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SEW launches new Movigear assembly and service facility in Cape Town

Increasingly higher energy costs in South Africa and already high energy costs throughout the industrialised nations of the world, makes the installation of SEW Eurodrives complete Movigear driven, handling system very attractive.

SEW Eurodrive Electronics and Product Manager **Paul Strzalkowski** says that this is due to its ease of installation, user-friendliness, and most of all, its energy saving capabilities.

“If you take into account that 100% of possible energy saving is made up of 60% mechanical optimisation (30% electronic and 10% motor), the Movigear as a complete system is between 80% and 90% efficient – depending on which size is used. The motor design has been used as the benchmark for the IE4 efficiency rating or super premium efficiency,” explains Strzalkowski. Customers can look forward to a potential 50% energy cost saving by looking at the application holistically.

As with all products launched by SEW Eurodrive, service and back up are an important focus and part of the reason why customers choose to use SEW.

“When the South African market demanded the release of the Movigear, the local assembly branches of SEW could not solely rely on the support and service of the Movigear from Germany. Readily available and fast local service and support for all SEW users is of paramount importance to SEW as well as to the end user. It was a unanimous decision amongst the shareholders to add a complete Movigear assembly and service facility to Cape Town,” explains Strzalkowski.

He adds that Cape Town was a natural choice as home to the Movigear for a number of reasons. All of the local gearbox assemblers are experienced in assembling the FA27 and 37 size gearboxes which have

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the same construction and gearing as the Movigear. Recently Cape Town also became a complete service and repair facility for servo drives locally. The Movigear motor is a servo motor albeit without the encoder in most cases. The current grounds of the Cape Town branch are in excess of 10 000 m² with the complete store and assembly plant taking up only 2 200 m² of this. Strzalkowski says that there is no shortage of space for future expansion and little chance of overcrowding.

Having a complete service and assembly facility for the Movigear gives SEW's customers a sense of confidence and security knowing just how committed the company is to supporting its products.

“When the Movigear first started coming into South Africa on European built machines, customers became increasingly nervous about our ability to service and maintain this new product. Our senior management promised that we would support the product in every way that we could. With the installation of the new facility we have now carried out our promise to install a complete assembly and service centre for Movigear to provide the local back up which we promised to customers,” explains Strzalkowski.

Our Movigear assembly plant has the capability to service and assemble Movigear systems for the whole of Africa. SEW is also able to provide any additional technical and project planning support that might be needed for the selection and design of Movigear driven systems anywhere in Africa.

The Movigear is perfectly designed for conveyor systems that run continuously but have varying loads. The ability of Movigear to deliver peak torque for 5 seconds, 200% static torque for five minutes, followed by 100% static torque indefinitely; lends itself to baggage handling systems.

Strzalkowski says that during the first phase of the Gatwick Airport baggage handling system upgrade more than 1 500 Movigear systems were installed. This has been followed by several hundred additional Movigear systems to the rest of Gatwick Airport's handling systems.

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Movigear is also ideal for the food and beverage industry. Many beverage plants worldwide are now installing bottling and filling systems driven by Movigear due to its efficiency and its hygienic design, which does not allow germs and dirt to get trapped in any crevice or corner of the casing. The design of the casing is such that any liquid will run right off it. There is no motor fan to push germs and bacteria around contaminating other processes accidentally. Movigear has also been very successfully installed in the glass bottle manufacturing industry. Consol Glass in Johannesburg and in Bellville are big users of Movigear.

“It is with pride that we invite our customers and potential customers, to visit our static and dust free Movigear assembly and service centre at the Cape Town branch in Rainbow Park, Montague Gardens. There they will be able to see for themselves the high-tech equipment which has been installed for the support of the Movigear product,” concludes Strzalkowski.