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**PO Box 40647, Cleveland, Johannesburg, 2022, South Africa**

## SOUTH AMERICAN PUSH BOAT FLEETS CONVERT TO VESCONITE

Muddy and silty rivers and estuaries wreak havoc on rudder bearings. That's why Vesconite, the high-performance marine polymer, is such a popular alternative to bronze, nitrile and other composites for push boats on the Paraguay and Paraná Rivers. Buenos Aires, Argentina-based Vesconite distributor Ves-Arg SRL has been steadily working to convert two South American fleets over to the ultra-durable bearing material that outpaces all comers.

Low-friction Vesconite excels in dirty water. It has exceptional wear properties—more than 10 times that of bronze—and no stick-slip. This is essential when moving barges in tight confines with high traffic.

Rudder misalignment is often a problem on workboats. Vesconite offers high compression strength and dimensional stability, without any swelling. It's the ideal bearing choice for unbalanced and semi-balanced, spade, semi-skeg, flaps and Pleuger rudders.

Both the Paraguay and Paraná rivers are rich in aquatic life. Innovative Vesconite is self-lubricating, so there's no need for a complicated oiling system that poses a potential environmental risk. It's also completely non-toxic, yet highly resistant to chemical and temperature extremes.

"Vesconite rudder bearings last longer than bronze, and are easier to machine and install," said Leandro Panzini, Ves Arg SRL general manager.

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"We've helped to upgrade around 60% of the two fleets so far." The advanced polymer machines to tolerances of +/-0.001".

Used worldwide on applications as diverse as America's Cup boats to merchant and naval ships, Vesconite bears type approval certifications from ABS, Bureau Veritas, China Corporation Register of Shipping, Det Norske Veritas, Germanische Lloyds, Korean Register of Shipping and Lloyds Register. It is accredited to ISO 9001.

Vesconite is available as raw stock or custom precision-machined parts. Rods, bushes and plates in a wide range of sizes are offered for immediate shipping from the company's US office.

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**Editor's note: Learn about this and the many other commercial marine applications Vesconite is being used worldwide at the International WorkBoat Show, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, New Orleans, booth 1205.**