

30 Years of RKB: Built for Heavy Industry

When RKB was founded in 1996, its objective was clear: to design and manufacture bearings capable of operating reliably in the most demanding industrial environments.

Nearly three decades later, that focus continues to define the company as it celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2026.

The Swiss manufacturer has built its reputation in sectors where bearing failure is not an option. Steel and aluminium production, marine applications and heavy machinery have long formed the core of RKB's activity, requiring products engineered for high loads, elevated temperatures, and continuous operation.

RKB's development has been closely linked to long-term collaboration with original equipment manufacturers. Working alongside OEMs has influenced both design and manufacturing practices, resulting in solutions tailored to specific operating conditions rather than catalogue-driven standardisation.

Moreover, an important part of RKB's evolution has been its MRO customers, who choose the manufacturer for its ability to deliver when the need arises. Here, reliability directly translates into reduced downtime.

As the company enters its fourth decade, RKB is also introducing itself to new bearing distributors who may not yet

be familiar with the brand or who have previously encountered it primarily through its OEM and MRO activities.

European engineering remains central to the company's identity. Its technical heritage is tied to the Colleoni family's involvement in bearing-related activities dating back to 1936. As a result, 2026 marks a double anniversary: 30 years of RKB and 90 years of bearing history. This legacy continues today under the leadership of Giangiacomo Colleoni.

In recent years, RKB has expanded its global footprint, strengthening distribution channels and local technical support. This shift has enabled the company to serve maintenance and repair operations alongside OEM programmes, reflecting broader changes in how industrial customers source critical components.

Behind this expansion is a manufacturing and engineering structure designed to support both standard and customised bearings. Advanced analytical tools, in-house testing and a structured quality system allow RKB to respond to long-term supply agreements as well as urgent replacement requirements.

Today, the company maintains strong positions in steel, aluminium, and marine sectors, while extending its presence in construction, cement, and mining. Across these industries, operational reliability remains the defining requirement.

As RKB looks beyond its third decade, its strategy reflects continuity rather than reinvention, with continued emphasis on engineering capability, industrial specialisation, and performance in severe operating conditions.

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