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## **One hundred thousandth Uhing drive nut leaves the factory**

**In late February 2012, the one hundred thousandth drive nut produced was shipped to Singapore. There, the RS10 type item for 10 millimetre shafts will be employed by a measuring machine manufacturer. Such a high number of units manufactured suggests tried and tested technology and specific know-how for the applications the product is implemented in. A review of the product history and a forecast on future trends confirm this impression.**

Joachim Uhing, inventor of the rolling ring drive, added the drive nut to the product portfolio in 1983. Consisting of a housing with three or four embedded rolling rings surrounding a plain shaft, it represents a fixed pitch rolling ring drive reduced to its basic function. Depending on the set angle of the rolling rings, the drive nut covers a smaller or greater distance in the application.

### **Solutions for customer-specific pitches**

The drive nut has undergone an interesting technological development in its 30 years history. The first generation of units featured housings made of two parts. The required pitch was permanently implemented in the piece of metal according to the customer's requirements. Today's generation of units features an aluminium housing made of an extruded tubular profile. Inside, wedges with the required pitch made of plastic alternating with the rolling rings are fitted.

"The standard pitch follows the rule of thumb 'half the shaft diameter'," explains Wolfgang Weber, Uhing's Managing Marketing Director. "For a shaft diameter of 15 millimetres, the standard pitch would be 7.5 millimetres. But with our customised plastic wedges, we can implement the most varied pitches beyond the standard."

Uhing drive nuts are available for shaft diameters between 10 and 60 millimetres, with 77 000 units of the RS15 size sold so far underlining the success of the smaller size. One main area of drive nut application is the

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axle drive in measuring machines where zero backlash is required. But it is also used more frequently in food processing machines. The plain shafts are easy to clean, which is a major benefit in this industry sector.

### **Objective: the optimal solution for every application**

“We are constantly learning,” explains Weber. “Every application has requirements of its own. In one case, there are specific hygienic demands, in another, the drive nut must operate in environments with a high degree of soiling or in confined spaces. We aim at providing a solution for every problem.”

By inventing the rolling ring drive, Joachim Uhing, the company’s founder, had led his enterprise to international renown. The rolling ring converts the constant rotary movement of a plain shaft into a traversing movement in a purely mechanic way. In this way, permanent traversing movements at various speeds such as required for winding coils are made possible.