

## **Collecting 10,000 kilogrammes of plastic waste: igus supports Plastic Fischer's initiative igus finances plastic waste collection in Indian rivers**

**Every year, millions of tons of plastic end up in the oceans. More than 1,000 rivers wash most plastic from land into the sea. Organisations like Plastic Fischer are trying to counteract this pollution. Since 2021, the non-profit company has been collecting and processing plastic waste from rivers in India and Indonesia. The river-cleaning initiative is supported by such companies as igus GmbH in Cologne, which is financing the collection of altogether 10,000 kilogrammes of plastic waste.**

To combat marine pollution and protect marine biodiversity, Plastic Fischer collects plastic waste from rivers before it can reach the oceans. According to Plastic Fischer, its approach is up to 300 times more cost-effective than fishing plastic from the sea. To support this project, igus is financing the collection of altogether 10,000 kilogrammes of plastic waste. In January 2023, 3,340 kilograms were collected and processed in Kanpur and Mangaluru (India). That's the equivalent of more than 150,000 plastic bags. The financial support gave at least 34 people a regular income. On some days, additional people helped out. Since the initiative started, Plastic Fischer has collected over 520 tons of plastic waste in India and Indonesia. Another project in Vietnam is already being planned. The work is verified by Empower AS to provide transparency and ensure that no kilogramme is counted twice.

### **The triple-L approach: local, low-tech, low-cost**

How does collecting the plastic waste work? Plastic Fischer has developed its own "TrashBooms" for this purpose, built from locally available materials. "TrashBoom" is a modular system for constructing a floating barrier. It consists of a robust steel frame, tubes as a float and a galvanised grid that stops plastic waste. The on-site team brings the "TrashBoom" to the selected river, anchors the system, launches it and empties it daily. This concept represents Plastic Fischer's efforts to pursue the triple-L approach - the solutions in use are local, low-tech and low-cost. Avoiding high-tech imports saves carbon, time and

money and ensures quick repair and high scalability. Full-time jobs are also created locally, which promotes the local economy.

### **New paths to the circular economy**

After the waste is collected, it is sorted. Non-organic material, such as plastic and aluminium, is brought to the drying area and then compressed with a manual or hydraulic press to save space and ensure efficient transport to the next destination. All recyclable materials are fed back into the supply chain. However, the majority of the collected plastic waste is classified as non-recyclable. Instead of being buried in landfills, it is sent for thermal recycling, where it is burned and used as a source of energy. To increase the collected plastic's recyclability, Plastic Fischer is looking for alternative solutions and working with local start-ups. igus, based in Cologne, has also set itself the goal of promoting the circular economy for plastics. To this end, the plastics specialist develops products from regranulated product waste and 100% recycled material. igus has even launched its own recycling initiative for technical plastics, "Chainge", including an online platform. Furthermore, the company supports innovative approaches such as the HydroPRS technology of Mura Technology, a British start-up. This new technology converts plastic waste back into crude oil in just 30 minutes - using only high temperature, water and pressure.

**Caption:**



**Picture PM1523-1**

Plastic Fischer uses floating barriers to collect plastic waste from rivers. Thanks to the financial support from igus, 3,340 kilogrammes of plastic have already been collected in Kanpur and Mangaluru. That's equivalent to more than 150,000 plastic bags. (Source: Plastic Fischer)

### **PRESS CONTACT:**

Alexa Heinzelmann  
Head of International Marketing

igus® GmbH  
Spicher Str. 1a  
51147 Cologne  
Tel. 0 22 03 / 96 49-7272  
[aheinzelmann@igus.net](mailto:aheinzelmann@igus.net)  
[www.igus.eu/press](http://www.igus.eu/press)

### **ABOUT IGUS:**

igus GmbH develops and produces motion plastics. These lubrication-free, high-performance polymers improve technology and reduce costs wherever things move. In energy supplies, highly flexible cables, plain and linear bearings as well as lead screw technology made of tribo-polymers, igus is the worldwide market leader. The family-run company based in Cologne, Germany, is represented in 31 countries and employs 4,900 people across the globe. In 2021, igus generated a turnover of €961 million. Research in the industry's largest test laboratories constantly yields innovations and more security for users. 234,000 articles are available from stock and the service life can be calculated online. In recent years, the company has expanded by creating internal startups, e.g. for ball bearings, robot drives, 3D printing, the RBTX platform for Lean Robotics and intelligent "smart plastics" for Industry 4.0. Among the most important environmental investments are the "change" programme – recycling of used e-chains - and the participation in an enterprise that produces oil from plastic waste.

The terms "igus", "Apiro", "chainflex", "CFRIP", "conprotect", "CTD", "drygear", "drylin", "dry-tech", "dryspin", "easy chain", "e-chain", "e-chain systems", "e-ketten", "e-kettensysteme", "e-skin", "e-spool", "flizz", "ibow", "igear", "iglidur", "igubal", "kineKIT", "manus", "motion plastics", "pikchain", "plastics for longer life", "readychain", "readycable", "ReBeL", "speedigus", "tribofilament", "triflex", "robotink", "xirodur", and "xiros" are protected by trademark laws in the Federal Republic of Germany and internationally, where applicable.