

readychain: productivity accelerator for machine and plant builders

Construct significantly more efficient machines with harnessed energy chains

Factories, handcrafted products and premium quality – three attributes that almost always influence the price level. Thanks to its readychain concept, igus proves that what is optional, need not be obligatory: the harnessed energy supply systems are custom-made to a large extent, but are already economical for users without any minimum order quantity. The igus model is a relief for machine and plant manufacturers by reducing production costs *and* potential sources of error from the start of the product life cycle. igus maintains the high quality of the in-house produced readychains by constant innovation of the automation processes: what is necessary and what is possible to make readychain *the* productivity accelerator for machine and plant builders?

A product like readychain works the way it does because igus has built up a wealth of experience in industrial processes over the years. Based on this, new concepts for energy supply systems are constantly being developed which can be integrated in a production or production line with an almost precise fit. The technical creativity and the desire to deliver individual perfection to the customer is another building block. For mechanical engineers, this is reflected in a broad range of chains and cables and an attractive price/performance level.

Factory work is not more expensive

The first important factors: component purchasing and warehousing. For this purpose, igus has its own space where more than 90,000 individual components, more than 1,300 chain-compatible cables and an estimated 3,500 electrical components are stored. The big benefit besides efficiency with no minimum order quantity is undoubtedly the short delivery time. Because manual work at igus also means the immediate production start of a chain after the order is issued by the plant manufacturer. Delivery times of 3 to 5 days ensure that the tailor-made chain can be installed promptly at the customer's plant - productivity is significantly accelerated.

Quick installation of the harnessed energy chain is not the only recognisable advantage for mechanical engineers: lean storage in their own company means more space in their own factories for the pre-assembly of new machines or for a factory acceptance test before delivery to the end customer. The savings of harnessed readychains are also noticeable in the purchase: one chain, one procedure, one task, one order number – all this becomes a real productivity accelerator, not to mention the assembly.

Another key aspect of readychain's success is due to the fact that plant manufacturers do not have to build up or maintain any specific know-how on the subject of energy supply. After all, designing and implementing energy supply systems for dynamic applications is anything but trivial. Often there are small structural hurdles or practical obstacles that make it difficult to bring together cable and energy supply at the interface. If the installation takes longer or there are errors during commissioning, this can immediately have a negative impact on the overall budget.

Intuitive handling makes everything easier

If you are planning to use readychain in your system, you can immediately install functional units made of cable and plug-in connectors, perfectly matched to the chain. Fast, because a "talking" label makes installation on the machine an intuitive action. This is where electricians and mechanics benefit tremendously, because someone without specialist knowledge can also make the connection. Quite different from self-made energy supply systems, where dangers often lurk in the installation of connector-cable connections. The most important factor in plant construction today is time. And the installation of cables in energy chains can cost a lot. The harnessing is just a set screw with which igus solves these problems.

Modular racks: precise work at the interface

Customers are even more efficient in designing their processes when they install their energy chains on a machine using the so-called readychain rack, the base frame for transport and assembly. By means of traversing units, the modular rack moves the harnessed energy supply systems to the appropriate interface with millimetre precision and in an uncomplicated manner. At the same

time, the individual concept stands for even greater cost awareness: the use of such a rack pays off with just a few machines - a strong argument for companies that produce small batches. With the help of the readychain rack, a technician completes the installation of the harnessed energy chain within one day on average. The telescopic design makes the rack indispensable especially for those companies who want to stay flexible with the chain lengths. The transport and assembly rack can be adjusted to the new chain length with just a few simple steps.

The combination of harnessed chains and the readychain rack reduces process costs significantly and, above all, in a sustainable way. Also, as the modular design of the transport rack allows adjustments to new conditions at any time, the reusability feature not only protects the project budget, but also resources and the environment.

If, for capacity reasons, companies are unable to implement the installation of a harnessed chain on their system themselves, calling up the igus installation service would be the best option. The use of trained and experienced assembly experts ensures timely and correct installation, and helps you to comply with important deadlines. Even in times of bottlenecks and order peaks. A guarantor of a different kind is the so-called system guarantee, which the company offers to all customers and which is also officially confirmed by the quality standard DIN EN ISO 9001:2015.

The basis of this guarantee is the pursuit of new technical achievements and the constant optimisation of tested and certified quality standards in the production of complete systems - with the aim of being the best service provider with the highest quality, both technically and in customer service. Countless specific and general product certificates, test and quality seals or even approvals make it clear that igus lives up to its promise of quality. If, contrary to expectations, the quality of a harnessed chain does not meet the customer's wishes, a service team is available for uncomplicated and timely repair.

The sensible combination of manual work and partial automation in chain production, individual customer service and, last but not least, fast response times are examples of the efficiency and productivity acceleration that igus

offers its customers with the readychain concept. And this is not only limited to Germany: readychain support centres located in the various production hotspots of the world - in China, the USA, Taiwan, Brazil, India, Japan and South Korea as well as in South Africa, Great Britain, Poland, Italy and Spain - guarantee a consistently high quality, quick availability and uniform parts list. This set-up optimises assembly time as well as logistics and procurement processes for customers all over the world and above all for global companies.

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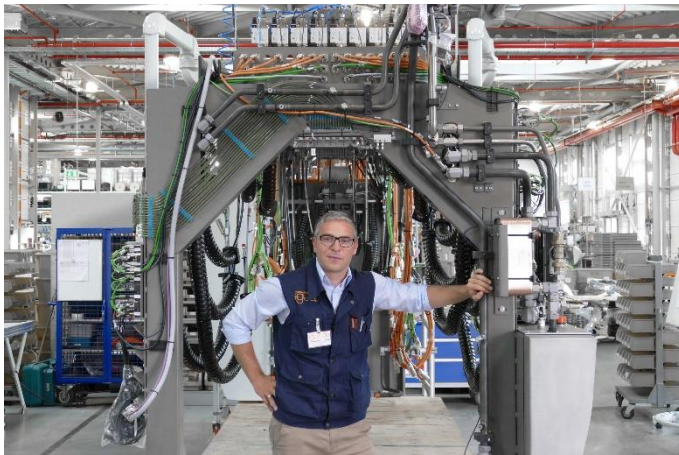


Image FAT2218-1

"Under the name readychain, we at igus design and harness complex energy supply systems for direct connection to the machine," says Thomas Müller, Production Manager readychain assembly. (Source: igus GmbH)



Image FAT2218-2

The energy chain systems are harnessed on the readychain rack - a structure of modular steel struts and supports - to simplify the final assembly on the

machine and the transport of the complex energy supply systems. (Source: igus GmbH)



Image FAT2218-3

The user can configure their own readychain from 90,000 e-chain parts, 1,354 cables and 3,500 electrical components. (Source: igus GmbH)



Image FAT2218-4

The combination of harnessed energy chains and the readychain rack reduces process costs significantly and above all, in a sustainable manner. (Source: igus GmbH)



Image FAT2218-5

Drive cables, hoses, screw fittings and sheets are harnessed to an energy chain module, the igus readychain. (Source: igus GmbH)

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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 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", "flizz", "ibow", "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.