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## **Small components which move mountains Blickle guide rollers for conveyor and sorting systems**

**Operators have lofty requirements for conveyor and sorting systems used in logistics centres or airports: speed and capacity standards are getting more and more demanding, with an additional focus on reliability and minimising downtime. Blickle has a wide range of guide rollers suitable for these applications. Their high quality and outstanding mechanical properties meet even the most stringent requirements.**

*Rosenfeld, October 2019.* The carrier, express and package delivery (CEP) industry is growing rapidly. According to a study conducted by the German Association of Package and Express Logistics (Bundesverband Paket und Expresslogistik), more than 3.5 billion shipments were transported in 2018 in Germany - a record high and more than double the number transported in the year 2000. Compared to the previous year, the industry saw an increase of around 5% in both the number of shipments and revenues. This is largely due to the boom in online shopping, which has sent the number of orders into the stratosphere. Customers nowadays expect their orders to be delivered quickly, with same-day delivery being a frequent requirement. This is increasing the pressure on CEP service providers and the conveyor and sorting systems used in their sprawling logistics centres.

International airports are facing similar challenges due to a steady increase in both size and passenger numbers. Of course, every passenger still wants their luggage to be delivered quickly and painlessly to the right aeroplane or carousel. This combination of factors is a significant challenge for conveyor and sorting technology and can only be overcome using cutting-edge high-tech systems.

### **Specialised down to the smallest detail**

For this reason, modern conveyor and sorting systems are highly specialised, with even the smallest detail tailored to meet specific requirements. And that begins with choosing the right guide rollers: these small components are used in all conveyor systems to keep things moving as intended - whether that be in a logistics centre, an airport, the manufacturing industry or a mine. Experts differentiate between two

different types: the first are guide wheels, which are attached to components to keep them on track. Contact between wheel and guide is thereby often only brief yet frequent. Running wheels are the other alternative: these take a specific and consistent load over a sustained period. They are frequently found in conveyor belt systems used for luggage or packages.

“Every area has a different set of requirements for these castors,” explained Maximilian Hoffmann, Product Manager at wheels and castor specialist Blickle. “Both load levels and external factors vary significantly depending on the application. The conditions in a baggage sorting facility at an airport are obviously completely different to those at a bulk goods conveying system used for mining.” Castors that are used outdoors have to withstand fluctuating temperatures and extreme weather conditions. If they come into contact with water, chemicals or abrasive materials, they must be resistant. On the other hand, at high speeds, dynamic load capacity is required; in sensitive sectors such as the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, electrical conductivity is required. Low rolling resistances improve the energy efficiency of systems and help to fulfil environmental conditions.

### **High-quality or cost-efficient**

With this in mind, Blickle has developed an extensive portfolio of guide rollers which are perfectly matched to their respective use. A wide range of sizes, materials and load capacities are available. High quality solutions with a steel or nylon wheel centre - like the FTH and FSTH series - are recommended for high speeds and heavy loads. The tread for these castors is made from the versatile polyurethane-elastomer Blickle Extrathane. They rate particularly highly in terms of low-noise operation and rolling resistance. They are also non-marking, highly abrasion-resistant and provide good floor preservation. The FPOB series uses a tread made from the polyurethane-elastomer Blickle Besthane, which offers an extremely low level of rolling resistance while also being capable of handling significant dynamic loads. It was designed to be used in adverse environmental conditions and is also hydrolysis resistant. This means that regular contact with moisture will not accelerate wear, unlike other materials. Unlike steel or aluminium wheel centres, the nylon wheel centre is corrosion-resistant. As a result, this guide roller is particularly suitable for use outdoors.

If your main focus is on cost efficiency, Blickle provides a range of economical solutions, like the FPO series. This versatile series provides an impressive level of chemical resistance and a high load capacity. The tread consists of impact-resistant, smooth-running nylon. Blickle's FPTH series of wheels and castors uses a

thermoplastic polyurethane tread. These score particularly highly in terms of low-noise operation, while also being hydrolysis resistant and therefore suitable for use outdoors.

#### **A new addition - Vulkollan castors**

A brand new addition to the Blickle range is the FSVU series, with a Vulkollan tread. The advantages of this material include a low level of rolling resistance, low-noise operation and a high dynamic load capacity. The wheels and castors are also non-marking and provide good floor preservation. They are suitable for high speeds and heavy loads, while also being capable of handling thresholds. However, if the standard range is not sufficient, Blickle also specialises in the development and production of bespoke solutions.

Blickle has numerous renowned customers around the world who rely on the quality and reliability of its castors. Among them is an innovative manufacturer of high speed baggage sorting technology and control systems for airports. For one of its systems, the company required wheels capable of low-noise operation at a speed of around 11 km/h, while also supporting a load of up to 60 kg per transport carriage. Challenges included the high level of stress caused by the system running for up to 8000 hours per year, in addition to fluctuating humidity and temperature levels. Blickle developed specialised wheels with an aluminium wheel centre and a Blickle Besthane tread. This tailored solution passed a variety of tests in a wide range of conditions. The starting and rolling resistance of the solution are also far superior to its predecessor, optimising the energy efficiency of the conveyor systems.

#### **Quality which speaks for itself**

Blickle was also able to help an automation technology specialist find suitable guide rollers for a carriage system for small containers used to store pharmacy supplies. The customer had been using products from a competitor. The customer was not satisfied with the quality of these products as the tread would regularly come loose, causing them a significant amount of extra expense. The castor provided by Blickle were of the same design but much higher quality and passed all tests with flying colours. Ever since then, the company has relied on Blickle for all their castor needs and has placed larger and larger orders over time.

Blickle provided a custom solution for a Norwegian company which had developed an automated storage and picking system for plastic boxes. The boxes are picked by robots which run on a rail system. Each robot has eight wheels - four wheels in the

direction of travel and four in the transverse direction - which can be lowered or raised. The suspension and geometry of each wheel must be extremely precise in order for the robots to function properly. Blickle developed a set of guide rollers with an aluminium wheel body and Extrathane® tread to meet these requirements. The rollers are also antistatic to prevent electrical discharges. This keeps the storage system running smoothly.

**Meta title:** Blickle guide rollers for conveyor and sorting systems

**Meta description:** Blickle provides a wide range of guide rollers which have proved their worth in conveyor and sorting technology applications, among other areas.

**Keywords:** Blickle wheels castors conveying sorting conveyor technology conveyor system sorting system airport CEP logistics guide rollers guide wheels

**Captions:**



**Image 1:** Blickle guide rollers ensure low-noise operation in airport baggage sorting facilities and other areas. (Image rights BEUMER Group A/S)



**Image 2/3:** Blickle provided a custom solution for a Norwegian company which had developed an automated storage and picking system for plastic boxes. (Image rights: AutoStore)



**Image 4:** Blickle provides an extensive portfolio of guide rollers which are perfectly matched to their respective use. (Image rights: Blickle Räder+Rollen GmbH u. Co. KG)



**Image 5:** Maximilian Hoffmann, Blickle Product Manager (Image rights: Blickle Räder+Rollen GmbH u. Co. KG)

**About Blickle:**

Blickle is a family company which was established in 1953. From the very beginning, Blickle has been committed to outstanding quality, high availability, innovation and reliability. Today, Blickle is a global leader in the production of castors and wheels. There are more than 30,000 items in its standard product range. Blickle has also developed a countless number of tailor-made solutions in partnership with its customers. The group has over 1,000 employees, with more than 750 of these based at the headquarters in Rosenfeld, Germany. In addition to the production facilities in Rosenfeld, Blickle has 18 sales subsidiaries in Europe, North America, Asia and Australia and delivers to over 120 countries worldwide.

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