

Split roller bearings for Africa

OE Bearings is making its way up into Africa with its more cost effective split roller bearings. The company has been doing well in the South African market and has now expanded to other African countries, including Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria, where the company has already installed its specialist split bearings, says Warwick Steinhobel, managing director of OE Bearings.

“Africa is not yet a significant portion of our revenue, but it is noticeably growing and is becoming increasingly important. There is a lot of potential for new sales, but there are also vast opportunities to convert solid bearings to our

range of split roller bearings,” says Steinhobel.

With plans to list on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange within the next five years, he says that split bearings are initially more expensive to purchase, but they provide a longer lifespan than traditional bearings. Downtime is also a crucial consideration – one which a growing number of companies are starting to consider and realise. Downtime at mines and in heavy industry can cost anything from R10 000 to R1-million per hour, and this is where the importance of split bearings comes to the fore: “We can swap our bearings three to five times faster than traditional bearings,” states Steinhobel.