**PRESS RELEASE**

BI launches new e-commerce platform to drive sales and growth

**02 June 2022:** Leading supplier [Bearings International (BI)](http://www.bearings.co.za) is entering the fast-growing realm of e-commerce by expanding its current website to provide more detailed information. “The aim is to create a 24/7 access experience for our existing customers, as well as reach out to new customers, including those in remote areas,” says BI MD **Bart Schoevaerts**. The e-commerce platform was launched in May during the 2022 Nampo agricultural exhibition. There will be ongoing promotions offering special discounts in June.

The development process involved research, gathering information, and framework development. The functionality of the e-commerce platform allows for building quotes, adding out-of-stock items to a wish list, and placing actual orders. It links directly to BI’s ERP system for accuracy and direct transacting, says BI Business Systems Manager **JJ Jansen van Vuuren**.

Customer benefits of using the new e-commerce platform include24/7 access to pricing, product range, and stock availability. Existing customers will have the ability to trade on agreed pricing. Besides purchasing, the website will be a ‘go to’ platform for technical information, product selector tools, installation guides, maintenance advice, and a wide variety of applications to help the customer make a well-informed product selection.

It is anticipated that the platform will give broader exposure to BI’s full product offering and leading brands. “We expect any past perceptions of BI’s product offering to change due to the exposure to all our top brands and complementary products, both locally as well as to the export market. In future, we will be able to offer access to our engineering services such as bearing alignment, with links to email and other communication methods to allow for enquiries,” says Jansen van Vuuren.

“It is critical that customers understand that, since Covid-19, the world has changed a lot, and new ways of interacting are critical,” says Schoevaerts. “We can see a clear trend in how efficient young engineers have become in terms of self-education and research. In many cases, the need for specific technical advice and the classic sales approach are no longer required. We now see those engineers become more independent.”

Availability as well as speed of delivery at competitive pricing is important, stresses Jansen van Vuuren. “In this new business world, our private and work lives are more and more interwoven. We believe that companies need to find ways to be able to interact 24/7. Our e-commerce platform is a good way to not only have information about product and price on hand, but extras like installation, training, and maintenance tips and tricks,” he concludes.

**Pull quote**

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Leading supplier #BI launched its e-commerce platform in May during Nampo 2022. Look out for ongoing promotions offering special discounts in June.

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**Notes to the Editor**
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BI is a member of the Hudaco Group. BI is a leading distributor of bearings and power transmission products in Southern Africa. With its customer-focused approach, BI is committed to delivering value to all its stakeholders, while offering quality solutions that make a real difference to optimising plant availability and turnaround time. With over 60 years in the bearings and power transmission industry, BI puts its experience to good use by going great lengths to ensure their product range and services meet the changing needs of clients, industry, and business. Backed by an elite technical team, BI covers the full spectrum of customer requirements, and can ensure immediate availability of products through a nationwide network of branches.

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