



## **Non-sparking maintenance tools from RS Components increases safety in potentially explosive environments**

***Extensive range of tools for maintenance engineers from EGA Master helps meet preventative safety needs in a variety of industrial sectors including oil and gas and many other applications***

**Johannesburg, South Africa, 15 December, 2016** - [RS Components](#) (RS), the trading brand of [Electrocomponents plc](#) (LSE:ECM), the global distributor for engineers, has introduced a new range of 'non-sparking' tools from [EGA Master](#) for use by maintenance engineers in hazardous or potentially explosive environments, where a spark could ignite gases, chemicals or other volatile substances and materials.

Maintenance will always need to be carried out on equipment whatever the application or environment. However using standard tools in hazardous or even potentially explosive environments could be catastrophic. Non-sparking tools generate low-energy sparks that are always below the ignition energy of the hazardous substances – either gas or dust – that are present in the environment, making them safe for use in explosive environments.

Now available from RS is a wide portfolio of non-sparking tools from EGA Master, with a choice of nearly 500 tools ideal for maintenance engineers working in hazardous environments. The range includes: screwdrivers; sledgehammers; socket sets; socket wrenches and other socket accessories; combination, adjustable and non-impact spanners; pliers including combination and long-nose types; cutters; and a wide selection of hex-key sets.

These tools are manufactured from commonly used materials to deliver non-sparking abilities, including copper-beryllium alloy (Cu-Be) and aluminium-bronze alloy (Al-Br). In addition to being non-sparking, these materials have non-magnetic properties and

are also highly corrosion resistant, making them ideal for marine work in particular.

A key target market for these tools is the oil and gas industry, as well as other industries with potentially explosive environments such as in flour or paper mills where a high concentration of fine combustible particles in the air can cause combustion under certain circumstances, along with the presence of an oxidant such as oxygen and an ignition event. The use of non-sparking tools, in conjunction with other vital preventative measures, can help to remove the ignition component in this equation. Other target industries for these tools include aerospace, marine, automotive and mining, as well as other important sectors such as chemicals, petrochemicals, paint manufacturing and brewing, among many others.

For maximum safety, EGA Master marks all tools with the respective alloy in order to ensure that the right tool is used. All EGA Master non-sparking tools are certified by the German BAM laboratory, which offers a third party assurance that the tools are safe to be used in explosive environments.

The EGA Master non-sparking tool range is now available at RS and supports the RS solutions for the [marine and offshore](#) industry.

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## **About RS Components**

RS Components is the market leader in the high service level distribution of electrical, electronic, mechanical, tools and industrial products. Operating in 26 countries whilst serving a further 100 through third-party distributors, RS serves every sector of industry in the procurement of their products relating to maintenance, repair, operations, low volume production, research and development.

With over 500 000 products across 2500 leading brands, the company is committed to ensuring that their 1,5 million customers have fast access to a broad, as well as deep range, of products and technologies, all under one roof.

RS's customers, whether ordering single or multiple items, experience a quick, easy, secure, painless and cost effective process. The RS catalogue, available at [za.rs-online.com](https://www.rs-online.com), offers full colour pictures with extensive clear product specifications. Free access to thousands of datasheets ensures the correct product choice. Order

placement is easily facilitated through [za.rs-online.com](http://za.rs-online.com), the call centre, e-mail, fax and trade counter. Locally held stock is delivered to customers within 24 hours, and products held internationally, within four to six working days.

It is proven that departments traditionally spend 80% of their time sourcing products that account for only 20% of their total procurement spend. RS is focussed on reducing the customers “total cost of product ownership” by reducing the need to make multiple calls to various companies to source products, reducing supplier related administration and allowing for the amalgamation as well as consolidation of supplier bases. Through this process, procurement efficiency is improved and time is freed up to concentrate on the more important business decisions.

For more information, please visit the website at [za.rs-online.com](http://za.rs-online.com)

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[www.electrocomponents.com](http://www.electrocomponents.com)

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