

# Self-lubricating rod ends: Plastic-Metal Hybrid for Higher Loads in the Food Sector

*igubal stainless-steel rod end bearings with iglide A160 enable dry operation without risk of contamination*

STAMFORD, CT, UNITED STATES, July 6, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Constant relubrication of metallic bearing points in the food industry costs time and money and increases the risk of contamination. Maintenance-free igubal spherical bearings from igus are an economical and safe alternative. Now igus®, the motion plastics specialist, is introducing a [new model](#) for higher loads. It is equipped with a stainless-steel housing, a self-lubricating polymer inner ring, and a stainless-steel spherical ball. This allows for higher-load applications to be converted to future-proof tribo-technology.

Rod ends are an indispensable part of machine and plant engineering for the food industry. They are used everywhere, from filling plants to meat-processing machines and packaging systems, where they transmit dynamic forces to pivoting, tilting, and rotating movements. In the process, the heads

must continually be relubricated to guarantee low-friction movement between the slide ring and the spherical ball. A job that is not only time-consuming but also increases the risk of contamination as dirt and dust easily form sticky coatings and solid lumps.



The lubrication-free and maintenance-free igubal rod end for higher-load applications in the food industry consists of a stainless-steel housing and spherical ball, as well as an inner ring made of the high-performance plastic iglide A160, which conforms

"To ease the burden on food-processing plants while improving hygiene in their moving applications, we have expanded our range of igubal rod end bearings," explains igus Product Manager Thomas Preißner. "The new plastic-metal hybrid consists of a steel housing and spherical ball, and an inner ring made of the high-performance plastic iglide® A160, which meets the requirements of both the FDA and EU 10/2011."

Hygienic dry operation thanks to microscopic solid lubricants

As with all iglide plastics, there is a solid lubricant in [iglide A160](#), which is released in microscopic amounts over time. It ensures a low-friction dry operation between the inner ring and the stainless-steel spherical ball. The absence of lubrication also significantly speeds up cleaning the rod ends. Without grease, dirt and dust have little chance of settling. The high-performance plastic iglide A160 is designed in blue to further increase food safety. This is a color on which food residues and mold spores can be quickly detected during cleaning inspections. Moreover, the color is optically detectable.

"This high level of hygiene is also confirmed by the approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which follows one of the strictest hygiene guidelines in the world," says Preißner. "So does conformity with the EU 10/2011 guideline."

Not only clean but also robust

However, the new igubal products are not only hygienic but also robust, even in outdoor applications. They have a higher breaking strength and rigidity compared to a plastic rod end.

In addition, they are resistant to moisture, acids, alkalines, and UV rays and are suitable for temperatures between -40° F (-40° C) and (+194° F (+90° C)). The abrasion resistance of iglide A160 is also ten times better than that of polyamide, according to results in the igus test laboratory - even with fast rotational movements of the mounted shaft.

Preißner continued, "Users can, therefore, significantly increase the reliability of their systems with a modest investment."

The new rod ends from igus are available in sizes M6, M8, M10, M12, M16, and M20.

To learn about maintenance-free, food-safe plastics from igus, click here:

<https://www.igus.com/info/industries-food-industry>

ABOUT IGUS:

igus GmbH develops and produces motion plastics. These self-lubricating, high-performance polymers improve technology and reduce costs wherever things move. In energy supplies, highly flexible cables, plain and linear bearings, and lead screw technology made of tribo-polymers, igus is the worldwide market leader. The family-run company based in Cologne, Germany, is represented in 35 countries and employs 4,900 people across the globe. In 2021, igus generated a turnover of €961 million. Research in the industry's largest test laboratories constantly yields

innovations and more user security. Two hundred thirty-four thousand articles are available from stock, and service life can be calculated online. In recent years, the company has expanded by creating internal startups, for example, ball bearings, robot drives, 3D printing, the RBTX platform for Lean Robotics, and intelligent "smart plastics" for Industry 4.0. Among the most important environmental investments are the "change" program – recycling of used e-chains and participating in an enterprise that produces oil from plastic waste.

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