

*Power transmission/ design/ power engineering/ wind power technology/ machine elements*

### **Freewheel innovations for wind-powered speedsters**

**RINGSPANN supports the Kiel University of Applied Sciences team in the European competition "Racing Aelus"**

Market leader in the freewheels sector, RINGSPANN is one sponsor of the team of the Kiel University of Applied Sciences in this year's sustainability race "Racing Aelus" in Den Helder, Netherlands. The manufacturer supports the student project group "Baltic Thunder" with freewheels from its extensive product range, assisting them in the implementation of a racing car powered exclusively by the wind. When the starting signal sounds on 18th August 2016, the energy-efficient speedster from Kiel will have great chances of being among the top racers.

*Bad Homburg, April 2016.* – As part of its sponsoring activities, the Bad Homburg company RINGSPANN has this year decided to support the project "Baltic Thunder" of the Kiel University of Applied Sciences in the development and production of a racing car driven on wind power alone. "The preservation of natural resources has long been important to us. And so, in this area in particular, we are always promoting selected research associations and universities to an extent that exceeds the environmental certification according to ISO 14001", explains RINGSPANN managing director Fabian Maurer.

The student project group "Baltic Thunder" of the Kiel University of Applied Sciences has, under the direction of professor Alois Schaffarczyk, developed a wind-powered speedster, which will be taking part in the famous sustainability race "Racing Aelus" in Den Helder on the Dutch North Sea Coast on 18th August 2016 ([www.windenergyevents.com](http://www.windenergyevents.com)). In the drive train of this vehicle, which is trimmed for the highest energy efficiency, the RINGSPANN freewheels ensure that the rotor does not turn while the vehicle is being pushed and that the car can continue to roll without any problems when changing gear. "Through providing this classic alternating function between idle and driving operation, our freewheels make a key contribution to the energy-efficient implementation of the drive concept in the wind-powered vehicle of the Kiel University of Applied Sciences", says Thomas Heubach, director of the freewheels division at RINGSPANN.

The wind power race "Racing Aelus" in Den Helder (18.08.2016 - 20.08.2016) is one of the world's most well-known sustainability competitions. Teams from all over Europe participate in this event with vehicles that use nothing but the power of the wind for innovative drive solutions. The concepts presented must meet a strict set of criteria and convince with their energy efficiency, availability and safety. "The fact that the project team of the Kiel University of Applied Sciences is among the favourites for this year's competition fills us with a certain pride as sponsors and we are eager to see them cross the finishing line" says RINGSPANN managing director Fabian Maurer.

*448 words with 2.920 characters*

**Note for editorial staff: Text and images available at [www.pr-box.de](http://www.pr-box.de)!**

*((Infobox 1))*

### **Indispensable for drive engineering**

RINGSPANN is recognised as an international market leader in the freewheels sector and supplies around 6000 customers worldwide with these classic mechanical components for the realisation of backstops, overrunning and indexing freewheels in drive engineering. Freewheels basically always consist of an inner and an outer ring with clamping elements in between. In the one direction of rotation, there is no contact between the inner and outer ring (idle); in the opposite direction however, the clamping elements ensure a frictional connection between the inner and outer ring (driving operation). In driving operation, the RINGSPANN freewheels can transfer very large torques.

### Captions (5 pictures)

*Fig 1a + 1b:* Driven purely on wind power: Market leader in the freewheels sector, RINGSPANN is one sponsor of the project team "Baltic Thunder" of the Kiel University of Applied Sciences in this year's sustainability race "Racing Aelus" in Den Helder, Netherlands. (Image: Ringspann/FH Kiel)

*Fig 2:* RINGSPANN managing director Fabian Maurer: "Because the preservation of natural resources is so important to us, we are always promoting selected research associations and universities to an extent that exceeds the environmental certification according to ISO 14001". (Image: Ringspann)

*Fig 3:* Thomas Heubach, RINGSPANN divisional manager for freewheels: "Our freewheels make a key contribution to the energy-efficient implementation of the drive concept in the wind-powered speedster of the Kiel University of Applied Sciences". (Image: Ringspann)

*Fig 4:* FBS premium series: The latest innovations in RINGSPANN's freewheel range include high-quality complete freewheels made of non-rusting steel. (Image: Ringspann)

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