

Innovatively Driving the Circular Economy Forward: igus Launches Its New 'Chainge' Recycling Platform

The platform is used not only to recycle old e-chain cable carriers and other technical plastics but also to buy recycled material

STAMFORD, CT, UNITED STATES, October 25, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Don't dispose of old energy chains as industrial waste – let igus® recycle them. Customer feedback on the "Chainge" recycling initiative, launched in 2019, is so positive that igus is now expanding the project. In the future, a new and unique online platform will allow recycling not only of e-chains® but also of other technical plastic waste. Customers can also purchase processed material (ground material and regranulate) on the site, thus allowing for a single source.



As part of the "Chainge" recycling initiative, igus is now launching a unique online platform that allows customers to recycle old plastic components and purchase processed material at the same time. (Source: igus GmbH)

After the end of their service life, energy chain cable carriers (or e-chains) often end up in industrial waste and are thus incinerated. Their emissions then pollute the environment, and valuable resources are lost forever. These are linear economic problems that igus has been countering with its "Chainge" recycling program since 2019. Customers send worn-out e-chains, regardless of their manufacturer, to Cologne, where igus re-granulates them for reuse. Customers receive a voucher in return for their old chains.

"What began as a small idea has rapidly picked up steam. Since the start of 'Chainge', we have collected and recycled over 60 tons of high-performance plastics. Half of that was in 2022 alone," says Michael Blass, CEO of e-chain systems at igus. "This positive feedback has motivated us to think even bigger about recycling. To accelerate the transformation to a circular economy, we will therefore start including e-chains in the recycling program and other components made from technical plastics."

Online platform makes global recycling even easier

To speed up the recycling process igus will launch a new online "Chainge" platform in October 2022. There, owners of old plastic parts, such as bar stock and gears, can submit a recycling request, process returns, and manage credits for purchasing new igus products. As part of the "Chainge" expansion, igus will include additional locations in the program and further broaden its recycling network.

"Our recycling will no longer be limited to our headquarters in Cologne but can be performed worldwide. These additional capacities will allow us to make an even greater contribution to the circular economy," says Blass.

The platform will also sell reggranulate, which until now has only been used in in-house injection molding.

"That way, customers worldwide can now easily buy processed material from which new, high-quality plastic components can be created," Blass says.

Everything from one source

Since the start of the "Chainge" program, igus has continuously expanded its range of products and services to advance the circular economy further. As of the beginning of this year, igus has been accepting old material and end-of-life e-chains as part of assembly orders. igus was also recently awarded the Rhineland Business Prize for sustainability for its recycling program. But igus goes one step further.

"Chainge" gave rise to the world's first energy chain made entirely from recycled material, also created this year.

Says Michael Blass, "The special thing about igus is that you get everything from a single source. We are a plastics producer and supplier, an assembly service provider, a disposal company, and a producer and supplier of recycled material used to create new products. What we offer is unique in this form and enables us to work with our customers to turn plastic into a sustainable resource."

To the online platform: <https://chainge.igus.de/>

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 significant environmental investments are the "chainge" program – recycling used e-chains and participating in an enterprise that produces oil from plastic waste.

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