

50 percent lighter: the world's first modular igus hybrid chain made of steel and plastic

Energy supply systems made of steel and plastic easily cope with long, unsupported travels, and are openable and closable quick as a flash

Safe vertical guidance of cables and hoses: igus has now developed its first plastic-steel hybrid chain for these applications. The new energy supply system, called the YE.42, is 50 percent lighter than conventional steel chains due to its high-performance polymers and provides 50 percent more unsupported lengths than plastic energy chains. The hybrid solution has a very high rigidity and is easy to assemble and maintain thanks to its modular design. Operators can rely on work platforms or vertical lifts for a safe, lightweight, cost-effective and quickly replaceable system.

Cherry pickers, construction machinery and lifting platforms have an identical challenge to face: a safe and compact vertical guidance of the cables and hoses. For such scenarios, users usually rely on tough and rigid steel chains. However, these are very heavy and difficult to install, and often need to be completely replaced when service or repair is called for. This means immense costs for machine operators and hiring companies due to equipment downtime. igus has now developed a hybrid energy chain especially for high unsupported travels. The supporting chain links of the new energy supply solution are made of steel and ensure high rigidity, whereas the pin/bore connection, the outer links and the crossbars are completely made of a tribologically optimised high-performance plastic. Thanks to the plastic - unlike a steel chain - the user saves 50 percent weight. Compared with a plastic energy chain, the new hybrid energy chain can implement 50 percent more unsupported length.

Quickly assembled and maintained by modular design

Another advantage of the new energy chain lies in its modularity. The chain links of the YE.42 are easy to plug together and can be assembled quickly.

Thanks to its modular design, igus completely dispenses with screws, rivets or bolts that can become loose under vibration. Cables can be quickly replaced due to the openable crossbars: another advantage over classic steel chains, which are usually completely riveted or bolted. The new YE.42 additionally achieves its high stability by means of an undercut design for locking the chain links. For the interior of the energy chain, igus offers a wide range of partitioning elements that ensure an interior separation friendly to cables and hoses.

readychain - ready to connect with system guarantee

The new hybrid energy chain is now available with an inner height of 42 millimetres and a width of 50 to 400 millimetres with a bend radius of 100 millimetres. Other sizes are available upon request. The new energy supply system is also available as a ready to connect, harnessed readychain system with chain-friendly and tested chainflex cables, hydraulic components, hoses and hose fittings. All chainflex cables are offered with a unique worldwide guarantee of 36 months, thanks to the numerous tests conducted under real conditions in the in-house 3,800 square metre igus test laboratory.

Caption:



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Vertical safety: the new hybrid energy chain from igus, is 50 percent lighter than conventional steel chains due to the high-performance polymers and is easy to maintain thanks to its modular design. (Source: igus GmbH)

PRESS RELEASE



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ABOUT IGUS:

igus GmbH is a globally leading manufacturer of energy chain systems and polymer plain bearings. The Cologne-based family business has offices in 35 countries and employs around 4,150 people around the world. In 2018, igus generated a turnover of 748 million euros with motion plastics, plastic components for moving applications. 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", "e-spool", "flizz", "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.