

INA-the largest spherical plain bearing



Schaeffler produced the largest spherical plain bearing which has ever produced. The special purpose bearing weighs about 4.7 tons, has an outer diameter of 2m, an inner diameter of 1.5m and a height of 0.6m. It will be used on cutter suction dredgers produced by the Dutch shipyard Royal IHC. During the development of this bearing, Schaeffler faced challenges not only in the design of the bearing, but also in the production of the bearing. The shock loads that occur in practical applications mean that the inner and outer rings of the bearing must be designed in one piece. With the company's technical expertise in industrial applications, product design and manufacturing, Schaeffler completed the delivery of the product in just three months. Schaeffler has a wide range of spherical plain bearing, and innovatively applies the maintenance-free concept to spherical plain bearings, such as INA's high-performance maintenance-free spherical plain bearings with ELGOGLIDE sliding layer. These maintenance-free dry-running bearings offer very high load-carrying capacity in a small frame size.

Over the past 60 years, Schaeffler has provided a variety of spherical plain bearing solutions for different industries and applications, including large-scale water conservancy projects such as the gate hinges of the Three Gorges Project, and large-scale steel structures such as connecting nodes in the Abu Dhabi Airport in the United Arab Emirates, as well as the ladle turntable of the steel plant, etc.