

Press release

Bearings from NKE Austria for wind power at Husum Wind 2023

Steyr, Austria, August 2023. NKE Austria GmbH exhibits at this year's Husum Wind trade show. The Austrian bearing manufacturer participates for the first time at the fair for renewable energies in Northern Germany.

For wind turbine gearboxes and generators, NKE offers the complete range including cylindrical roller bearings, tapered roller bearings, spherical roller bearings, four-point contact bearings, deep groove ball bearings, electrically insulated rolling bearings, hybrid bearings and special bearings. NKE's product range for wind power is complemented by plain bearings from Swiss manufacturer Kugler Bimetal – the two companies recently established a strategic partnership to expand their portfolio especially for the wind market.

"Wind turbines run under difficult and demanding operating conditions," says Michael Schöffmann-Rössl, head of application engineering at NKE in Steyr, Austria. "The bearings used must operate extremely efficiently and offer the greatest possible reliability. NKE has a proven track record. We have been supplying OEM companies with high-quality bearings for over 20 years. Bearings from NKE have been installed in over 4,500 turbines across Europe, the USA and China."

For applications, Schöffmann-Rössl gives some examples: "Bearings from NKE are used in all bearing applications of an Envision gearbox: from the carrier, that is the rotor side and generator side, to intermediate and planetary shafts, to high-speed shafts. Additionally, we have designed bearings with improved profiles and contact pressure, which we develop specifically for high-speed shafts in close cooperation with the customers' technical teams. We also have designed new bearings with power density technology, which are only 20 percent larger than conventional bearings but deliver twice the energy. This enables optimized wind turbine performance and maximum energy recovery from the airflow."

At the company headquarters in Steyr, NKE has established a competency centre for large size bearings, including state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities and a logistics centre. All NKE bearings undergo strict, documented quality control procedures. In addition to

comprehensive technical consulting services, NKE's application engineering department offers support for obtaining certification to wind standards such as GL2010, IEC61400 or individual customer specifications.

NKE at Husum Wind 2023:

12 to 15 September 2023, Husum, Germany: Booth 3C16

Photos:

Pic 1: Plain bearings from Kugler Bimetal with Kugler-Tokat lead and lead-free bronze coating (foreground), premium hybrid deep groove ball bearing from NKE (centre), black oxide coated spherical roller bearing from NKE (background)

Pic 2: Black oxide finish special cylindrical roller bearing from NKE for a wind energy gearbox

Pic 3: The black oxide coating forms a protective layer on the functional surfaces of the bearing and ensures, among others, improved operating and wear characteristics

Company information:

NKE Austria GmbH is a manufacturer of high-quality rolling bearings with headquarters in Steyr. The company was founded in 1996 by senior employees of the former Steyr Wälzlager. In 2016, the Spanish bearing manufacturer Fersa Bearings, which specializes in the automotive sector, acquired 49 percent of NKE and completed the acquisition at the end of 2018 with 100 percent. NKE produces standard and special bearings for all industrial applications. Engineering, product development, manufacturing and final machining of components, assembly, quality assurance, logistics, sales and marketing are concentrated at the Steyr site. The Steyr plant is certified to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001. A comprehensive range of standard bearings is available from stock or produced with short lead times. Solutions are also developed and manufactured for special requirements. In addition to product development and application engineering, NKE offers comprehensive technical services, consulting, documentation and training. NKE bearings are distributed through 12 sales offices and 240 trading partners in 80 countries.

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