**PRESS RELEASE**

Motorized pulleys offer improved performance to bulk handling industries

*Melco continues to build on its reputation as a leading conveyor equipment specialist, through its exclusive range of Rulmeca motorized pulleys.*

**14 August, 2012:** Bulk handling industries in South Africa can benefit from a range of Rulmeca motorized pulleys that are exclusively available in the local market through Johannesburg-based Melco Conveyor Equipment, which has been a member of the Rulmeca Group of Companies since 2006.

Rulmeca is an Italian-based international group of companies that specialises in the development, production and sales of belt conveyor rollers, idlers, motorized pulleys, fabricated pulleys and other components for the global bulk handling industry.

Melco managing director **Gavin Hall** points out that the Rulmeca motorized pulley was first manufactured in Europe in 1953 specifically for use on conveyor belt applications, and has since become recognised as a preferred belt conveyor drive solution among leading African mining and engineering firms, since Melco began importing the range locally five years ago.

“The Rulmeca motorized pulley is considered to be one of the most reliable, effective and safe conveyor drive systems in the world, thanks to its unique design which encloses the drive and gearbox inside the drive pulley. By enclosing all drive components within the pulley shell, the unit becomes considerably more compact and efficient,” he explains.

Melco sales and marketing director **Craig Warmback** highlights the fact that the Rulmeca range of motorized pulleys comes in power ranges varying from 1 kW to 250 kW, with pulley diameters ranging between 220 mm and 1000 mm – making them ideally-suited to numerous industries, ranging from mining and engineering, to agriculture and construction. “Only the shell of the motorized pulley moves when installed, which makes it an extremely safe design for any application. The compact design of the motorized pulley also makes it more cost-effective and easier to install, when compared to standard drive systems.”

An added safety feature of the Rulmeca motorized pulley is the fact that all electromechanical components are sealed to IP67 standards within the steel pulley shell, thereby increasing reliability and operator safety, while minimising drive size and reducing noise. Hall adds that Rulmeca motorized pulleys also require minimal maintenance.

“The gears and bearings are continuously and automatically splash lubricated in order to lower maintenance requirements, while the circulating oil transfers heat from the motors through the pulley shell and into the conveyor belt. The motorized pulley then dissipates the heat by utilising the conveyor belt as an infinite heat sink. This ensures that Rulmeca motorized pulleys do not require routine maintenance other than the recommended oil change every 30 000 hours.” he continues.

According to Warmback, independent test results have revealed that loaded and unloaded motorized pulleys consume less energy than a comparable geared motor drive, which ensures that underground and surface operations are provided with improved energy efficiency when compared to conventional drive units. “Motorized pulleys have fewer frictional losses and a higher efficiency than conventional drives, which normally transfer around 75 per cent of their mechanical efficiency to the belt. The Rulmeca motorized pulley transfers substantially more than that. As environmental laws become increasingly-stringent, I believe that the demand for motorized pulleys from local industries will continue to increase steadily in the long-term,” he concludes.

Melco is an ISO 9001:2008 approved manufacturing company that operates a highly-specialised testing facility, where products are tested under laboratory-controlled environments prior to field-testing, full-scale manufacture and supply. This process ensures that Melco products are among the most advanced in the world. Melco also operates quality management systems which control every aspect of the company. These systems are audited regularly to ensure compliance with the highest standards.

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**Notes to the editor**
There are numerous photographs specific to this press release. Please visit [http://media.ngage.co.za](http://media.ngage.co.za/) and click the Melco link.

**About Melco**Melco is one of Africa’s major conveyor equipment manufacturers. Melco has been a proud member of the Rulmeca Group of Companies since 2006. Melco idlers have been successfully utilised in many bulk materials handling applications in over 75 countries throughout the world, and installed on belt widths from 200mm to 3000mm. The Melco and Rulmeca roller product range is comprehensive, ranging from 89mm to 219mm in diameter, with bearing and shaft arrangements from 25mm to 60mm diameter.

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