**PRESS RELEASE**

Latest developments in split roller bearing technology

***16 October, 2015:*** *Ongoing research and development ensures that Cooper Bearings not only meets all its customers’ needs, but that it incorporates the latest trends and developments in split roller bearing technology.*

Cooper Bearings is the acknowledged international leader in split roller bearing technology, and is distributed in the Southern African market through Bearings International. “Our market knowledge and experience not only sets us apart from the competition, but we strive for continuous improvement,” states Cooper Bearings product manager **Matthew Tyler**.

A strong testament to the quality of the company’s products is the fact that it experienced record year-on-year growth in 2014. Tyler attributes this achievement to its customers’ need for reliable products that reduce maintenance costs and downtime, thanks to swift and easy changeout. “As a result, our share of the global split roller bearing market stands at approximately 85 percent.”

He adds that Cooper Bearings also boasts the largest installed base of all manufacturers in Africa. “Cooper Bearings is a proactive company not content to rest on its laurels. Last year, we introduced a new brass cage bearing, in conjunction with enhanced axial and radial load capacity .This means Cooper are now manufacturing the highest-capacity split cylindrical roller bearing available on the market.”

Tyler cautions customers against making their purchasing decisions based on price alone. “Although the market is under considerable price and cost pressure, it remains a false economy to buy cheap products from less reputable suppliers, simply to save on initial purchase costs.”

He observes that the quality of Cooper Bearings products has been proven by the lifespan of its bearings under arduous operating conditions. “This is backed up by our branch footprint and extensive stockholding. We also ensure that we have sufficient strategic spares in other African countries, in order to be able to support our customers wherever they may be.”

Tyler reveals that the latest developments being introduced to the South African market are extra capacity brass cage bearings. “A major advantage of the new cage is that the envelope dimensions are the same for both the old and new designs. This is because the main modifications, namely longer rollers with larger diameters, are all internal. These enhancements can increase the average lifespan of a split roller bearing by up to 240 percent on a capacity basis.”

According to Tyler, Cooper Bearings consistently outperforms its competitors on a cost-per-operating-hour basis. “For this reason, major original equipment manufacturers, as well as project houses and engineering consultancies, specify products from Cooper Bearings as standard.”

Tyler adds that Bearings International has achieved measurable success in local supply projects, with platinum mining a major growth area. “Opportunities in the mining industry include materials-handling applications such as conveyor systems, as well as fans and blowers for large air-handling systems.”

The opportunities for split roller bearings in South Africa are numerous, as the Cooper range allows for simplified changeout without disturbing any ancillary equipment.

“Cooper Bearings has successfully attracted and retained customers for the past century by providing solutions to their specific requirements. Our quality sets us apart from the competition, while our experience makes us a world leader,” Tyler concludes.

***Ends***

**Notes to the Editor**
To download hi-res images for this release, please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click the Bearings International link to view the company’s press office.

**About Bearings International**
Bearings International, incorporating Roller Chain-Opti and Arrow Bearings & Transmission, is a leading Southern African distributor of bearings and power transmission products. A complete range of leading brand imported products is offered through 50 wholly owned branch outlets, three on-site operations at customer facilities, plus six independently-owned franchised outlets. Bearings International is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hudaco Trading Pty Ltd, a South African public company. Further details pertaining to Hudaco are available at [www.hudaco.co.za](http://www.hudaco.co.za)

**Bearings International Contact Details**
Robin Briggs
MD Sales Director
Tel: 011 899 0000
Email: robinab@bearings.co.za
Web: [www.bearings.co.za](http://www.bearings.co.za/)

**Media Contact**
Nomvelo Buthelezi
NGAGE Public Relations
Phone: (011) 867 7763
Fax: (086) 512 3352
Cell: 083 4088 911
Email: nomvelo@ngage.co.za
Web: [www.ngage.co.za](http://www.ngage.co.za/)

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