

# VESCONITE

## BEARINGS



Vesconite Bearings was founded in 1958 and we have been part of the engineering plastics industry since 1968, which means we have more than 50 years of experience in specialized bearing materials.

Our flagship product, Vesconite, was developed in 1969. This was around the time when the gold industry in SA boomed, and there was high demand for bearing materials that could operate in the wet and dirty conditions of the gold mines. In 1977 Vesconite was used in a marine application for the first time, in this case a stern tube bearing. In 1987 another thermopolymer, Vesconite Hilube was developed and introduced. This material has definitely become a favorite in the marine industry for rudder and stern tube bearings in vessels of all shapes and sizes.

Today we specialize in low friction polymer bearings that presents low wear, requires less maintenance and ultimately gives the user a longer bearing life. Our products are used in several industries, including hydro-technology, the mining industry and the pump industry where we face challenges similar to what we encounter in the marine industry. We are currently producing 7 different proprietary polymers as well as several standard polymers. Of these 7 polymers, Vesconite and Vesconite Hilube are the that has been very successful in marine applications.

All our products are manufactured in our 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> production facility located in South Africa. The factory consists of a chemical compounding plant, an extrusion workshop, injection molding workshop and several high precision machining workshops. We produce semi-finished parts such as rods, bushings and plates as well as high quality finished parts that suit our customers' needs and specifications.

Vesconite supplies bushings of all shapes and sizes. We extrude rods with diameters ranging between 8 and 180mm, and bushings with OD's between 20 and 800mm with varying wall thicknesses. Should you require a bush with a larger OD than 800mm, we can build up the OD with Superclad if we have a bushing ID that is suitable for your application. If you require a bushing with an ID > 700mm, we prepare stave bushings with an ID up to 3000mm.

The nature of the marine industry often requires product availability in the most remote places and with the shortest possible lead time. Vesconite is currently used by our customers in over 100 countries worldwide. We have warehouses in Texas, the UK, the Netherlands, Hong Kong and New Zealand, as well as stock-keeping distributors in Singapore, Argentina and Australia.

Vesconite's marine bushings are approved by numerous major shipping classification societies such as ABS, Bureau Veritas, Chinese Classification Society, DNV-GL, Lloyd's Register, NKK and RINA.