Save weight and money with lightweight and cost-effective profiles from igus

GRP guidances expand the drylin W modular system for linear technology

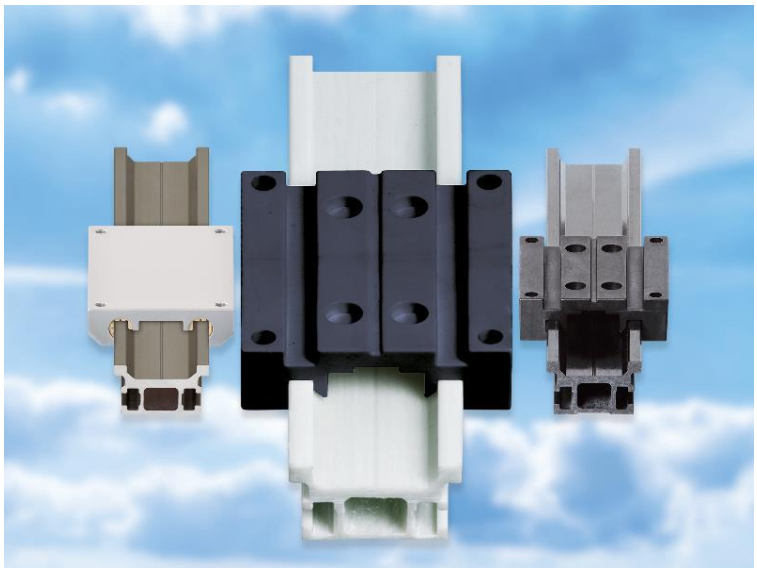
The motion plastics specialist igus has expanded its drylin W modular system and now also offers linear guides with rails made of glass-fibre reinforced plastic. From vehicle construction to laboratory technology, this metal-free alternative helps users save costs and weight in their overall construction.

Glass-fibre reinforced plastic, abbreviated GRP, is convincing not only by its very low weight compared to metallic alternatives. The fibre-plastic composite also has a very high media resistance, is non-magnetic and also very cost-effective. In order to expand its extensive drylin W modular system for linear technology, the motion plastics specialist igus has developed a GRP rail on which a plastic carriage is used. "The drylin W profile made of glass fibre is 20 percent lighter than aluminium and even 70 percent lighter than steel," says Stefan Niermann, head of the drylin linear and drive technology division at igus. "At the same time, it is also 50 percent cheaper than carbon, which means that our GRP linear guide system is an alternative for use in vehicle and aircraft construction as well as for medical devices or measuring systems.

Versatile material for a wide range of applications

The pairing of GRP and plastic is also suitable for other industries where highly dynamic movements play a role. For example, more and more users are using the weight advantages of GRP components in robotics. Due to the good media resistance, however, the linear guide can also be used in an environment with aggressive cleaning agents. Like all igus products, it manages completely without external lubrication and is insensitive to dust and dirt. For more stability, igus offers a high profile GRP rail option. This also makes it possible to mount it by means of clamping claws. Complicated mechanical finishing is therefore superfluous and an easy assembly is possible.

Caption:



Picture PM0817-1

From left to right: From aluminium and GRP up to carbon, igus offers a variety of materials for linear guides, which can be used to save the overall weight of the application. (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 around 2,950 people around the world. In 2015, igus generated a turnover of 552 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.