GGB to provide gate bearings for An Khe-Ka Nak project

Heilbronn, Germany – Vietnam's Machine & Industrial Equipment Corporation has awarded GGB, formerly Glacier Garlock Bearings, a contract to supply bearings for the radial and intake service gates for the An Khe-Ka Nak hydropower project. Construction on the $240 million, 160MW dual-plant project began in 2005, and is scheduled for completion in March 2009.

The contract calls for GGB to provide 14 cylindrical DB™ bearings for the project's radial gates, and 230 of its HPF™ axial bearings for the intake service gates. These self-lubricating bearings need no additional lubrication that can contaminate rivers, and require little or no maintenance.

The DB bearings deliver excellent performance under high loads and intermittent operation as encountered in hydropower radial gates. Their structure consists of cast bronze with graphite-free solid lubricant inserts, which exhibit a lower wear rate and longer service life than graphite. This structure provides an ultra-low coefficient of friction, maximum wear resistance, long service life and absolute corrosion resistance, even in wet, dirty environments and exposure to seawater.

GGB's HPF™ tape-based, fiber/resin composite bearings are designed specifically for hydropower applications. They provide high load capacity, excellent shock and edge loading capacity, low friction, superior wear rate and bearing life, corrosion resistance and low water absorption for dimensional stability. Their sliding layer consists of a proprietary filled PTFE tape liner bonded to a backing of continuous-wound glass fiber cloth laminate impregnated and cured with epoxy resin.