

igus invests in automation to reduce leadtimes from weeks to 24 hours and grow business

igus is pleased to announce the official opening of its automated assembly line for readycable at its UK facility in Northampton. Representing another significant investment for company, the new line uses fully-automated machines and lean manufacturing methods to streamline its manufacturing process to deliver fully-harnessed drive cables shipped within 24 hours of order placement.

"A few years ago, our sole focus was on selling plastic bearings, energy chains and cables with little assembly work," says Matthew Aldridge, managing director, igus UK. "More recently we have stepped into robotics and automation based on our component parts and are now investing in automation ourselves to enable us to move into assembly within the UK."

Historically, igus used to assemble cables manually by cutting back the outer jacket, teasing out the shielding, then stripping the jackets off each of the inner cores and adding crimps; this is a time consuming and laborious process. Now these operations are fully automated using the new readycable line, which also gives 100% quality of assembly.

"We have spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on machines to automate this process, cutting leadtimes from 6 or even 10 weeks down to 24 hours. The chainflex cable is cut to length from our extensive stock held in Northampton and all common connector components are available ex stock. This total package means that customers will usually receive their readycable the next working day, fully-tested with a guaranteed service life," adds Aldridge. "All this automation does not mean that we will be shedding jobs, this automated assembly line will enable us to grow our business, creating more jobs for the area."

For more information about ready-to-install readychain, please visit: www.igus.co.uk/readycable or call igus directly on: 01604 677240

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About igus:

Based in Northampton in the UK and with global headquarters in Cologne, Germany, igus is a leading international manufacturer of energy chain systems and polymer plain bearings. The family-run company is represented in 35 countries and employs 4,150 people around the world. In 2018, igus generated a turnover of 748 million euros with motion plastics, plastic components for moving applications.

With plastic bearing experience since 1964, cable carrier experience since 1971 and continuous-flex cable experience since 1989, igus provides the right solution based on 100,000 products available from stock, with between 1,500 and 2,500 new product introductions each year. igus operates the largest test laboratories and factories in its sector to offer customers quick turnaround times on innovative products and solutions tailored to their needs.

The terms igus, Apiro, chainflex, CFRIP, conprotect, CTD, drylin, dry-tech, dryspin, easy chain, e-chain, e-chain systems, e-ketten, e-kettensysteme, e-skin, flizz, ibow, igear, iglidur, igubal, kineKIT, manus, motion plastics, pikchain, plastics for longer life, readychain, readycable, ReBeL, speedigus, triflex, robolink, and xiros are protected by trademark laws in the Federal Republic of Germany and internationally, where applicable.

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