacturing existed locally in India. Moving forward to the late 1990s,

the Indian government was encouraging local manufacturing, and BMI decided to set up a small plant in Gujarat, India, with the help of a retired FAG engineer. Fast forward to the year 2000, when the company received its first export order from a Polish distributor. This changed the entire business direction of the company, and it slowly began exporting to Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Denmark, Argentina, the USA and a few other Latin American countries.

Fast forward again to 2020, BMI Bearings opened an office in Charlotte, North Carolina, to support its biggest market, North America. Apart from standard roller bearings (spherical, taper, cylindrical and

others), BMI has now expanded its range to mounted roller bearings (spherical – S2000 and tapered – Type E) as well.

“Today, as the market is saturated with factories from Asia, BMI Bearings analyses where it can bring value and has therefore diversified into non-standard and customised bearings, which major brands find difficult to serve due to size,”

explains the management team.

BMI Bearings is proud to have been awarded for its exemplary export performance by the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India. BMI Bearings turned 41 in 2025, and it remains family-owned and run, staying highly attuned to what distributors need. Today, it offers a mix of customised and non-standard bearing solutions, along with stock of the standard catalogue range of roller bearings. BMI Bearings are looking forward to many more prosperous years.

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An old staff photo of the BMI Bearings team



Resilience: The Hidden Advantage of Being Born in Adversity

How transforming environmental uncertainty became the most powerful engine for international expansion and business leadership at Ivor Group.

There is a fundamental difference between a company that has always grown under the shelter of economic stability and one forged in the fire of adversity. Many global organisations operate on the premise that the environment will be predictable; however, for Ivor Group, the reality was always different. Today, the company celebrates something far more valuable than longevity: it celebrates an adaptability that competitors born in 'calm waters' find difficult to replicate.

From its beginnings in Venezuela, the organisation did not have the luxury of predictability. While companies in traditional markets might freeze in the face of unforeseen changes, this team developed a unique mental agility and resilience. What might be considered an insurmountable crisis for others became the standard of operation for them. This tenacity is not a strategy learned in textbooks, but a competence acquired through the daily practice of overcoming complex obstacles to deliver results.

This origin story is the reason why the group's international expansion was so solid. When taking operations to new markets, the enterprise did not just export products, but a fail-proof work methodology. The stability found abroad did not make them complacent; on the contrary, it allowed them to accelerate with the power of an engine accustomed to climbing steep hills.

That philosophy of resilience materialised structurally when the group established strategic hubs in Miami and the Colón Free Zone. These locations were not chosen merely for geographic convenience, but as deliberate extensions of a mindset shaped by uncertainty. By combining deep inventory positioning in Colón with rapid-response capabilities from Miami, the organisation built a dual-engine operating model designed to absorb disruption while maintaining continuity for its customers across the Americas.

In an industry where downtime carries measurable financial consequences, this structure allows the group to respond not only to planned demand but also to

unforeseen urgencies. What appears externally as logistical efficiency is, in reality, the operational expression of a culture trained to anticipate variability, manage risk, and act decisively: skills forged long before expansion ever began.

Today, the organisation demonstrates that its origin is a source of pride and a competitive advantage. The company's strength lies not only in its inventory or logistics hubs but in a corporate culture that refuses to settle. It is that mindset of 'wanting more every day' that has allowed the company's evolution to be more than just inertia: it is a constant injection of energy built upon proven values.

Looking toward the future, the message is clear: the companies that endure are not those that avoid storms, but those that learn to navigate them to discover new oceans. Ivor Group reaffirms that its greatest asset remains that unbreakable tenacity that saw its birth and today sustains it firmly before the world.

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A map showing the Ivor Group locations in America, Central, and South America

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Making a Promise is Easy... Keeping it is a Matter of Character

In the industrial world, bearings are the silent heroes of machinery. When they fail, production stops and the consequences ripple outward.

After more than 40 years in business, operating in one of the most volatile and demanding markets, Özevren Rulman has learned one fundamental truth. Delivering a bearing on time can sometimes save not just a production line, but a relationship.

Operating in the Turkish market, where supply chains, currencies, logistics and demand can shift rapidly, has shaped the company's character. Resilience has been built not only through inventory and networks, but through something far more durable. Keeping one's word. The three true experiences below reflect the core of this culture. They occurred at different times and involved different people, yet all share one common principle. At Özevren Rulman, a promise is not a statement. It is a commitment.

A trunk, a night drive and a changed route

It began like an ordinary first day of a long-planned holiday. The Sales Director was preparing to leave. The hotel was booked, the route was set and the car was ready.

Then the phone rang.

A cement plant reported a critical bearing failure. Production was at serious risk and unless the bearing arrived that same night, the plant would face significant losses by morning. It was late. Courier services were no longer an option and

no one else was available to handle the delivery.

After a brief assessment, the bearing was placed into the trunk of the Sales Director's personal car. The journey began in the middle of the night. The holiday route on the navigation system was replaced with the factory address. Hours later, the bearing was delivered and production was restored. Only then did the journey continue towards the holiday destination.

This story is not about personal sacrifice. It reflects a mindset shaped by decades of operating in a challenging market.

A promise, once given, is honoured regardless of plans or convenience.

When the phone rings at 2.00 a.m.

At 2.00 a.m., a Sales Manager's phone rang. A customer's factory had come to a complete stop due to an unexpected failure. A bearing needed immediate replacement, but the night shift had limited technical staff and the maintenance manager could not clearly identify the bearing type.

It would have been easy to delay action until morning. In an environment where every hour matters, that was not an



Özevren team at a BearingNet User Meeting



The early days at Özevren Rulman A.Ş.

option. By 3.00 a.m., a sales colleague who had supplied a similar bearing to the customer in the past was reached. By 3.30 a.m., access to the warehouse was arranged. Lights were switched on, old shipment records were reviewed, and catalogues were carefully cross checked.

After one to two hours of focused work, the correct bearing code was identified with certainty. The bearing was dispatched with the first vehicle in the morning and production resumed shortly afterwards. Reliability is not proven during office hours. It is proven when no one is watching and when the phone rings at night.

A one tonne bearing and an even heavier responsibility

The third experience involves a metallurgy company that was not a regular customer at the time. Following a sudden and critical breakdown, emergency requests were sent to multiple suppliers. The required bearing was large, highly specialised and extremely rare. Major global brands had no available stock and

local sourcing options in Turkey were quickly exhausted.

Through an international supply network, the bearing was located at an overseas partner. A new challenge immediately followed. The bearing weighed over one tonne. Air transport was complex, costly and operationally demanding. The simplest conclusion would have been that the product was not available in Turkey and that nothing more could be done.

Experience in demanding markets shows that the moment efforts stop is often the moment a relationship is lost. For four to five days, intensive work took place across logistics planning, customs coordination and transport arrangements. The bearing was ultimately delivered by air and the customer's production resumed.

That delivery resolved more than a technical issue. It reshaped a business relationship. Over time, the company became one of the most valuable partners in the portfolio. In critical moments, one sentence was often



repeated by the customer. If Özevren gives its word, delivery follows.

Final thoughts

These experiences are not exceptions. They are the result of a culture shaped by more than four decades of operating in an environment defined by uncertainty, pressure and constant change. In such conditions, the most stable asset any company can possess is its reputation.

Özevren Rulman A.Ş. supplies bearings. What is consistently delivered goes beyond the product. Reliability, responsibility and trust remain at the core. In global industry, the strongest component is not made of steel. It is built on promises that are kept.

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The second generation in motion



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The Istanbul skyline, home to the offices of Özevren Rulman A.Ş



Innovation and Sustainability: How Rubix Optimises Logistics and Stock

Rubix continues to improve logistics efficiency, focusing on automation and sustainability to meet the growing market demands.

In the competitive landscape of manufacturing and logistics, the ability to quickly adapt to customer needs is crucial. Rubix, a leader in industrial distribution, has adopted advanced strategies to enhance operational efficiency and resource management.

With a 13,000 sq m logistics area supporting a broad stock of 60,000 items, 16,000 of which are exclusive to bearings, Rubix achieves an order fulfilment rate (OTS) of over 99%. This positions Rubix as an example of how innovation can serve efficiency.

Rubix has invested in an automated packaging system with the aim of improving reliability, reducing delivery times, and optimising space usage. This automated system not only allows for faster order processing but also reduces errors during the goods preparation phase, ensuring a perfect match between inventory and orders. The introduction of these advanced technologies has made Rubix a point of reference in logistics.

Sustainability: Strategic Investments for a Green Future

In an era where sustainability is increasingly at the forefront of business concerns, Rubix has taken significant steps to reduce the environmental impact of its operations. Investments in eco-friendly technologies are a strategic priority, with initiatives ranging from replacing traditional lighting with high-efficiency LED lights to installing thermal insulation on walls and a roof that helps reduce energy consumption.

Additionally, Rubix has introduced an energy-efficient heat pump and advanced software for heating management, further reducing energy use. These measures not only improve operational efficiency but also contribute to creating a more sustainable work environment and reducing long-term costs.

The company's commitment to the environment extends to logistics as well, with the adoption of plastic-free, tapeless

boxes and a system to reduce the space occupied by post-packaging boxes, thus reducing material usage and waste.

Thanks to investments in automation and eco-friendly solutions, Rubix has not only improved operational efficiency but also reduced the environmental impact of its activities. With optimised management and a future-oriented vision, the company continues to evolve, providing significant benefits to both its customers and the environment.

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New Year Equals New Developments at Albion Motion Company

Driving investment, growth, and innovation to elevate the customer experience in 2026.

Albion Motion Company (AMC) is proud to announce that, following the recent work and dedication of their E-commerce Manager, Harry Roberts, AMC's new online portal is now officially live! This innovative development represents a significant and strategic step forward for the company, making it substantially easier, faster, and more efficient for customers to explore and place orders from AMC's extensive and diverse range.

The portal enables customers to seamlessly browse AMC's comprehensive product ranges, access clear, detailed, and accurate product information, and place orders online at a time that is convenient for them. It operates fully alongside AMC's existing systems and customer support structure, ensuring that customers continue to benefit from

the knowledgeable, responsive, and personalised assistance that AMC is known for behind the scenes.

Further development and enhancement of the portal are planned throughout 2026, alongside ongoing expansion of AMC's product ranges and stockholding, to ensure the company can continue to meet growing customer demand and provide an even more streamlined and satisfying ordering experience.

AMC is proud to be a member of the BearingNet platform.

"We would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone at BearingNet a very happy 30th anniversary. The service

they provide to the industry is truly invaluable. A special thank you to Nicola Beer, Managing Director, and the entire team for their continued support and for providing such an efficient platform for buying and selling on a daily basis.

"Beyond this, their User Meetings and publications such as Best Bits magazine play a vital role in bringing the industry together and allowing businesses to share developments and services with like-minded traders.

"Congratulations to BearingNet on this fantastic milestone, here's to the next 30 years."

Jim Willitts, Managing Director

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AMC operates a purpose-built 35,000 sq ft European distribution centre, ready to ship internationally



Condition Monitoring in Practice: Data Collection to Reliable Insight

Danish manufacturer and distributor CeramicSpeed discuss why simplicity and data quality are becoming central to modern maintenance strategies.

Condition monitoring has become a cornerstone of modern maintenance strategies, particularly in industries where rotating equipment is critical to productivity and safety. While the basic principles of condition monitoring are well established, the way data is collected, processed and used is evolving as organisations seek quality insights with less complexity.

One of the key challenges maintenance teams face today is balancing data availability with usability. Large volumes of sensor data do not automatically lead to better decisions. In practice, unreliable signals, false alarms and complex installations can undermine confidence in monitoring systems and limit their adoption across a plant.



To address this, recent developments in condition monitoring have focused on combining multiple measurement types in a single monitoring point. By correlating vibration, temperature, acoustic signals and magnetic fields, it becomes possible to validate anomalies and build a more reliable picture of machine health. This integrated approach reduces the risk of acting on isolated signals and supports more consistent maintenance decisions.

Another important trend is the move towards more autonomous monitoring devices. Wireless installation and long battery life make it easier to deploy condition monitoring on assets that were previously difficult or costly to monitor. This lowers the threshold for expanding monitoring programmes beyond the most critical machines and enables a more uniform maintenance strategy across facilities.

Data handling has also become an increasingly important topic. Many organisations want full transparency and ownership of their condition

monitoring data, including the ability to access historical trends and integrate information into existing systems. Secure cloud environments combined with data interfaces support this need, allowing monitoring data to fit naturally into established maintenance workflows.

Within this context, Optimize Edge is used as an example of how condition



monitoring solutions are being designed to align more closely with established maintenance practices. The focus is on simplifying deployment and improving the consistency and reliability of machine-level data, rather than redefining how condition monitoring is performed.

A further development in modern condition monitoring is the use of algorithms that automatically account for differences between machines. Instead of relying on fixed alarm thresholds, machine-specific baselines and health indicators are generated, helping maintenance teams focus attention where it is genuinely required.



As condition monitoring continues to mature, the emphasis is shifting towards solutions that reduce complexity without reducing insight. Systems that are easy to install, easy to trust and easy to integrate are more likely to deliver long-term value and support the transition from reactive maintenance to predictive strategies.

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30 Years of RKB: Built for Heavy Industry

When RKB was founded in 1996, its objective was clear: to design and manufacture bearings capable of operating reliably in the most demanding industrial environments.

Nearly three decades later, that focus continues to define the company as it celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2026.

The Swiss manufacturer has built its reputation in sectors where bearing failure is not an option. Steel and aluminium production, marine applications and heavy machinery have long formed the core of RKB's activity, requiring products engineered for high loads, elevated temperatures, and continuous operation.

RKB's development has been closely linked to long-term collaboration with original equipment manufacturers. Working alongside OEMs has influenced both design and manufacturing practices, resulting in solutions tailored to specific operating conditions rather than catalogue-driven standardisation.

Moreover, an important part of RKB's evolution has been its MRO customers, who choose the manufacturer for its ability to deliver when the need arises. Here, reliability directly translates into reduced downtime.

As the company enters its fourth decade, RKB is also introducing itself to new bearing distributors who may not yet

be familiar with the brand or who have previously encountered it primarily through its OEM and MRO activities.

European engineering remains central to the company's identity. Its technical heritage is tied to the Colleoni family's involvement in bearing-related activities dating back to 1936. As a result, 2026 marks a double anniversary: 30 years of RKB and 90 years of bearing history. This legacy continues today under the leadership of Giangiacomo Colleoni.

In recent years, RKB has expanded its global footprint, strengthening distribution channels and local technical support. This shift has enabled the company to serve maintenance and repair operations alongside OEM programmes, reflecting broader changes in how industrial customers source critical components.

Behind this expansion is a manufacturing and engineering structure designed to support both standard and customised bearings. Advanced analytical tools, in-house testing and a structured quality system allow RKB to respond to long-term supply agreements as well as urgent replacement requirements.

Today, the company maintains strong positions in steel, aluminium, and marine sectors, while extending its presence in construction, cement, and mining. Across these industries, operational reliability remains the defining requirement.

As RKB looks beyond its third decade, its strategy reflects continuity rather than reinvention, with continued emphasis on engineering capability, industrial specialisation, and performance in severe operating conditions.

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RKB headquarters
in Switzerland



Selecting the Correct Slewing Rings: TECMA DRIVE's Evolution to Technological Partner

The Spanish distributor reflects on the company's evolution from supplier to technological partner, highlighting innovation, expertise, and reliability on BearingNet's 30th anniversary.

In a demanding sector such as bearings and power transmission, reliability and technical expertise have always been fundamental pillars. The celebration of BearingNet's 30th anniversary at this User Meeting provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the evolution of the market and on the role that specialised companies play today, not only as product suppliers, but as true technological partners.

One of the most critical components in many industrial applications is the slewing ring, widely used in equipment such as cranes, aerial platforms, material-handling machinery, and special-purpose equipment. The correct selection of a slewing ring is essential to ensure machine performance, safety, and service life. An incorrect choice can lead to premature failures, increased maintenance costs, and unplanned downtime with significant economic impact.

Each application has specific requirements that must be carefully analysed, including axial and radial loads, tilting moments, rotational speed, duty cycles, and environmental conditions. For this reason, slewing ring selection should not be based solely on dimensional criteria, but rather on a comprehensive technical approach that reflects the machine's actual operating conditions.

In this context of increasing technical complexity, the traditional role of the supplier is changing. The industry

increasingly demands specialised engineering support, tools that help optimise design, and technical guidance from the earliest project stages. It is within this framework that TECMA DRIVE has evolved to establish itself as a technological partner specialising in transmission solutions and slewing rings.

As part of this strategy, TECMA DRIVE has strengthened its technical and logistical capabilities, recently expanded its facilities and maintains a large stock at its Barcelona warehouse, ensuring immediate availability and fast delivery. All operations are carried out under management systems certified to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 standards, reflecting the company's commitment to quality, continuous improvement, and environmental responsibility.

Digitalisation is another key pillar of this evolution. With the aim of delivering greater added value to its customers, TECMA DRIVE has developed its new website, conceived as a technical and commercial hub. Within this platform, TecmaTool stands out as an online tool designed to facilitate the technical selection of slewing rings in a fast, intuitive, and reliable way.

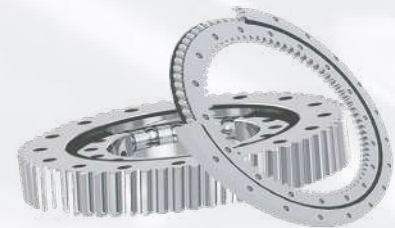
TecmaTool allows users to enter the main parameters of their application and obtain an initial technical selection adapted to real operating conditions. This helps optimise the design phase, reduce common selection errors, and speed up decision-making, always supported by a specialised technical team that accompanies the customer throughout the process.

The combination of technical expertise, product availability, and innovative digital tools reinforces TECMA DRIVE's commitment to a comprehensive service approach aligned with the real needs of today's industry. In a constantly evolving market, where reliability and efficiency are critical factors,

this integrated vision truly makes the difference.

Celebrating BearingNet's 30 years also means recognising the value of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the collective evolution of the sector. Investing in the correct selection of key components such as slewing rings, and in partnerships built on trust and technology, is undoubtedly the path toward a safer, more efficient, and more sustainable industry.

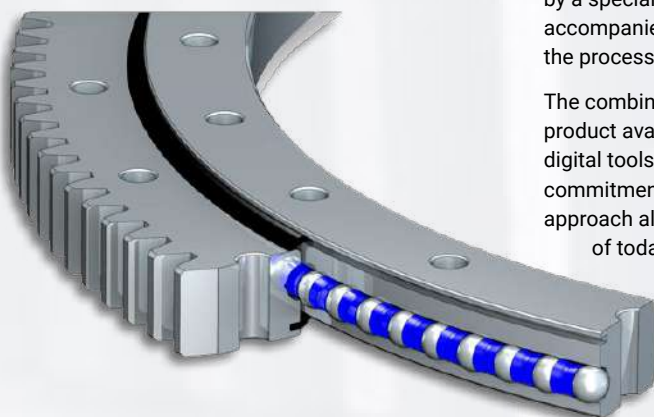
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A Seven-Generation Trade Journey from the Anatolian Town of Eğin to Istanbul

Kozikoğlu Rulman has been a BearingNet member since 2009. We learn about the company's history and culture, leading to its successful international reach of today.

The commercial story of the Kozikoğlu family begins in the early 1800s, in Eğin (today's Kemaliye), one of the ancient towns of Eastern Anatolia. The family's founder, İsmail Kozikoğlu, laid the foundations of an entrepreneurial culture that would be passed down to later generations through livestock trading and regional commerce.

Ottoman era: The rise of a merchant family

Following İsmail Kozikoğlu, Ahmet Kozikoğlu expanded the family business and became a significant figure in the region's meat supply and trade. At the time, Eğin was an important commercial hub along the Silk Road and held a special place within the Ottoman Empire's dynamic trade network.

With the encouragement of Sultan Yavuz Selim, the Kozikoğlu family, like several notable merchant families in Anatolia, became part of the supply chain extending toward Istanbul. Through strong commercial vision, the

family reached an important milestone in the 1850s: Ahmet Kozikoğlu's son, Şakir Kozikoğlu, was appointed Chief Supplier of Meat (Et Kethüdası) to the Ottoman Palace.

This key position allowed the family to build strong relations both in Ankara and Istanbul.

For his honesty and excellence in commerce, Hacı Şakir Kozikoğlu was honoured with the Nişan-ı İftihar, one of the highest state decorations of the era. This prestigious medal was not merely personal recognition; it officially acknowledged the integrity and reliability of the Kozikoğlu family in trade.

Transition to the Industrial Age: A new era in Ankara and Istanbul

In the early 1900s, the family moved from Eğin to Ankara and later to Istanbul, expanding their commercial activities. In this new period, the third and fourth generations, Hacı Mustafa Kozikoğlu and his son Nuri Kozikoğlu,

played important roles during Turkey's economic transformation.

The family entered the flour milling and agricultural machinery sectors, leading the establishment of Ankara Değirmencilik Un Sanayi T.A.Ş., one of the first modern flour factories of the Republic. They also became major shareholders and board members of İttihat Değirmencilik T.A.Ş.

Nuri Kozikoğlu: One of the pioneers of Turkish industry

Residing in Istanbul's Bebek district, Nuri Kozikoğlu expanded the family's commercial network through investments across various sectors. He also:

- Served three terms as President of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (ITO), twice consecutively
- Became one of the founders of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO)
- Made major contributions to the construction of Şişli Mosque, one of the first modern mosques of the Republic Era

His leadership and vision shaped both the family business and Turkey's economic modernisation.

A new chapter in the bearing industry: The birth of Kozikoğlu Rulman

The fourth-generation representative, Nejat Kozikoğlu, took the family's commercial ventures to a new dimension in the 1940s. Alongside flour mills and machinery parts, he entered the bearing trade, laying the foundation for what would become one of Turkey's most established bearing companies.

Thanks to his vision, the firm became the General Authorised Distributor in

1800



1880



1920



Turkey for several German, American, and Austrian brands, and played a significant role in Turkey's industrialisation process.

Following in his father's footsteps, Nejat Kozikoğlu also served actively at the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce and the Istanbul Chamber of Industry.

In addition to his business pursuits, he placed great importance on education and earned dual degrees in Mechatronics and Mechanical Engineering from Boğaziçi University.

Global expansion: The era of Mert Kozikoğlu

After Nejat Kozikoğlu, the sixth-generation representative Mert Kozikoğlu assumed leadership. Having completed his education in the United States, he guided the company toward global expansion.

During this period:

- The company participated in exhibitions and industrial events in Germany, Japan, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, France, Lithuania, the UK, and the USA, increasing its international visibility by trading with over 45 countries
- Beyond its existing portfolio, the company expanded further by signing six new brand partnerships
- Began its BearingNet membership in 2009

"We have been a proud BearingNet member since 2009. Over the years, BearingNet has played a significant role in helping us build strong international relationships and

expand our global footprint. The platform opened doors to markets far beyond our initial reach and has consistently supported our growth as an internationally recognised company.

"BearingNet has been an invaluable network for us, and we are grateful to be part of such a professional and trusted community."

N. Mert Kozikoğlu

With these developments, Kozikoğlu Rulman evolved from being merely a distributor into a reliable international solutions partner.

Kozikoğlu Rulman today: Deep roots, strong future

Today, Kozikoğlu Rulman stands as the oldest and most established bearing company in Turkey. Serving more than 25 industries, the company provides its customers with:

- A broad and diversified product range
- Technical engineering support
- Strong stock capacity and rapid supply chain
- Global business partnerships
- Authorised distributorships
- Own brand IQ-industrial quality

Maintaining its family-owned company culture, Kozikoğlu Rulman continues its investments in R&D, innovation,

digitalisation, and sustainability under the leadership of Cem Kozikoğlu, the seventh-generation member of the family.

Conclusion: The industrial journey of a family and a nation

The story of the Kozikoğlu family is a multi-generational success narrative shaped by entrepreneurship, innovation, trust, sustainability, and strong family values, parallel to Turkey's own industrial transformation.

Today, with nearly a century of commercial heritage, robust infrastructure, and forward-looking vision, Kozikoğlu Rulman continues its journey with determination as one of Turkey's and the world's leading bearing suppliers.

Kozikoğlu Rulman is a proud member of Official Association of Century-Old Brands (Yüzyıllık Markalar Derneği).

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1940



1950



2000



Carter Manufacturing Marks 25 Years with Global Distribution Expansion

The precision bearing specialist continues to strengthen distributor partnerships across Europe, North America, and South America, marking a quarter-century milestone.

Carter Manufacturing celebrates over 25 years as a trusted supplier to bearing distributors and aerospace logistics networks worldwide. From supplying critical components for NASA and European Space Agency (ESA) missions to leading hydrogen propulsion innovation, Carter has earned recognition as a precision bearing partner that understands distributor requirements for reliability, traceability, and rapid delivery across multiple markets.

A quarter-century of credentials in excellence

Established in 2000 as the European Master Distributor for key American bearing manufacturers, Carter has evolved into a manufacturing and supply partner that delivers to distributors globally with sales offices and warehouse locations based in the UK, Europe, and North America. The company's aerospace heritage, validated through decades of supplying components to NASA and ESA programmes, provides the technical credibility that distributors require when sourcing mission-critical components.

Carter's portfolio demonstrates the depth required by sophisticated aerospace distribution networks. Components supplied include cam followers for the Mars Rover project, precision rod ends for satellite programmes, bearings for LOX turbo pumps, liquid methane pumps, reaction wheels, solar array gearbox mechanisms, and specialised aerospace

bearing tools through its sister company UNASIS. In 2020, formal ESA approval as an authorised supplier of hybrid bearings further reinforced the company's position as a source for specification-critical applications.



Quality and traceability, the distributor advantage

Carter maintains ISO9001 and AS9120 aerospace full certifications, ensuring that everything conforms to

correct specifications. This level of documentation, which can include, where required, complete with raw material traceability, special process validation, and comprehensive dimensional analysis, provides distributors with the certification support their customers demand and the confidence to manage aerospace supply chains efficiently.

Distribution partnership model

Carter operates as a direct factory representative for leading precision bearing manufacturers, maintaining long-term relationships with key partners including Silverthin, UNASIS, Aurora, Napoleon, and many others. This partnership approach enables distributors to access a curated portfolio of complementary bearing solutions through a single, reliable source.

Strategic logistics: direct European supply and North American coverage

Recent expansion reinforces Carter's commitment to distributor convenience and supply chain efficiency:

- Valencia, Spain Warehouse:

Serving European, South American, and emerging Mediterranean markets, Carter's new logistics hub enables direct shipment to European distributors with significantly reduced lead times. This facility supports distributors requiring immediate availability of standard and customised aerospace bearing solutions across the continent.

- Minneapolis, USA Operations:

Partnering with established US distributors, Carter provides reliable supply coverage across North American, Canadian, and South American markets. This network allows distributors to access Carter's complete portfolio without extended lead times, supporting their customer delivery commitments.

- UK Manufacturing Base:

The core Abingdon facility, supported by its sister company UNASIS and its advanced five-axis CNC machinery and grinding capabilities, ensures that specialised, customised bearing solutions reach distributors with the technical documentation and quality assurance they require.

Infrastructure for demanding applications

UNASIS manufacturing facilities incorporate cutting-edge five-axis CNC machinery and specialised grinding equipment, enabling production of highly customised bearings for aerospace, defence, nuclear, cryogenic, and medical applications. Alongside component manufacturing, UNASIS specialises in comprehensive aerospace bearing tools: installation, testing, and removal equipment designed for the precision requirements of aerospace applications. This integrated offering means distributors can provide customers with both the bearings and the specialised tooling required for proper installation and maintenance, creating a complete technical solution that strengthens their market position.

Leading the sustainable transition

Carter's participation in the Future Engine Technology for the Control of Hydrogen (FETCH) project, a collaborative initiative with the University of Bath, Cranfield University, Moog Inc., Baker Hughes Druck, and Curtiss-Wright Corporation, positions the company at the forefront of hydrogen propulsion bearing technology. For distributors, this means early access to next-generation solutions as the aerospace industry transitions towards sustainable propulsion systems.

Positioned for the next 25 years

"Our distributor partners are at the centre of our business," says Managing Director Karl Brundell. "We've invested in the infrastructure, the certifications, and the geographic coverage to support their growth. Whether it's guaranteed traceability through AS9102 documentation or rapid fulfilment from Valencia or Minneapolis, we're built to make their aerospace supply chains more efficient."

With proven capabilities across NASA missions and ESA programmes, manufacturing infrastructure across three continents, and engineering expertise recognised across the aerospace sector, Carter Manufacturing is uniquely positioned to serve distributors seeking reliable, specification-compliant precision bearing solutions for the aerospace industry's most demanding applications.

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Boxes store machine



Impressive warehouse at Carter Manufacturing

10 Years of Protorque: How Protorque Became a Power Transmission Brand

In the power transmission industry, brands earn their reputation on the factory floor, in maintenance shutdowns, and in the moments when a machine starts up again and keeps going.

Ten years ago, Protorque was created by Acorn Industrial Services to meet a clear need in the market: belts and power transmission products that deliver dependable performance at an affordable price. In 2025, Protorque marked its tenth year supplying industry, and the anniversary coincided with the brand's biggest range expansion to date.

Protorque began as a focused range developed by ACORN to support the everyday needs distributors see across manufacturing, processing, utilities and materials handling. The starting point was simple: v-belts and wedge belts. Belts are often the first point of failure in a drive system and, just as often, the first product a distributor is asked to source at speed. Protorque's early success came from making the belt offer reliable, recognisable, and easy to specify.

As distributors know, no power transmission component lives in isolation. A belt change frequently becomes a conversation about pulley condition, alignment, tensioning, guarding and what else may have worn while the drive was slipping. A customer asking for a chain may also need a tapered bush to

suit a particular shaft, or a locking device for a clean, repeatable installation.

In other words, one part request often grows into a system requirement.



Protorque's range development followed that logic. After establishing its core in v-belts and timing belts, the brand introduced more specialist belt types before expanding into roller and conveyor chains. Next came the components that help distributors complete the job without fragmenting it across multiple brands and catalogues: taper bushes, pulleys, locking elements and, most recently, a range of popular couplings, including jaw, HRC, and tyre couplings. Each addition has been driven by how power transmission systems are specified, installed, and maintained in real working environments.

A notable milestone in Protorque's development was its adoption by Axel Johnson International as a group brand, building on its launch and early growth under ACORN.

This step has supported broader availability and reinforced trust through a



carefully expanded range that works as a coherent, job-ready solution.

As Protorque moves beyond its first decade, the focus remains the same: listen closely to end users and distributors, and build a range that removes friction from sourcing, specifying, and maintaining drive systems. In a sector where reliability is the strongest form of reputation, Protorque's tenth anniversary marks steady progress, measured where it matters most: in drives that keep turning.

Protorque is available across the UK and Europe through our authorised distributor network:

www.protorque.net/en/where-to-buy/

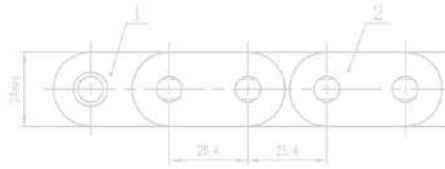
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30 Years of R&M Bearings on BearingNet: A Lot of Bearings Have Rolled Since!

Established in 1983, R&M Bearings International is now one of the largest bearings stockists in Scotland. Founder, Steve Martin, talks us through their relationship with BearingNet over the past 30 years, having been a member from the very beginning.

R&M Bearings International is once again delighted to be a part of a BearingNet User Meeting, this time in the beautiful city of Warsaw, with a proud record of attending every European User Meeting in the last 30 years.

Founder and Chairman, Steve Martin, happily recalls, "BearingNet started all those years ago by the much loved and missed John Bass, a great man and experienced bearing trader who always had time for everyone. His idea of BearingNet, alongside Peter Annis and Gary Jenkins, came around after first running a trade magazine called 'The Bearing Exchange'. I was there in 1997 when John, Peter and Gary held the first public demonstration of BearingNet, revealing the platform at a conference in Barcelona for the first time."

Steve added,

"We are very proud to have been involved since the start and would like to pass on our congratulations to BearingNet in their 30th year. I couldn't have imagined how the membership would've grown in that time and of course the opportunities off the back of this."

R&M Bearings has been at the forefront of building relationships through those BearingNet User Meetings. In their 30 years of membership, they have established themselves as a trusted supplier to the trade, domestically and throughout the world, with many customers now considered friends too.

Steve continued, "Our business has diversified throughout the years to a point where we have now become renowned for certain ranges of premium branded

bearings. Our stock levels are at an all-time high and competitively priced for same day worldwide dispatch through our shipping partners."

Steve ends with saying, "R&M Bearings is now in its 43rd year of business and it is the 51st year for me personally in the trade. I started with DICK Bearings out of their Blackburn HQ. I am slowing down a bit, cutting my workload down to only six days a week (haha), but our business is in safe hands through the leadership of three of my family members in Stephen, Craig and Nikki, along with our long standing and loyal team."

Stephen Martin Jnr and Craig Robertson will attend the Warsaw User Meeting and are looking forward to chatting with old friends and new.

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R&M Founder and Chairman, Steve Martin

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The Fluid Power Distributor Network



Welcome to the very first FluidPowerNet Showcase in Best Bits!

Some of you may not know, but FluidPowerNet is the sister company of BearingNet. The platform works in a very similar way to BearingNet, except members trade in hydraulics and pneumatics rather than bearings and power transmission. In fact, many BearingNet members are also members of FluidPowerNet.

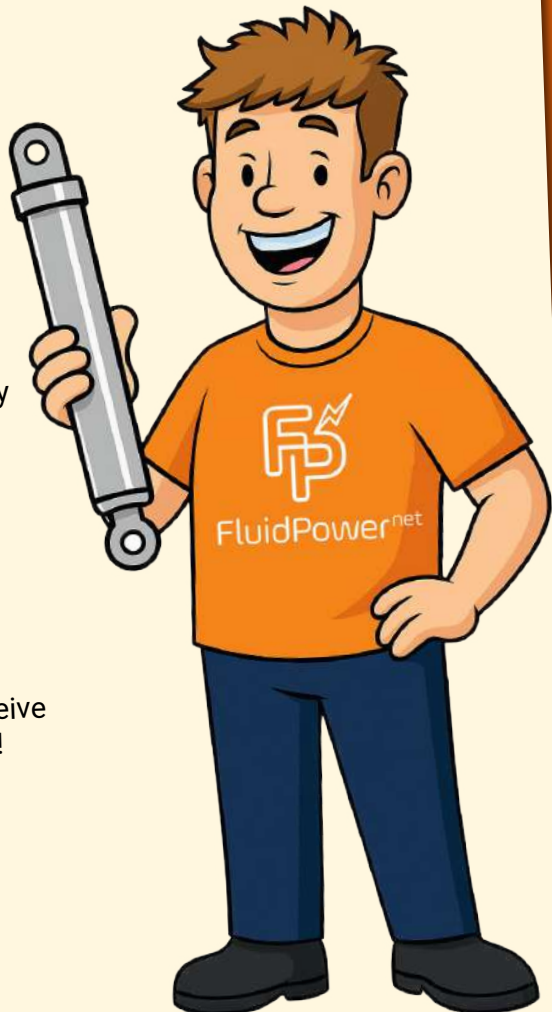
You may have spotted FluidPowerNet companies featured in Best Bits before. However, as this is the biggest ever edition of Best Bits, the editorial team has decided to give FluidPowerNet members their very own section, showcasing the many interesting stories coming out of the fluid power industry.

Do you stock hydraulic and pneumatic parts? My name is Henry, and I recently became the customer care contact for the FluidPowerNet platform. Email me at henryr@fluidpowernet.net to learn more about the FluidPowerNet platform. If you use the code **SPRINGBB26** before Thursday 30th April you will receive 50% off your first year's membership on the platform!

I look forward to hearing from you. I hope you enjoy reading about what is happening in the fluid power industry and getting to know our members.

Many thanks,

Henry Rodda, FluidPowerNet





START
TRADING
TODAY



The manufacturing location of Hi-Des

Hi-Des Establishes a New Strategic Hub

The new strategic hub allows for real-time quality oversight and faster logistics, ensuring uninterrupted component flow for manufacturers in the construction and agricultural machinery sectors.

Responding to the intensifying demand from the global construction and agricultural machinery sectors, Hi-Des has officially announced the launch of its direct operations hub in Shanghai as of early 2025. This strategic expansion marks a significant milestone in the company's history, designed to fundamentally enhance the performance and reliability of its supply chain operations by securing a permanent footing at the manufacturing source.

For years, the hydraulic industry has faced challenges regarding consistency and communication when sourcing from Asian markets. By establishing this dedicated facility, Hi-Des aims to mitigate these global logistical hurdles. The new operational setup allows the company to exercise tighter, real-time oversight on quality control without relying solely on third-party agents or remote communication. Having a dedicated team on the ground ensures that every component, from complex manifolds to critical cartridge valves, undergoes rigorous verification before it ever leaves the port.

This 'boots on the ground' approach is a direct response to the needs of OEMs in Turkey and Europe who require European-standard engineering with the cost advantages of global manufacturing. The Shanghai hub acts as a critical filter and accelerator; it streamlines

the procurement process, reduces lead times, and provides a layer of engineering security that was previously difficult to guarantee from a distance.

The company views this operational upgrade not merely as an expansion of office space, but as a necessary step to support the growing hydraulic export market. By optimising the flow from production line to assembly line, Hi-Des helps its clients maintain their production momentum, shielding them from the volatility of international freight and supply chain disruptions.

Looking forward, Hi-Des remains committed to building long-term, transparent relationships. The establishment of the Shanghai operations signals to partners that Hi-Des is investing in infrastructure to function more like a strategic ally than a traditional buyer-seller arrangement, ensuring stability for years to come.

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Hi-Des components packed at Shanghai hub location

HYDRO ZNPHS Expands Production Capabilities and Becomes an Authorised Atos Service Centre

Polish hydraulic systems manufacturer strengthens production infrastructure and machine park to meet growing market demand and announces the achievement of Authorised Atos Service Centre status.

HYDRO ZNPHS is a company with almost 40 years of experience in the hydraulic power systems market, which continues to strengthen its position through significant investments in production infrastructure and technology. The company specialises in the production and distribution of hydraulic components, cylinders, and systems, serving a wide range of industries across Europe and the rest of the world.

One of HYDRO ZNPHS's key strengths is its logistics capability. The company operates one of the largest hydraulic power system warehouses in Poland, enabling fast product availability and efficient order fulfilment. This extensive stock base allows the company to respond quickly to customer needs, regardless of project scale or complexity.

The company is now pleased to announce the modernisation of its existing production hall, alongside the acquisition of additional production halls. These investments mark an important step in the company's long-term development strategy and reflect growing demand for its hydraulic solutions.

As part of the expansion, HYDRO ZNPHS has also significantly strengthened its machine park, particularly in the area of

steel machining for the production of components used in hydraulic cylinders. The upgraded equipment enhances production precision, efficiency, and repeatability, allowing the company to further improve product quality and lead times.

Currently, the company operates on a 1.8-hectare industrial site, which includes modern production and warehouse facilities equipped with advanced machinery, as well as comprehensive workstations and assembly lines for hydraulic power units and cylinders. The recently modernised production hall has significantly improved workflow, safety and production organisation, changes that are clearly visible in the latest facility images.

2026 marks another important milestone for HYDRO ZNPHS: becoming an Authorised Atos Service Centre and joining the global Atos Worldwide Service Centres Network.

As an Authorised Atos Service Centre, HYDRO ZNPHS provides high-level after-sales technical support, including overhaul and repair services for the full range of Atos components. All services are carried out by qualified technicians trained directly at the Atos headquarters

in Italy, using exclusively original spare parts covered by warranty.

Company specialists have completed certified training in Italy, gaining comprehensive knowledge of service procedures, diagnostics and best practices for Atos hydraulic systems, ensuring reliable and professional support for demanding industrial applications.

Through these ongoing initiatives, HYDRO ZNPHS emphasises its continuous development strategy, focused on expanding capabilities and delivering comprehensive commercial support to its customers. By consistently investing in technological advancement and organisational growth, the company strengthens long-term partnerships and ensures end-to-end service that meets evolving market needs while maintaining the highest industry standards.

Contact here:
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www.hydro.pl



The newly modernised production hall in Poland



Driveline Solutions Expands Hydraulics Business in the UK Through the Acquisition of Flowfit

A strategic partnership designed to drive growth and enhance hydraulic expertise across the UK market; Flowfit becomes part of Driveline Solutions.

Axel Johnson International's business group, Driveline Solutions, strengthens its presence in the UK and expands its hydraulics business through the acquisition of Flowfit, a leading distributor of hydraulic components and systems for off-highway, marine and industrial applications.

Based in Ludlow, Flowfit has established a strong position in the UK market with a wide customer base. The acquisition reinforces Driveline Solutions' strategic focus on the hydraulics segment and establishes a strong platform for growth in the UK market.

Flowfit is a UK-based distributor and manufacturer of hydraulic components and systems, serving off-highway sectors including agriculture and forestry, as well as marine and industrial applications. The company offers a wide range of hydraulic products and accessories, including power packs, cylinders, valves, motors, pumps, hoses, connectors, and filtration products, and is known for its strong customer focus, technical expertise, and ability to deliver tailored solutions.

Headquartered in Ludlow, with an additional sales office in Wellingborough, Flowfit employs 42 people and has built a strong reputation for quality, service, and reliability. Flowfit is further recognised for its capable e-commerce platform, highly appreciated by customers for its user-friendly and extensive offering.

"Flowfit is a family business built on solid values and long-term commitment, which aligns very well with Driveline Solutions' culture and strategy," says Jan Brattberg, Managing Director, Driveline Solutions. "This acquisition represents a natural step in the continued development and expansion of our hydraulics business. Flowfit complements our existing companies in terms of suppliers, market segments, and capabilities, and further strengthens our presence in the UK."

"We are very happy to join Axel Johnson International and Driveline Solutions," says Simon Parsonage, Founder and Managing Director, Flowfit. "We see great opportunities to grow the business further and reach new heights together. Axel Johnson International is a long-term,

responsible, and value-driven owner with deep industrial knowledge and a hands-on approach, an ideal partner for our continued growth journey."

The acquisition of Flowfit reinforces Driveline Solutions' strategic focus on the hydraulics segment and establishes a strong platform for growth in the UK market.

While joining Axel Johnson International and Driveline Solutions, Flowfit will continue to operate as an independent company. Simon Parsonage will remain in his current role as Managing Director and will retain a minority shareholding.

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FLOWFIT®

Axel Johnson International

The Flowfit team at their Ludlow headquarters



F.O.R.T.: Nearly 60 Years of Pioneering Expertise and Innovative Solutions in Hydraulic Components

Delivering hydraulic solutions with innovation and reliability: F.O.R.T., a symbol of excellence from Central Italy since 1967.

Founded in 1967 by Luigi Ceccarelli in Jesi, Italy, F.O.R.T. (Forniture Oleodinamiche Ricambi Trattici) was born as a small workshop driven by Luigi's hands-on experience and passion for hydraulic technology.

At the time, the hydraulics field was still developing in Italy, and Luigi quickly became a trusted point of reference for farmers, mechanics, and local industries who relied on his practical skills and straight-forward approach.

The customers valued Luigi's ability to find solutions, repair components, and offer reliable advice, qualities that formed the foundation of the company's identity. When Luigi passed the business on to his three children, Massimo, Paola and Claudio, the transition marked the beginning of the second generation. Each of them brought different strengths, allowing the company to evolve while maintaining the solid principles on which it had been built.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, F.O.R.T. remained a true family-run enterprise, gradually modernising its work processes while keeping its feet firmly planted in the philosophy of the original workshop: technical competence, honesty, and close relationships with customers. As hydraulic technologies advanced, the company expanded its skills and strengthened partnerships with leading manufacturers, including Danfoss. These collaborations enriched the know-how of a team that has always remained deliberately close-knit today, currently made up of eight people.

In recent years, F.O.R.T. has welcomed the third generation into the business. Massimo's children, Alessandro and later Costanza, joined the company, bringing new energy and a renewed focus on both technical development and organisational growth. Their involvement marks a significant milestone in the story of the company: the passing down of experience not only through formal training but through daily work alongside family

members who have loved the sector for decades.

This generational continuity is one of F.O.R.T.'s defining characteristics. It reflects how the company has evolved over nearly 60 years, slowly, organically, and without losing sight of the personal relationships that have always been at its core. The introduction of new technologies and updated equipment, has supported the manual expertise that still drives much of the company's day-to-day work, from repairs to custom solutions.

Today, F.O.R.T. continues to operate as a small, close-knit team serving agriculture, construction, marine and industrial sectors worldwide. Despite its growth in knowledge and capabilities, the company remains true to its origins: a workshop approach, direct communication, and a strong sense of responsibility toward every customer.

"What began with Luigi Ceccarelli's determination in 1967 has become a three-generation story of commitment, continuity, and family values, an example of how small Italian enterprises can evolve while preserving the spirit that shaped their beginnings."

The F.O.R.T. team.

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A glimpse inside F.O.R.T.

Everything You Need to Know About the Manufacturers' Advertising Platform

The Manufacturers' Advertising Platform gives manufacturers sales, marketing, networking and growth opportunities by directly connecting them to their distribution target market internationally. As a part of BearingNet, the world's largest B2B network with over 2,000 distributors in 80+ countries, it helps manufacturers expand their reach and build stronger partnerships worldwide.

Promotional Opportunities:

- **User Meetings:**
Network with distributors face to face
- **Directory:**
Exclusive access to members information
- **Promotion:**
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- **Bespoke Marketing:**
Regular promotional work with the marketing team
- **Inventory:**
An additional channel to promote your overstocks and surplus inventory



The Manufacturers' Advertising Platform grows every year, currently with 56 manufacturers benefitting from the platform. We see companies from all over the world join the BearingNet community.

What have other members said?

"BearingNet is a crucial tool for our distributors and NACHI is working hard to be the same. Being a member is the perfect match for us."

Nachi Europe GmbH, Germany

"We joined the Manufacturers' Advertising Platform when it was first launched by BearingNet. The service they provide has been brilliant for Bowman. The platform has enabled rapid market exposure to the global bearing trade, greatly increasing our marketing to thousands of distributors."

Bowman International Ltd, United Kingdom

For further information:
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PROMOTED STOCK LISTING

With a BearingNet membership, users have a range of Bolt-Ons available to enhance their membership. The newest of these is the Promoted Stock Listing feature, which enables a member's stock to appear at the top of the search results page on BearingNet.

With the Promoted Stock Listing Bolt-On, members' stock will appear at the top of the search results for seven days! This ensures that when a company searches for a part, the member's listing will be the first option distributors see.

Members can drive more traffic to their website or webshop with the Promoted Stock Listing Bolt-On. It helps by increasing visibility and potential sales on their listed stock.



In addition to the Promoted Stock Listing Bolt-On, the BearingNet platform offers a wide range of other opportunities, from contributing an article to this very magazine, to accessing industry data through your BearingNet account. For any questions about BearingNet Bolt-Ons or more information, please email marketing@bearingnet.net or visit the Bolt-Ons page on BearingNet.

To the readers of the magazine, from the BearingNet team, you will receive a 50% discount on the Data Insights Bolt-On for your first year. Email marketing@bearingnet.net with the subject line BBSRING26, and we can get you set up! Offer ends Thursday 30th April 2026.

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12 – 14 March 2026

