

## **From old to new: igus is making e-chain recycling even easier**

**The igus installation service will now have old energy chains collected**

**Since 2019, igus has been using its change recycling programme to give old energy chains a new life. Now, the motion plastics specialist is taking things a step further. Recycling begins at assembly. To avoid industrial waste, igus is organising return delivery of worn-out energy chains - and returning them to the material cycle.**

Sooner or later, every machine and every component reach the end of its service life. Manufacturing companies then face the question of whether to modernise or acquire new equipment. Sustainability plays an increasingly important role here. After all, according to the Global E-waste Monitors, 53.6 million tons of electronic waste was generated worldwide in 2019 alone. A more environmentally friendly upgrade for old machines is the so-called retrofitting: instead of buying new machines, companies can have existing equipment converted or refurbished so that it meets the latest standards. However, this does not solve the problem of where to put discarded components.

### **Recycling made easy: the igus installation service picks up old material**

For new installation, retrofitting or maintenance, igus focusses on recycling instead of disposal - starting way back in assembly planning. The recycling service is offered automatically with each new assembly order and entails no additional costs or effort for the customer. igus takes care of the scrap material in four simple steps: first, igus removes the worn-out energy chain, then disassembles it into smaller pieces and packs it into Big Bags. Finally, igus organises the return transport and logistics. The installation coordinator commissions the forwarding company, which collects the discarded energy chains. That way, the customer has only to provide the scrap material for collection and load it. It is then taken away and recycled as part of the igus change programme. This service is offered for both igus e-chains and chains from other manufacturers. Customers receive a voucher based on the weight of

the chains. The discarded plastics are separated by type, cleaned and re-granulated so that the material can be reused.

The customer gets everything from a single source (the manufacturer), including a 36-month guarantee on newly installed energy supply systems. The igus installation service saves customers installation time and costs. They also benefit from very short downtimes and a longer service life. This means that in the long term, they suffer fewer failures. A special online tool even enables users to calculate the exact installation time for their energy chain system. "It is the goal of igus to save customers valuable time with the installation service while offering them a sustainable solution for disposing of old material. This measure is intended to make a further contribution to more sustainable use of limited resources", says Michael Berteit, Engineering Projects and Assembly Service Sales Manager at igus.

#### **igus recycling programme picks up speed**

igus, which specialises in high-performance polymers, has launched change, a recycling programme for energy chains, which has already collected and recycled 32.3 tons of material worldwide. So far, 13 countries have participated in the programme: Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, Poland, France, China, Italy, Brazil, Malaysia, Hungary, Croatia, the Czech Republic and Spain - with the majority of returns coming from Germany and China. "We are very pleased that the recycling programme is proving very popular with our customers, and are confident that in 2022, we will be able to at least double what we have achieved so far", adds Michael Berteit. igus uses the change programme to return old plastics to the material cycle, systematically promoting the circular economy.

**Caption:**



**Picture PM1222-1**

Everything from a single source: igus takes care of both the assembly of new e-chains and the return transport and recycling of discarded energy chains as part of the change programme. (Source: igus GmbH)

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### **ABOUT IGUS:**

igus GmbH develops and produces motion plastics. These lubrication-free, high-performance polymers improve technology and reduce costs wherever things move. In energy supplies, highly flexible cables, plain and linear bearings as well as 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 security for users. 234,000 articles are available from stock and the service life can be calculated online. In recent years, the company has expanded by creating internal startups, e.g. for 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" programme – recycling of used e-chains - and the participation in an enterprise that produces oil from plastic waste.

The terms "igus", "Apro", "chainflex", "CFRIP", "conprotect", "CTD", "drygear", "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", "tribofilament", "triflex", "robolink", and "xiros" are protected by trademark laws in the Federal Republic of Germany and internationally, where applicable.