

**NSK**

**EXTRA-CAPACITY ECA SPHERICAL ROLLER BEARINGS**

A NEW STANDARD IN HIGH PERFORMANCE FOR WIND TURBINE MAIN SHAFTS







**A NEW STANDARD FOR MAIN SHAFTS:  
GUIDE RING-FREE WITH AN  
OPTIMIZED PERFORMANCE  
ENVELOPE**

Bearings for wind turbine main shafts operate under immense and continuous dynamic wind loads while rotating at ultra-low speeds, a fraction at which they have been designed to normally run. The kinematic stresses that must be endured as a result of these conditions present staggering challenges to bearings, demanding they perform with requisite durability for extremely long periods between maintenance intervals.

With our new extra-capacity ECA spherical roller bearings, NSK has redefined high performance and reliability specifically for wind turbine main shafts with:

- ➔ **Newly optimized internal design** and an advanced roller-guided cage that eliminates the need for a center guide ring
- ➔ **Higher load capacities** derived from a larger complement of larger-sized rollers
- ➔ **Superior wear resistance** achieved with new design measures, and the optional specification of NSK's long-life Super-TF steel technology





# DESIGN FEATURES AND PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS



Boasting newly optimized internal design and advanced cage technology, NSK's new extra-capacity ECA spherical roller bearings deliver unrivaled capacity and reliability to wind turbine main shafts.

## DESIGN FEATURES

- › Next-generation, roller-guided machined brass cage eliminates the need for a center guide ring and reduces rotational wear
- › Optimized internal design packs in more rollers of larger size for a significant increase in load capacity and bearing fatigue life
- › Controlled raceway surface finish improves lubrication characteristics and augments wear resistance
- › High-temperature dimensional stability up to 200°C
- › Optional long-life Super-TF steel for high resistance to wear and flaking damage under severe kinematic stresses
- › Optional DLC roller surface treatment for high roller toughness and endurance



## LONG-LIFE SUPER-TF STEEL OPTION

During their operating life, wind turbine main shaft bearings must endure immense radial and axial loads while operating at ultra-low speeds. Effective lubrication of rolling contact surfaces is compromised, initiating inordinate stress, wear and potential bearing failure.

NSK's Super-TF (STF) series spherical roller bearings are engineered for outstanding durability in these environments, delivering exponentially longer life when compared to conventional carburized bearings (**Figure 1**).

For main shaft applications this translates to achieving total cost and performance expectations without unexpected downtime and maintenance incidents.

**Fig. 1: Life test result under boundary lubrication**

1	General carburized steel
5.5	Super-TF steel

\* ball-rod rolling contact fatigue test

### DESIGN OPTIMIZATIONS / ADVANCEMENTS

- ➔ **Significantly higher load capacity**  
with increased size and quantity of rollers packed into each roller row
- ➔ **Optimized cage geometry**  
eliminates the need for a center guide ring and reduces rotational wear
- ➔ **Controlled roller motion**  
with precision "roller hugging" cage pocket contour
- ➔ **Reduced roller slip**  
with cage / roller overlap allowance
- ➔ **Reduced cage stress**  
with a design that balances form-fitting shape with uncompromised cage bar strength in maximum stress zones

**Fig. 2: Super-TF long-life material technology**

➔ <b>Material composition</b>	➔ <b>Special heat treatment</b>	➔ <b>Retained austenite</b>
Containing appropriate chrome and molybdenum additives for high material hardness	Optimized dispersion of fine carbide and carbonitride particles to achieve high compressive stress	Alleviating stress concentration on rolling contact surfaces



# DESIGNATION SYSTEM

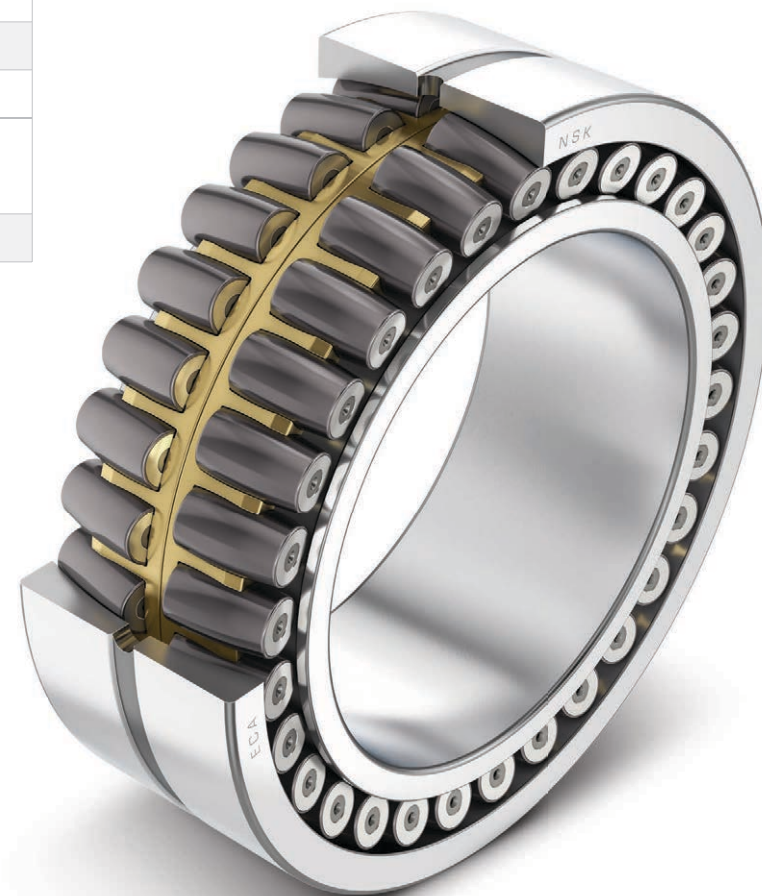
## EXTRA-CAPACITY ECA SPHERICAL ROLLER BEARINGS FOR MAIN SHAFT



Special Material	Bore Ref. Number	Internal Design	Surface Treatment	Lubrication Features	Surface Finish
STF	240	/750 E	CA g5	S4WC M	E4 CGXXX U22B U303
Dimension Series	Extra Capacity	Carburization	Cage Type	Internal Clearance	Process Control

DESIGNATION	ATTRIBUTE	
Special material designation	blank	standard bearing steel
	STF	long-life Super-TF steel
Dimensional series	230	wide series 240 most commonly used in main shaft applications
	240	
Bore reference number		reference number up to 96: multiply x 5 500 mm and greater are expressed as /500 = 500 mm, etc.
Extra capacity	E	optimized cage and rollers
Internal design	CA	high-capacity internal design
Carburization	g5	complete bearing
Surface treatment	blank	standard rollers
	S4WC	diamond-like protective coating applied to roller contact surfaces
Cage type	M	two-piece machined brass cage

DESIGNATION	ATTRIBUTE	
Lubrication features	E4	lubrication groove and holes in the outer ring
Internal clearance	CGXXX	custom radial clearance, in microns
Surface finish specification	U22B	advanced raceway surface finish to promote reduced wear
Process control specification	U303	special process control for all NSK wind turbine bearings



### ACCUMULATED EXPERTISE

Optimum engagement with our global technology network and design solutions. Intensive project management. Comprehensive engineering support. For main shaft, gearbox and generator applications alike, NSK deploys our accumulated expertise in collaboration with turbine builders and operators to achieve:

- › advanced design and material technologies for high-capacity, long-life performance
- › innovative solutions to negate unique phenomena such as white etching cracks (WEC) and electrical erosion
- › undeterred equipment performance with condition monitoring
- › control measures and processes - the NSK Wind Standard

With NSK as a development partner, our customers embark on a critical path to realizing a high level of performance, predictable reliability and total cost-efficiency in renewable energy generation.



**NSK**



THE PREMIER SOLUTION PROVIDER  
FOR WTG BEARING APPLICATIONS

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