

## **igus shows how its zigzag e-chains take centre stage at this year's ABTT**

This year at Alexandra Palace, visitors to the igus stand (L2) will meet industry manager for stage technology, Thomas Piepenbring and theatre industry and e-spool specialist, Matt Downes who will be demonstrating technology innovations made with the modern theatre in mind. The show, which runs from 5th - 6th June, is a significant date in the calendar for professionals working with pro audio, lighting, broadcast, AV, rigging and stage technologies. One of the key highlights will be the recent speaker and lighting truss cable management system upgrade at the Kauffman Center for the performing arts in Kansas City, Missouri.

Since its opening in 2011, the Kauffman Center has hosted over 2.5 million guests and many notable performers. In the canopy, which sits above the centre stage, cable reels were originally used to manage the cables for the speaker and lighting trusses. It wasn't long before they began to have issues with conductor breakage, signal loss and failure of the reels to retract fully the heavy cables. Once the reels began to fail, maintenance personnel were forced to improvise a temporary solution. This entailed using extension cords and sending maintenance personnel into the canopy to manually retract the cables each time the trussed needed to be raised or lowered.

Because a traditional cable reel only manages one cable per reel, there were 16 reels in the canopy – igus replaced and updated these reels with just four zigzag cable management systems. At the front of the stage two igus zigzag systems were installed on the main lighting truss, and two on the stage left and stage right lighting trusses.

The zigzag system works by using a standard igus e-chain that is assembled in a unique way to match the customer application. Specific sections of the e-chain are reversed, which allows the energy chain to collapse neatly and repeatedly into the collection basket, which is installed on the lighting truss. As a standard igus energy chain is used, standard chainflex cables are used – this enables any of the cables to be changed, upgraded or replaced as needed, with minimal to no changes required for the cable management system. This is not typically possible with a traditional cable reel system.

igus offers the stage and theatre industry standard off-the-shelf and fully customised cable management systems. For the Kauffman Center, igus developed and supplied a fully engineered solution as well as provided installation services. To watch the video, please follow this link: [www.igus.co.uk/zigzagchains-stage](http://www.igus.co.uk/zigzagchains-stage)

For more information about igus cable management systems for the stage and theatre industry, please visit: [www.igus.co.uk/info/industries-theatre-stage-design](http://www.igus.co.uk/info/industries-theatre-stage-design) or call igus directly on: 01604 677240

To arrange an appointment at the igus stand (L2) during the show, please email Hannah Durrant: [hdurrant@igus.co.uk](mailto:hdurrant@igus.co.uk)

## igus resources:



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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 3.800 people around the world. In 2017, igus generated a turnover of 690 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 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, chainflex, CFRIP, conprotect, CTD, drylin, dry-tech, dryspin, easy chain, e-chain, e-chain systems, e-ketten, e-kettensysteme, e-skin, flizz, ibow, iglide, iglidur, igubal, manus, motion plastics, pikchain, readychain, readycable, speedigus, triflex, plastics for longer life, robolink and xiros are protected by trademark laws in the Federal Republic of Germany and internationally, where applicable.

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