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#53 EDITOR

It's not often that welding will steal the limelight on TV. But TV's 'dirtiest man' has been honored with a 2015 excellence in welding award from the American Welding Society (AWS) and WEMCO, an association of welding manufacturers.

US TV host Mike Rowe is the first ever recipient of an award in the exceptional category, created as a special recognition given to people who go above and beyond to promote welding and skilled trades. The full story features on page 10 in this issue of wiredInUSA.

Mr Rowe earned the 'dirtiest man' title for hosting the Discovery Channel's Dirty Jobs show.

Aside from this, he also founded the MikeroweWORKS Foundation, a public charity that awards scholarships to students pursuing a career in the skilled trades.

So far the foundation has awarded \$3m in scholarships across the US in support of closing the country's skills gap.

David Bell
Editor

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#53 NOVEMBER 2015 ISSUE

and events

m machine industries



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ISSN 2046 - 9497
Publishers of Eurowire and
Wire & Cable ASIA magazines



DIARY SHOW EVENTS

2016

APRIL

4-8 April 2016
wire Düsseldorf
Düsseldorf, Germany
Exhibition
www.wire.de

JUNE

12-14 June 2016
**Guangzhou International
Exhibition**
Guangzhou, China
www.julang.com.cn

MAY

11-14 May 2016
Lamiera
Bologna, Italy
Exhibition
www.lamiera.net

SEPTEMBER

26-29 September 2016
wire China
Shanghai, PR China
Exhibition
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JUNE

7-9 June 2016
Wire Expo
Uncasville, Connecticut, USA
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MAKING THE NEWS

Rising from the ashes

Bekaert's Georgia bead wire facility, which was shut down in November 2014 after a fire caused damage to the site, has been re-equipped with high performance bead wire production lines and reopened.

Bekaert CEO Matthew Taylor, the regional management team and 100 guests, including tire manufacturers, and diplomatic and government officials from the US and Belgium, attended the grand opening in October.

"Bekaert Rome is poised to return as the preferred bead wire supplier to US tire makers," Mr Taylor said in a statement. "The team clearly shows their commitment and determination in proving their capability and ambitions to serve US-based tire makers with optimal quality and service."

Bekaert is a global manufacturer and provider of steel wire transformation and coating technologies, headquartered in

Belgium. The company employs around 30,000 with revenue of about \$4.5 billion. Bekaert's North American unit employs about 1,600 in ten plants and offices in the US and Canada.



Mike Rowe. Photograph courtesy of mikerowe.com

TV's "dirtiest man" gets welding recognition

The American welding society (AWS) and WEMCO, an association of welding manufacturers and a standing committee of AWS, have honored US TV host Mike Rowe, with a 2015 excellence in welding award.

The awards are made in ten categories to honor individuals and companies who make a powerful impact in their communities. The exceptional category is a special recognition given to a person who goes above and beyond to promote welding and the skilled trades. Rowe is the first ever recipient of an award in the exceptional category.

Known as the "dirtiest man on TV", a title he earned while hosting Discovery Channel's Dirty Jobs, Mr Rowe is currently in production for his show Somebody's Gotta Do It on CNN, in which he introduces viewers to innovators, entrepreneurs, collectors and

fanatics with jobs that aren't glamorous, but make civilized life possible.

He also the founded the MikeroweWORKS Foundation, a public charity that awards scholarships to students pursuing a career in the skilled trades. To date, The MikeroweWORKS Foundation has awarded over \$3 million in scholarships across the US in support of closing the country's skills gap. A strong supporter of the trades, he often serves as a spokesperson for issues related to the skills gap.

"To be recognized by AWS is better than gratifying. It's humbling. Because fundamentally, it's a privilege to speak on behalf of so many good jobs that actually exist, and help shine a light on so many great opportunities."

Acquisition makes cuts

Southwire Company LLC has purchased assets of Seatek Company Inc, a manufacturer of hand tools and motorized equipment for cutting metal-clad and armored cables. The acquisition includes substantially all of Seatek's manufacturing assets as well as Seatek's patents, trademarks, and brand names such as Roto-Split® and Roto-Flex™.

"Market demand for armored cable is expected to grow over the next several years," said Brandon Moss, Southwire president, tools and assembled products division.

According to Seatek founder Lucien Ducret: "This acquisition is a perfect pairing of two US-based industry leaders. Southwire is the leading manufacturer of armor-clad cables. Seatek is the leader in making the tools that are used to cut and prepare armored cables on the job site. I am confident that these two family-owned companies will continue their long-standing traditions of creating innovative products that will benefit the professional tradesman and improve their safety and efficiency installing armored cables."

The acquisition brings a variety of products in the armor cable cutter and cable stripper category to the Southwire hand tool product line. "Southwire always has a keen interest in strengthening its domestic hand tool manufacturing base," added Dan Irvin, Southwire director of hand tools. "This acquisition both strengthens our product portfolio and marks a significant investment in our manufacturing capabilities."

Fasteners secured

Alcoa has reported a \$1 billion supply contract with Airbus SAS for aerospace fastener products from its Alcoa fastening systems and rings business. Several of the fasteners to be supplied will be proprietary products developed specifically for Airbus.

The aerospace market has been a particular focus of Alcoa, with investment in new capacity and capabilities at its existing forging and investment casting operations, and new capabilities via the acquisitions of Firth Rixson Ltd, Tital, and RTI International Metals.

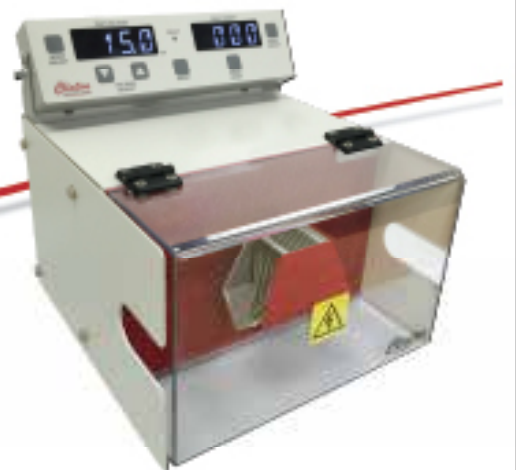
Alcoa stated that in the new agreement it will supply fastening systems for aircraft panels and engine pylons on newer aircraft that incorporate advanced design details.

Efforts to make new aircraft series lighter and more fuel-efficient have resulted in OEMs adopting new aeronautic design elements and advanced materials, such as carbon fiber composites, titanium alloys, and aluminum-lithium alloys.

The fasteners will be produced at 14 Alcoa plants around the world.

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Securing research

The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville will receive over \$12 million in federal funding to establish a national research center to help keep the nation’s power grid safe from cyber attacks.



Alan Mantooth, professor of electrical engineering at UA, said: “There’s a lot of different computers that are involved in monitoring and improving the efficiency of the grid, and so that does make it vulnerable.”

Mantooth will serve as director of the US department of energy’s cyber security center on secure electric energy delivery systems. He said the new center will make the university a hub for research collaboration involving four other institutions. “This was a nationally competitive award. There were many applicants, and the fact that we won this is a major deal for us,” he explained, estimating that about 25 researchers will collaborate on center projects.

The bid was helped by UA’s existing focus in power grid technology, such as the university’s national center for reliable electric power transmission, whose power electronics test facility will be used by researchers involved in the new cyber security center.

UA is also home to another power infrastructure collaborative, known as the grid-connected advanced power electronic systems center.

The US funding will be spread among the participating institutions, and research partners will share about \$3.3 million in costs associated with the center.



Chapter 11 filing

The Evening Sun has reported an official request for bankruptcy, filed by Wire Company Holdings, LLC (trading as New York Wire) of Hanover, Pennsylvania. The filing said that as of 1st September, New York Wire employed 237 people at Hanover and at other locations in York County.

The report said that the company has more than \$12.2 million in outstanding secured debt and \$3.4 million in other obligations. A list of the company's 30 largest creditors of unsecured claims showed that the wire company owes at least \$2.2 million in debts for raw materials, health insurance, freight, gas, electricity and other services. "A reasonably prompt sale of the debtors' businesses...is essential to not only preserve the underlying value of their

operations by providing customers and employees with a clear path forward, but also to maximize the value of the debtors' assets for the benefit of the debtors' creditors," the document said.

The company cited problems relating to its 2012 opening of a manufacturing facility in China that "experienced long and expensive start-up issues, including high turnover in the general manager position as well as production delays and other problems."

According to a book published for the Manufacturer's Association of Southcentral Pennsylvania's 100th anniversary, New York Wire is the oldest wire weaver in the country and the first to design a loom capable of weaving metal wire.

Family values at the core

Allied Wire & Cable was ranked 15th among the *Philadelphia Business Journal's* top 50 family-owned businesses in the Philadelphia region.

To be eligible for inclusion on the list, a company must be at least 51 percent family-owned by two or more kin-related family members. Allied easily met this requirement, as the wire and cable manufacturer and distributor is owned and operated by the three Flynn brothers: Tim, Dan and Mike.

In addition, the *Journal's* interest is in demonstrated proof of the company's

dedication to providing employment opportunities in the local community.

Allied started in the Flynn family basement in 1988 and has since outgrown multiple facilities and opened branches across the country.

The business has previously been recognized by the Inc 5000 and Philadelphia 100 fastest growing privately held companies lists.

Allied has recently been recognized by Philadelphia SmartCEO for its family- and employee-centric values.

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Transmission line upgrades

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) is to spend over \$70 million to replace transmission lines between Massena and Plattsburgh with Croghan and Milton.

The Massena project is the first phase of SMART Path, the replacement of the New York authority's Moses-Adirondack transmission lines. The lines run 85 miles from Massena, home to the St Lawrence-FDR hydroelectric plant, to a substation in Croghan, Lewis County.

The existing 230kV lines were built in 1942 and were acquired by the authority in 1953. The route for most of the lines travels on wooden structures that periodically need replacement. The new 230kV lines on steel structures will sit on concrete foundations.

Construction on the line is slated to begin in 2018 and last until 2023. When completed, technological

improvements that are part of the SMART (strengthening Moses-Adirondack with resilient technology) path will ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity on high demand days.

NYPA also approved a \$68 million replacement of transmission cables that connect an authority substation in Plattsburgh to a Vermont Electric Power Co substation in Milton. The work includes the design, fabrication and installation of new terminal structures at the substations as well as the replacement of 1.7 miles of cables along the bottom of Lake Champlain.

Four new cables are being installed to replace some that were originally installed in the 1950s and 1970s. The new cables can support increased energy demand and will have fiber-optic capability for current and future communications needs.



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More solar for Japan

Canadian Solar Inc has signed an agreement with Mashiki Town and Kumamoto Prefecture to build a 47MW solar power plant. Once completed, the Mashiki solar power plant will be the largest solar plant in Kumamoto Prefecture.

The Mashiki plant is expected to start commercial operation in the first quarter of 2017. Powered by Canadian Solar modules, the plant is expected to generate approximately 57,000MWh of solar electricity per year, which will be purchased by Kyushu Electric Power Co Inc under a 20-year feed-in-tariff contract.

“We are very pleased to announce this agreement with Mashiki Town and Kumamoto Prefecture,” said Dr Shawn

Qu, chairman and chief executive officer of Canadian Solar Inc. “The Mashiki solar project is our largest Japanese project to start construction, and represents an important milestone as we continue to make progress developing our high value solar project pipeline in this important market.”

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Fastener supplier gets bolted on

The Würth Group has completed its acquisition of Des Moines Bolt, a distributor of fasteners and supplies based in Des Moines, Iowa.

Würth Des Moines Bolt is now part of Würth's industry division as a member company of Würth Industry of North America (WINA), one of the largest assembly component distributors in the US.

With locations in Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska, Würth Des Moines Bolt has over 35 years of experience in supplying industrial fastener products and services including EDI, bar coding, kitting and packaging, and inventory management.

"The addition of Würth Des Moines Bolt allows WINA to aggressively continue our strategy of expanding business west of the

Mississippi River, as well as acquiring high quality, profitable companies. In 2013, WINA reached sales of \$325 million, and in 2016 projected sales are \$700 million. Acquiring companies like Würth Des Moines Bolt supports this kind of growth as we seek to triple our 2013 sales and reach sales of \$1 billion by 2020," said Marc Strandquist, executive vice president of the Würth Group.

With the addition of Würth Des Moines Bolt, WINA now comprises eight companies. The acquisition is the third for WINA in the last two years.

HVDC report

The market for HVDC and high voltage alternating current submarine electricity transmission systems is highly specialized. Analysis of existing and planned systems indicates that the submarine transmission industry will continue to experience substantial growth for years to come. In Europe, the transmission system requires extensive reconfiguration and expansion to deal with coal and nuclear generation plant retirements and the rapid growth of offshore and onshore wind generation in the Nordic region, as well as in other remote offshore areas. The European market will likely account for over half of the global submarine cable projects over the next decade. According to Navigant Research, the global submarine electricity transmission market is expected to grow from \$16.8 billion in 2015 to \$24.8 billion in 2024.

This latest Navigant Research report analyzes the global market for submarine electricity transmission systems. The study provides an analysis of the market issues, including market drivers and regulations and policies, associated with submarine electricity transmission projects. Global market forecasts for project value, segmented by technology and region, extend through 2024. The report also provides case studies and examines the key technologies related to submarine electricity transmission systems, as well as the competitive landscape.

EUROPE NEWS



SPANISH ACQUISITIONS

Italy's MFL Group (Mario Frigerio/Frigeco) has confirmed its acquisition of Construcciones Mecánicas Caballé SA (Caballé), the Spanish cable machinery manufacturer, and its other operations.

According to the press release the transaction, "will significantly strengthen MFL Group's scope of supply for non-ferrous wire drawing, stranding and extrusion equipment".

The acquisition includes Caballé, OM Lesmo and Eurodraw Energy brands together with their corresponding intellectual property.

"These well established brands, along with MFL Group's financial muscle, our 120 years of industry experience, and the broadest engineering and manufacturing knowledge base in the sector, further reinforce our commitment to our non-ferrous wire and cable customers," the release said.

"By exploiting the combined history of Caballé, OM Lesmo, Eurodraw Energy and Frigeco, we can guarantee continuous technical improvement and unmatched customer service.

"We are looking forward to strengthen our business relationship with our customers and suppliers around the world."



TPUs on show

Lubrizol Engineered Polymers showcased its latest developments for the wire and cable markets at October's Fakuma International trade fair for plastics processing.

Lubrizol's thermoplastic polyurethane range has been designed to meet demanding high-tech specifications. Products on show included Estane® TS92AP7 NAT 021, a high heat TPU formulated for superior abrasion and chemical resistance, with high heat resistance and low temperature flexibility. With UL 125°C rating and UL94 V2 yellow card certification, Estane TS92AP7 is suited to cable jacketing and injection molded component applications.

Estane ZHF 92AT3 NAT 022 is a halogen-free flame-retardant TPU that meets UL94 V0 while maintaining toughness and flexibility in various robotic, data and communication, or construction cable applications. It also meets the stringent UL 1581 section 1061 (3 x 60 seconds) cable flame test for industrial cables with a diameter below 5mm.

Estane ZHF 58202 NAT 001 EXP is an experimental halogen-free grade with low smoke density and low toxicity, compliant to EN 45545 -2 for railway applications and UL FT-2 for small diameter cable capabilities.



New rebar mill

Pittini Group introduced its new bar mill, Ferriere Nord SpA, at the group's premises during September. The event welcomed over 70 companies from 15 countries and included the leading Italian and foreign groups and companies involved in the manufacture and shaping of steel wire for reinforced concrete.

Over the course of two days Ferriere Nord outlined the steps leading to the installation of the new bar mill in Osoppo. This project took the form of a complex series of operations involving the total replacement of all the plant's units, eventually creating the totally new rolling mill.

The new Ferriere Nord plant is said to be the first bar mill in the world with the capability to manufacture hot-rolled wire for reinforced concrete in 5 tonne coils. The mill can produce B450, B500, B550 and S400 steel in diameters between 10mm and 32mm, on coils weighing 2.5 and 5 tonnes.

Hot-rolled steel wire for reinforced concrete can offer certain advantages over traditional materials, including its high ductility, and no wire twisting or butt welding within the coil.



Backbone for Finland

Cinia Group has begun laying the new submarine Sea Lion data cable in Helsinki, Finland. The new fiber optic cable will provide a direct, low latency Internet backbone connection between Finland and Germany. Designed to link Cinia's existing countrywide data network in Finland with network nodes in central Europe, the new sea cable is expected to attract data center operators and data intensive organizations to set up operations in Finland.

"The sea cable initiative builds the future of Finland based on our existing strengths," said Mr Eero Heliövaara, director general at the prime minister's office. "A direct data connection between Finland and central Europe is an important enabler of both domestic economic growth and international investments. Data traffic is expected to grow manifold within the next years, and the sea cable initiative opens up an opportunity for Finland to claim its position among the leading countries in the area of industrial Internet."

"We expect the sea cable to help in bringing 2 to 3 billion Euros worth of private data center investments in Finland within the next ten years," said Mr Ari-Jussi Knaapila, CEO at Cinia Group. "Even more important for the Finnish national economy is the opportunity to boost our own strong digital ecosystems."

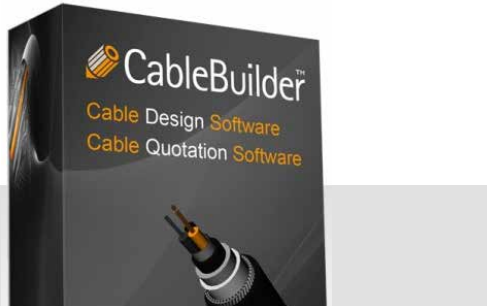


Welsh power contract

Balfour Beatty's power transmission and distribution unit has been awarded a framework agreement by Western Power Distribution for excavation, cable laying and reinstatement works in its South Wales operating region.

Balfour Beatty has signed an initial three-year contract to manage planned and reactive low voltage cabling works. Work will begin on 1st November 2015 with an option to extend the agreement for a further two years, taking the overall potential value to around £62 million over five years.

Neil Kirkby, Balfour Beatty managing director - power transmission and distribution, said: "Securing this new framework agreement is once again recognition of the capability and expertise we bring to the industry. We have worked with Western Power Distribution for over 20 years and we're looking forward to continuing this relationship."



Streamlining software

India's Polycab has implemented CableBuilder from InnoVites in its operations. Polycab uses the program to streamline its engineering and product designing processes. CableBuilder allows Polycab to create designs and eliminate human errors.

CableBuilder software has been developed to create, calculate and maintain cable designs for all kinds of cables. This solution is said to help cable manufacturing companies to reduce design and maintenance time, quotation lead times, produce professional looking datasheets and catalogues, improve manufacturing instructions and reduce rework and scrap. CableBuilder comes with an integration module to integrate with ERP systems and synchronize the bill-of-material, the routings and the cable dimensions between systems.

Under the sea

Alcatel-Lucent has announced its decision not to sell the undersea cables unit. The business will now be taken over by Nokia on its acquisition of the group.

Nokia first revealed the planned \$17 billion acquisition of Alcatel-Lucent in April as it aims to better compete with Ericsson and Huawei. Alcatel had previously said it planned to sell a majority stake in Alcatel-Lucent submarine networks (ASN) or list the business separately, but has chosen to retain it.

The ASN division, which has facilities in France and England, will become part of the new Nokia group once the acquisition is complete.

ASN has over 575,000km of fiber optic cable systems deployed worldwide, with the maintenance of 330,000km of undersea systems.



Going underground

The German cabinet has endorsed draft law to give preference to high voltage underground cabling instead of stringing cables above ground. A total of 2,800km of cables are to be laid by 2024.

Germany's decision, in 2011, to abandon nuclear power by 2022 relies on the capability to transmit prolific wind and solar-generated power from northern Germany to the southern industrial regions such as Stuttgart and Munich. A quarter of Germany's electricity currently comes from wind, solar and biogas sources. Segments of transmission cables are already under construction or have already been enlarged.

The cabinet's decision follows bitter resistance to overhead cabling. Cabinet sources quoted by Reuters said the extra costs of going underground were justified because of costly legal resistance put up by citizens' groups. They have cited losses in scenic values, and perceived health risks associated with above-ground cables.

The economy ministry has estimated the extra cost at between \$3.3 billion and \$9 billion.



Tramway combination

Alstom has chosen Nexans cables exclusively to power Brazil's first modern tramway, the Porto Maravilha tramway in Rio de Janeiro. Nexans will manufacture power, data and control cables for 32 trams.

The new tramway will connect areas across Rio de Janeiro including the Porto Maravilha region, the Central Station and Santos Dumont airport, covering 28km of the city. The line will receive no power from overhead lines, but will be supplied by a combination of a third rail and recycled energy from braking stored in a supercapacitor. It will be the first tramway in the world to use this combination of systems.



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IWMA AGM and meet the industry luncheon

The 44th annual general meeting of the International Wire & Machinery Association will be held on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at 10.45am in the George Duncan Suite at The Mere Resort in Knutsford, Cheshire, UK.

This will be an opportunity for members to hear the financial reports for the year ending 30th September 2014 as well as the nomination of any new individuals to the association's executive board.

This will be followed by a "Meet the Industry Luncheon", which is traditionally an important opportunity to network with an influential range of contacts and enjoy a three-course luncheon.

IWMA members and their guests will gather in the James Braid Suite for a complimentary pre-dinner drinks reception. All guests will then be called at 1pm for the lunch.

Contact the IWMA at info@iwma.org for a booking form. All costs are inclusive of wine and drinks. A cash bar will be available for drinks after the luncheon.

Deadline for submitting bookings is Friday 15th January 2016. The event is for IWMA members only.

Follow us. . .

Remember to follow the IWMA LinkedIn page to ensure you are kept up to date with all activities, whether it is announcements about exhibitions, conferences and events or the educational trust, as well as member news.



ASIA & AFRICA NEWS



WIND POWER IN MEXICO

Shanghai-based Envision Energy has acquired a controlling stake in a portfolio of over 600MW of wind power projects currently under development by ViveEnergia in Mexico.

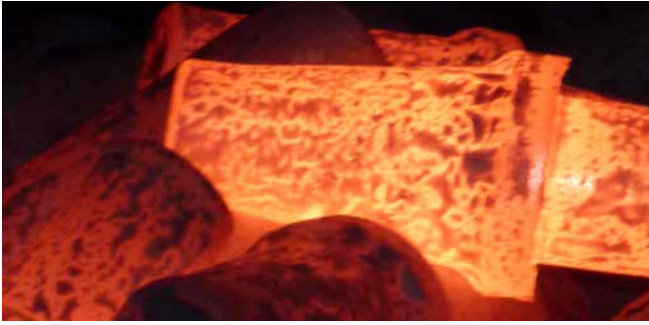
The first wind farm in the portfolio will be commissioned by the end of 2016.

“This investment is considered China’s largest direct investment in Mexico in the renewable energy space and will take advantage of bilateral cooperation agreements and lines of credit that are in place,” said Rafael Valdez Mingramm, Envision Energy’s director for Latin America and the Caribbean, during the recent China Latin America business summit in Guadalajara, Mexico.

In December 2013, Mexico passed an energy reform bill that ended a long-standing energy industry monopoly and established an electricity market. AMDEE, the Mexican

wind energy association, has set a target of 12,000MW of wind power in Mexico by 2022. According to the global wind energy association, Mexico had a total installed wind power capacity of 2,551MW at the end of 2014.

“Mexico is one of the most promising markets in the Americas for wind power generation in the coming decade,” said executive director of Envision Energy, Felix Zhang, in a statement.



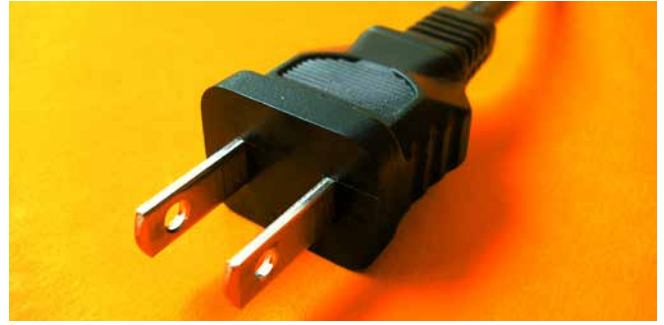
Dropping fasteners

Taiwanese steel companies are reporting that the demand for China Steel Corp's production remained at around 3.05 million tons, of which 60 percent was for domestic sales, and 40 percent for export.

Before China Steel Corp announced its prices for the fourth quarter of 2015 it had found that market demand for its steel products was low. As a result, the planned quarterly production was reduced to 2.8 million tons. A customer confirmed that wire rods for fasteners would be the products most likely to be affected.

According to the corporation, global automotive sales in the second half of 2015 may drop, bringing down demand for automotive fasteners from major producers such as Boltun and San Shing. Continuing competition with China for the small screw market may further lower material demand.

Considering the existing market, it is expected that China Steel Corp wire rods will drop around three percent from the last quarter, with a total produced weight of between 15,000 and 20,000 tons.



Power rationing season

Nozir Yodgori, a spokesman for the Tajik utility Barqi Tojik, announced that power rationing was imposed from 18th October. The daily electricity supply to rural areas has been reduced to ten hours – five in the morning, and five in the evening.

Rationing will not affect cities such as Dushanbe, or the majority of districts of the Gorno Badakhshan autonomous region (GBAO) where Tajikistan's only private power company, Pamir Energy Company (Pamir Energy), operates. The majority of districts in Gorno Badakhshan have a regular power supply.

Rationing measures are usually introduced in all regions, except Dushanbe, to curb the country's rising electricity consumption, and last until the following March or April. The move also stems from a decline in the water level in reservoirs that power the country's main hydroelectric power plants.



Hitachi chairman and CEO Hiroaki Nakanishi, and ABB CEO Ulrich Spiesshofer



HV venture

Japan's Hitachi and Switzerland's ABB have established Hitachi ABB HVDC Technologies, a joint venture for high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission technologies in Japan.

The venture, headquartered in Tokyo, will commence operations in November. Hitachi will take a 51 percent stake with 49 percent to ABB. The company will provide ABB technology to HVDC projects on which Hitachi is the prime contractor, offering total services for DC systems from design to engineering and equipment supply, and after-sales service.

Demand for HVDC transmission technology is expected to be driven by the massive development of renewable energy and reforms to Japan's electric power system, and the need to strengthen and better integrate the different electrical systems in the country. HVDC transmission is expected to be increasingly deployed for applications such as regional interconnections in the transmission grid and grid connections for offshore wind power integration.

Clean coal

Dubai water and electricity authority (DEWA) has chosen a consortium including China's Harbin Electric and Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power as the preferred bidder to build and operate a 1,200MW clean coal power plant.

The plant is the first phase of DEWA's Hassyan project. The first unit of 600MW is to be operational by March 2020, with another unit of the same size by March 2021. DEWA is the major stakeholder with a 51 percent share in the company established to build and operate the Hassyan plant.

DEWA has said that Harbin Electric and Alstom of France will build the plant, and operate it in conjunction with ACWA and US-based NRG Energy. DEWA plans launch two additional projects to bring the eventual total capacity of Hassyan to 3,600MW.



Prysmian Australia & New Zealand CEO Frederick Persson receives the "Supplier of the Year" award from nbn CEO Bill Morrow

Supplier award

Prysmian Group has been awarded nbn's supplier of the year 2015 award. Prysmian manufactures and supplies optical ribbon for nbn's national network, and was recently awarded exclusive supply of all of nbn's copper cable requirements.

"We are particularly proud of this award as the cables we make for nbn are made here in Australia, in the Sydney suburb of Dee Why. It's a truly outstanding achievement recognizing the superlative contribution of many, many people in Prysmian," said Danny Doyle, Prysmian commercial manager telecom – Australia and New Zealand.

Prysmian's first cable contract with nbn was awarded in 2011. "It has been our responsiveness to the ramp-up in 2014, our continuous support in research and development and the close working connection our production and commercial teams that have allowed us to react quickly to the increasing nbn rollout demands," said Frederick Persson, Prysmian Australia CEO.



ABB Power Systems president Claudio Facchin

Chinese lines

ABB has won an order worth over \$300 million for two new ultra-high voltage direct current (UHVDC) transmission lines in China. The two links will each have the capacity to transport 8GW of wind and thermal power from Shanxi to Nanjing and from Jiuquan to Hunan.

ABB will supply HVDC converters, converter transformers and components, capacitors and filters, and high voltage circuit breakers.

"These projects will help integrate more renewable energy and further strengthen China's transmission grid," said ABB Power Systems president Claudio Facchin.



New line in power

Tajik president Emomali Rahmon attended the official ceremony for the opening of a 220kV power transmission line Qairoqqum-Asht on 19th October. The new 74.3km power transmission line was constructed with the financial support of the Asian Development Bank at a total cost in the region of \$11.2 million.

The project included construction of the 220kV Qairoqqumm-Asht line, rehabilitation of the Qairoqqum 220kV substation, and construction of a new bay in the Asht 220kV substation.

Atlantic crossing

Huawei Marine has been selected to construct the Cameroon-Brazil cable system (CBCS), connecting Africa to Latin America.

The project, which is approximately 6,000km long, will cross the south Atlantic sea connecting Kribi in Cameroon to Fortaleza in Brazil. It will have an initial system capacity of 32Tbps with 4 fiber-pairs and be in service before the end of 2017.

Huawei Marine will deploy its 6fp submarine repeater 1660, said to be the industry's first titanium repeater, that allows direct lay and plough burial. The simultaneous operation reduces system installation costs by eliminating the secondary, post-lay burial operation.

David Nkoto Emame, general manager of CamTel, Lu Yimin, president of China Unicom, along with representatives from Telefónica and Huawei Marine, gathered in Yuande, Cameroon, in October to seal the agreement and celebrate their cooperation.

**PRODUCTS &
MACHINES
TECHNOLOGY**

Compounds for cables

Bluestar Silicones has expanded its elastomer capabilities in York, South Carolina, adding silicone custom compounding to its portfolio.

Bluestar Silicones' new custom compounding operation is supported by Bluestar Silicones high performance bases, a full range of functional and color additives, unique and patented additives and a global technical and manufacturing expertise network.

"We are pleased to announce this expansion into the US market with custom compounding," said Karen O'Keefe, US elastomers business director.

"Silicone custom compounding is a core competency for Bluestar Silicones in other parts of the world, and we are now able to re-apply this global expertise locally in York, utilizing our high performance bases to deliver custom solutions to precisely meet our customers' local needs."

The company offers fire resistant HCR silicones for safety cables designed to meet the highest dielectric, heat stability and fire resistance requirements of the market, resulting in low smoke for better visibility and safety for emergency responders. Other applications for custom compounding include wire and cable, electrical insulation, automotive and transportation.

Cable earns recognition

The 10GXS cable from Belden Inc has received a silver level Innovators Award from *Cabling Installation and Maintenance* magazine.

The 2015 awards celebrate new applications

of cabling and communications technology products and systems. Awards are presented to organizations that demonstrate excellence in the use of cabling based on innovation, value to the user, sustainability, meeting defined needs and other established criteria.

Belden's 10GXS cables are said to combine a smaller diameter with the best mechanical and electrical characteristics in a category 6A cable. With an effective diameter of just 0.265" (6.73mm) and performance that exceeds category 6A requirements for 100m channels, 10GXS cables can be used in LANs and enterprise data centers requiring high density, high bandwidth connections for network applications.

Cabling Installation and Maintenance recognized Belden's 10GXS cables for design simplicity, ease of installation, and performance.

Belden developed two new technologies, EquiSpline and EquiBlock, to offer better noise immunity and performance that exceeds category 6A specifications with 10GXS cables.

EquiSpline controls the balance of the cable by providing a compartment for each pair. These compartments ensure consistent cable geometry, which enables higher performance in terms of noise rejection and insertion loss.

EquiBlock is a barrier tape that blocks noise coupling by effectively surrounding the cable core with a Faraday cage without a need for grounding. It also improves heat transfer and dissipation while eliminating hotspots when delivering remote power, and suppresses antenna effects caused by ANEXT and EMI.

Top brass

Alpha Wire has developed brass braid expandable sleeving to add to its FIT wire management portfolio. FIT brass braid sleeving features a tough exterior that provides EMI protection and protects against harmful microorganisms.

The sleeving can be used to create a low-resistance point-to-point ground strap, and can be used in retrofit applications to install additional shielding to cable.

“Alpha Wire has added FIT brass braid sleeving to the wire management line in order to provide customers with a functional product to protect cables in all different types of environments,” said Hillary Riden, product specialist at Alpha Wire.

She added: “FIT brass braid is great for medical devices, food and beverage equipment, and semiconductor equipment due to its sleek appearance and antimicrobial and germicidal properties.”

FIT brass braid sleeving will be available in four standard part numbers, in stock and ready to ship in 100ft lengths for the ¼", 3/8" and ½" sizes, and 250ft lengths for the 1/8" size.

Greener wire

UK firm DR Baling has developed a green alternative to steel baling wire, potentially saving the waste industry tens of millions of pounds.

DR Baling's PlasLOC is a heavy duty non-slip plastic wire, designed to replace steel wire in waste baling. The wire, said to have the same properties as steel wire, can be

incinerated within mechanical biological treatment (MBT) plants, and so simplifies the recycling process.

The new wire offers a cheaper, more environmentally friendly way to dispose of waste via incineration and will positively impact on the amount of waste going to landfill. A quicker turnaround at MBT plants means more baled waste can now be turned into renewable electricity.



▲ A green alternative from DR Baling

PlasLOC costs 20 percent of the cost of steel wire to produce, and since its launch in September has been rolled out to DR Baling's European customers, with a launch into the American market planned for 2016.

DR Baling's managing director, Peter Robinson, commented: “DR Baling has spent 50 years at the forefront of baling wire manufacture, but it has become increasingly difficult to compete against subsidized foreign steel imports, notably from Spain.

“It has been a long journey to develop this product and ensuring the correct tensile. We've developed the plastic extrusion and downstream processes in-house and... developed a pioneering product with unique tensile, stretching, heating and coiling properties.”

Cables save space

Reichle & De-Massari AG (R&M) has introduced its ThinCompact data center cabling system, a pre-terminated cat 6A S/FTP copper cable with an outer diameter of only 13.9mm. Despite comprehensive shielding, the cable is believed to be the world's thinnest and most flexible 6-link copper trunk cable. ThinCompact consumes 70 percent less volume in cable trays than conventional 6-link trunk cables and saves over 50 percent in weight.

Engineered for maximum design flexibility and high port density application (up to 48-ports in one rack space), the new system offers pre-terminated cable assemblies in custom lengths and configurations.

ThinCompact meets the requirements of category 6A, class EA (500MHz) in accordance with the current ISO/IEC 11801 2nd edition standard. Cables can run up to - 60 meters and are available in low-smoke-zero-halogen versions. Each individual trunk cable is factory tested, and can also be used as cat 5e/6.

Superior performance, rapid and cost-efficient network deployment, high quality and easy redeployment make the R&M ThinCompact Data Centre Cabling System suitable infrastructure solution for today's enterprise and commercial data centers.

Perfectly formed?

Fairview Microwave Inc, a supplier of on-demand microwave and RF components, has introduced a new family of ultra-miniature UMCX, WMCX and HMCX32 cable assemblies. Commonly used to connect an external antenna to a

mini-PCB, these flexible micro-coax jumpers offer operation from DC to 6GHz and are designed for use in wireless communications systems.

The UMCX and WMCX cable assemblies are compatible with Hirose® UFL™ and WFL™ connectors, and feature miniature snap-on connectors with mated connection heights ranging from 1.2mm to 2.5mm.



▲ UMCX, WMCX and HMCX32 coaxial cables with snap-on connectors. Photograph courtesy of Fairview Microwave Inc

Fairview plans to release 40 configurations with multiple coax options including 0.81mm, 1.13mm, 1.37mm, RG178 and double-shielded RG178 (RG178-DS). In-series and between-series cable assemblies are also available.

The ultra-miniature UMCX, WMCX and HMCX32 assemblies are available in standard lengths from stock, with custom length versions and special configurations available on request.

"As wireless systems and hardware continue to get smaller, the demand for miniature, low profile cables and connectors increases," said Brian McCutcheon, Fairview Microwave's vice president and general manager.

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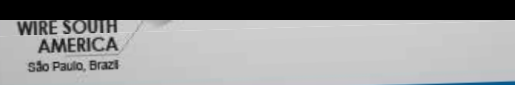
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