

## **e-spool flex and igus products for theatre and stage ensure that “The show must go on”**

**Increasingly complex technical challenges of stage productions need clever engineering. Learn about igus e-spools, zigzag systems and chainflex cables at The ABTT Show next week.**

Fantastic stage designs transform in seconds automatically. Giant mechanised props are lifted and rotated with ease. Lighting rigs, trusses and whole stage sets must be moved and stowed quickly and smoothly, multiple times per show. Each one is different and needs its own motion engineering. The modern stage, theatre and film industry needs clever, quick, reliable and safe engineered solutions to synchronise, for the performance to be “alright on the night”.

Learn about the latest and smartest igus products for the stage and screen at this year's ABTT Theatre Show at Alexandra Palace in London on 22-23 June, the perfect showcase to see many of the best engineering solutions.

For stage productions, igus manufactures expertly designed cable management systems, including the e-spool and zigzag system, for fast spooling and deployment of all cable types – energy, data, air, and fluid. igus will also exhibit its cost-effective chainflex cable range, PRT slewing ring bearings and linear rails, which can all be used by stage technicians to move and store stage props quickly and easily. All bearings are made from lubrication-free polymers that reduce weight, avoid messy oil-based lubrication, keep costs down and keep the equipment maintenance-free.

### **Smooth cable handling: e-spool flex**

Learn about the e-spool flex 2.0 cable management system at igus's stand. The e-spool flex 2.0 is used for reeling cables for applications like above- and under-stage equipment and lighting beams. It has always been difficult to mix services when using traditional cable drums in the past, generally only one cable type can be spooled and a slip ring is often necessary to accommodate the inner rotation.

The e-spool solves all of these problems by allowing spooling of different cable and hose types together in any direction, using a twisterband fixed on the side of the cable drum, acting as a secondary cable management system. Therefore, no slip ring is required. Cable diameters from 5mm to 15mm can be used. The cable is always safely routed through a feed-through to ensure that it is wound up correctly.

There are several applications of e-spools for stage entertainment, for example connecting cables between amplifiers and speakers, securing the

quality of the energy and signal needed for a faultless performance, and anywhere where different cables should be routed in very confined spaces.

### **Zigzag solution**

In modern stage technology it can be necessary to bring many heavy cables up to the stage, and then stow them below stage. This is defined by the complexity of the stage design and height – lifting heights of over 20m may be required.

At ABTT you can learn about the innovative igus zigzag system, which folds set lengths of an e-chain like a concertina into a custom-made basket. When the stage platform rises, the energy chain unfolds and follows quietly. The zigzag system is possible with different e-chains, and is well-suited to larger or heavier cable assemblies when the stowage area is wide enough to accommodate the basket.

igus zigzag systems are strong, highly protective, easy to assemble and have little vibration.

If you build systems or sub-systems for stage and theatre, the message is clear: visit igus on stand F30 at ABTT – we will have something for you.

**The ABTT Show runs from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Alexandra Palace, London**

<https://www.abtt.org.uk/abtt-theatre-show/>

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**Image and caption:**



**Picture ECS\_PROD\_e-spool\_IA\_2**

The igus e-spool flex is designed with a core spool and twisterband, a secondary cable spool, allowing multiple cables to be reeled and avoiding the need for slip rings.

(Source: igus)

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