Rollon extends the curviline famly's application range with two new versions: Carbon steel with hardened raceways and stainless steel Aisi 316L

Rollon has introduced two new versions of the Curviline rail for difficult premises presenting specific needs in terms of loading capacity, duration and resistance to challenging environmental conditions and vibrations, ranging from the food industry to medical devices and the railway sector.

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Curviline is the family of linear curved rails with either constant or variable radius proposed by Rollon in the extensive portfolio of Linear Line solutions. This product family features the possibility of creating rails with any curvature radius, starting from a minimum radius of 120 mm. "Product customisation has always been a key factor of Rollon's offer," says Andrea Tosi, Technical Director of the Italian multinational with head office based in Vimercate (MB), "the result of our Technical Department's expertise in finding dedicated solutions for every application required by the client."

Curviline is a rail with bearings that perfectly concretises the concepts of customisation and versatility. Unlike similar products with a fixed radius range, Rollon offers customers the Technical Department's services to create a totally custom-made solution, from the curvature radius to the holes on the rail, even in a single piece. The rails are available in two widths (16.5 and 23 mm), and can be adjusted into any profile by alternating curved and straight sections. Every section has a maximum length of 3,240 mm but can be easily linked to produce rails of any length to meet customer requirements.

For each curved and straight version, Rollon has designed a dedicated slider that can perfectly follow the path, maintaining constant preload with speeds that can reach 1.5 m/s depending on the applications. Finally, the curved rail developed by Rollon is distinguished by compatibility for uses that envisage both axial and radial loads, depending on the installation and position of the rail itself.

Curviline rails are intended for special applications, ranging from the movement of protective guards or other accessory parts present on machine tools to toilet doors on trains, from medical devices for opticians and dental technicians to film shooting trolleys.

New versions: hardened raceways and stainless steel

Rollon has recently enriched the Curviline family with two new versions of the rail, specifically one made of stainless steel and one presenting hardened raceways. The original version of the Curviline rail is made of carbon steel C43 and the raceways are not hardened. This rail has met with remarkable success that has generated requests for its application in various sectors, especially in difficult, highly challenging environments presenting specific hygiene and anti-corrosion requirements, such as the food and medical devices industries.

By maintaining the same performance standards as the original rail, Rollon has created a new corrosion-resistant version by using the high performance steel AISI 316L. "AISI 316L steel is the strong point of the latest Curviline rail as it ensures corrosion-resistance standards that are clearly higher than products marketed by the competition," says Tosi. To ensure high performance and optimise the product's visual effect in corrosive environments, after processing, the rails are decontaminated with pickling and passivation to remove all processing residue that would unavoidably undergo oxidation. AISI 316L steel is naturally used both for rails and sliders.

The second novelty proposed by Rollon is Curviline with hardened raceways that respond to the dual goal of ensuring higher loading capacity and longer duration, and of managing configurations that include multiple sliders. The hardened version also offers greater resistance to vibrations in the most extreme applications. The main targets of the new rail are the packaging industry and the railway sector, the former in terms of duration and loading capacity, the latter especially for the strong incidence of vibrations. The main challenge for Rollon designers was to define the right degree of hardening depth in order to adequately harden the raceways while maintaining the necessary flexibility for the next bend of the rail. In the version with hardened raceways, the Curviline rail can have a minimum curvature radius of 300 mm (for section 01 from 16.5 mm) or 400 mm (for section 05 from 23 mm).

Targeted solutions

The new versions of the Curviline rail further consolidate Rollon's position in specific linear movement niches, which require rails that are resistant to both corrosion and vibrations, and that are extremely flexible and able to manage misalignments of several millimetres. A typical example is the work site where Rollon rails are used for all accessory movements, ranging from the hatch to the screen, from the top closure to the scuttle. Considering an entirely different sector, the underfloor of railway carriages is characterised by strong vibrations and corrosion, dirt and extreme temperature changes, situations in which Rollon rails are highly demanded and effective. "We have applied the same approach to the most diverse industrial sectors and found that our rails can solve serious problems in many environments," says Andrea Tosi. "The latest versions of the Curviline rail are the final piece of the diversification and customisation strategy promoted by Rollon. We have conveyed a decisive thrust with the recent acquisition of Tecno Center, which was finalised last January."

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