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## Flender and Schaeffler introduce innovative and eco-friendly packing system for large size bearings

- **Flender and Schaeffler develop innovative “SMART Box”, a reusable transport box for large size bearings**
- **The modular design of the box ensures improved handling and reduced storage space**
- **“SMART Box” provides an innovative solution for environmental and climate protection**

Making the transport of large bearings not only safe, but also sustainable - this is what drive manufacturer Flender and automotive and industrial supplier Schaeffler have set themselves as goal by developing an innovative and environmentally friendly reusable packaging system. The so-called “SMART Box” (Schaeffler Modular Adaptable Returnable Transport Box) replaces previous disposable transport boxes and is currently used for bearings with an outer diameter of 350 to 750 mm. Together, the two companies are making a significant contribution towards conserving resources and avoiding waste.

Flender Group CEO Andreas Evertz names sustainability as one of Flender’s guiding principles. “In recent years, Flender has systematically minimized its own CO2 emissions and was able to reduce it by 83 percent from 2015 to 2020. We aim to be completely CO2 neutral by 2030. In addition, the close cooperation with customers and suppliers is a key part of achieving complete climate neutrality. For this reason, it is also important for us to focus our attention on potential savings within the supply chain. We are pleased to have a partner in Schaeffler who also thinks along these lines. With the introduction of SMART boxes for one gearbox

platform, we are already reducing the amount of wood used as disposable packaging material by more than 100 tons per year,” says Evertz.

“The subject of sustainability has been firmly rooted in Schaeffler's DNA for many years and represents one of our four corporate values. Thanks to the new packaging system, not only the handling of the boxes is improved, but storage space and costs are also significantly reduced,” says Dr. Stefan Spindler, CEO Industrial at Schaeffler. “The replacement of up to 25,000 disposable transport boxes each year could be achieved for deliveries to Flender alone.”

### **Innovative design**

During the development of the new packaging system, considerable importance was placed on ensuring its usability for different bearing designs. Schaeffler is currently working on a design of the box for bearings with an outer diameter of up to 2400 mm. A GPS tracking system, which facilitates tracking of the boxes in transit, is also currently being tested. The size of the boxes is uniform and adapted to the footprint of a euro pallet with a total of up to five frames stacked per pallet. Thus, one complete unit of the new packaging system replaces a multitude of individual boxes across several pallets.

### **Sustainable solutions**

In contrast to the materials used in the previous disposable boxes, the new SMART box results in a CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of more than 50 percent. This calculation already includes the return transportation of empty packaging. This reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> is particularly stemming from the avoidance of wood waste resulting from the increased number of transport cycles of the new SMART box. Thanks to the abrasion-resistant melamine resin coating on both sides, the SMART boxes are much more robust than uncoated wooden transport boxes and can be used for up to 20 transport runs.

### **Striving to sustainable business**

Avoiding waste and conserving resources in the supply chain is an essential part of Flender's commitment to sustainable business. In addition to consistently reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at its own sites and along the supply chain, Flender is committed to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations. By acting

ethically fair and complying with standards and values, Flender specifically supports sustainable economic growth and creates a benefit for society.



The new “SMART Box” (Schaeffler Modular Adaptable Returnable Transport Box) is an innovative reusable packaging system for large size bearings.



One complete unit of the new packaging system replaces a multitude of individual boxes across several pallets. A total of up to five frames can be stacked per pallet with up to three bearings stacked per frame.

Pictures: Flender

This press release and press pictures are available at [www.flender.com/press](http://www.flender.com/press).

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