

New igus service: calculate the service life of 3D printing materials online in 30 seconds

The motion plastics specialist is expanding its 3D printing range for wear-resistant, lubrication-free special parts

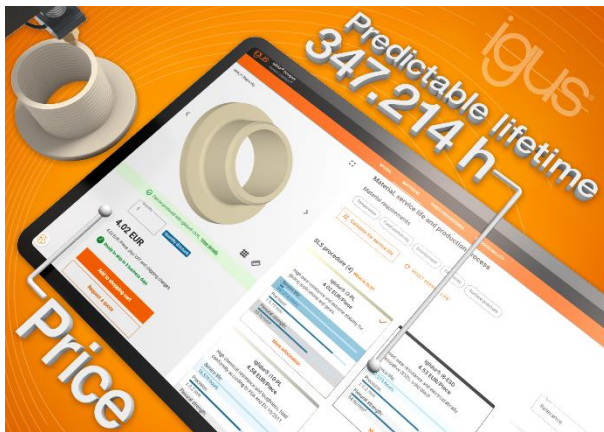
Knowing the durability of a 3D-printed component often makes it easier to choose the right material. This is why igus has now added a service to its 3D printing range. Apart from a price calculation and a feasibility analysis, the online 3D printing service can now also predict service life for individually manufactured special parts in just a few seconds. Just upload the STEP or STL file, have the service life calculated, choose the right material and order the part, and it will be shipped within three days.

igus has 30 years of plain bearing expertise, developing the right high-performance plastics and producing the bearings with injection moulding. If customer-specific wear-resistant parts are required outside of the standard range, 3D printing is used. From individual parts to small quantities, igus can print the right special parts and deliver them within three days. Here, different processes and a wide range of materials come into play: rapid tooling, for instance, combined with filament, laser sintering powder and liquid resin. It is all very simple with the online 3D printing service. Users upload the STEP or STL file for their product to the [website](#), where the Cologne motion plastics specialist's production options, suitable materials and finishes are displayed. The tool also provides information about the costs, feasibility and delivery time. "We have now integrated the service life calculation into the 3D printing service because knowing the longevity of a component in advance in addition to price information makes it easier to choose the right material," says Tom Krause, Head of Business Unit Additive Manufacturing. But how does the calculation work? "All the users have to do is select their part's sliding surface with a mouse click and enter a few application parameters. The 3D printing service then automatically calculates a service life estimate," says Krause.

The igus laboratory: 11,000 tests at 450 test rigs

The data for all igus service life calculators are based on extensive test series in the in-house 3,800-square-metre laboratory in Cologne, where igus develops and researches new plastics and products. 11,000 abrasion tests are performed at 450 test rigs every year. The tests show that 3D-printed parts made from iglidur plain bearing plastics are in no way inferior to turned and injection-moulded parts made from conventional plastics. Service life is up to ten times as long. It is even up to 50 times as long as that of other 3D printing materials. More than 50 iglidur materials for injection moulding offer users from all industries the right solutions, in addition to four laser sintering materials, ten tribofilaments and the new iglidur i3000 3D printing resin.

To the igus 3D printing service: <https://www.igus.eu/info/3d-print-3d-printing-service>

Caption:**Picture PM3923-1**

The igus online 3D printing service now enables users to calculate the service life of their printed wear-resistant parts. (Source: igus GmbH)

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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 4,600 people across the globe. In 2022, igus generated a turnover of €1,15 billion. 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.