

To the Press

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Press Information

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Voith produces the 30 000th Speed Switch for motion monitoring in bulk materials handling

Voith Turbo South Africa has been the leading manufacturer and supplier of reliable, superior quality speed switches also known as motion monitors, to the South African bulk materials handling industry, for more than four decades.

The first speed switch was manufactured locally under licence from DECO UK on 13th December 1968 by Stratford Engineering, whom Voith subsequently acquired in 2000. This particular switch was supplied to Koorfontein Colliery who remains a loyal Voith customer to this day and continues using numerous speed switches underground as well as at their rapid export loading facility. Industry recognised the quality and reliability of the locally manufactured speed switches and, to keep pace with the growing demand, Voith steadily increased production from an initial 23 speed switches in year one to the current annual production of 2000 Standard Switches. Recently the 30 000th Standard Design speed switch rolled off the production line and the range also includes electronic, mechanical flame proof and mechanical dust ignition proof versions. More than 3500 of these special versions have been made.

“Our speed switch employs a remarkably simple mounting arrangement for easy installation”, says Voith Manager Trading Division, Lester Fine. “The speed switches are supplied in a frame for bolting directly on to the conveyor stringer. A friction wheel contacts the underside of the belt and delivers true rotary motion to the switch and completely eliminates complicated chain drives, couplings and special mounting. This method keeps installation and maintenance costs to a bare minimum. The speed switch is supplied in a dustproof solid steel enclosure with a terminal box and interconnecting cable for electrical connections”, explains Lester.

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Additional benefits offered by Voith's locally manufactured ready-to-be-mounted speed switches include:

- No maintenance as the switches are dust and hose proof, and lubricated for life
- Adjustable for all belt speeds

The friction driven switches are set to belt speed and designed for conveyor applications where sequence interlocking is desirable. In the event of a fault that causes the belt speed to slow to below the required speed or stop completely, the motion monitor will automatically trip and stop preceding belts to prevent material build ups at the transfer point as well as jams and material spillages that will occur if the belt stop remains undetected and feeding continues.

"Our speed switches add value to the bottom line as downtime is drastically reduced through the effective monitoring of belt conveyors to prevent damage to and possible breaking of costly conveyor belts," continues Lester and adds that the bulk materials handling industry also recognises Voith speed switches as essential safety equipment for the prevention of fires on long, difficult to monitor overland conveyors.

"Voith's rugged speed switches have been reliably monitoring motion on long overland conveyors transporting ore, coal and platinum, for many years and are regarded as perfectly suited to their task. Voith ensured continuity of supply viz a viz the various models manufactured over the years. In fact, a mine in Phalaborwa recently asked us to manufacture a new switch identical to switch # 15 at the mine, manufactured quite a number of years ago," concludes Lester.

Voith speed switches carry a 12 month guarantee, spares are readily available and the company offers service exchanges and refurbishments on contracts.

Sensitive to damaging an already sensitive environment, Voith makes a contribution to a cleaner, safer environment by recycling all brass and other metals contained in the speed switches.

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About Voith Turbo

Voith Turbo (Pty) Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the German multinational Voith Turbo Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH.

Voith Turbo, the specialist for hydrodynamic drive, coupling and braking systems for road, rail and industrial applications, as well as for ship propulsion systems, is a Group Division of Voith AG.

Voith sets standards worldwide for papermaking technology, power transmission, energy technology, and industrial services. Voith was founded in 1867. With approximately 37 000 employees, annual sales of € 4.2 billion and over 270 locations worldwide, Voith is one of the largest family-owned companies in Europe.

Voith is an official partner of the initiative "Germany – Land of Ideas". www.rsa.voithturbo.com

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