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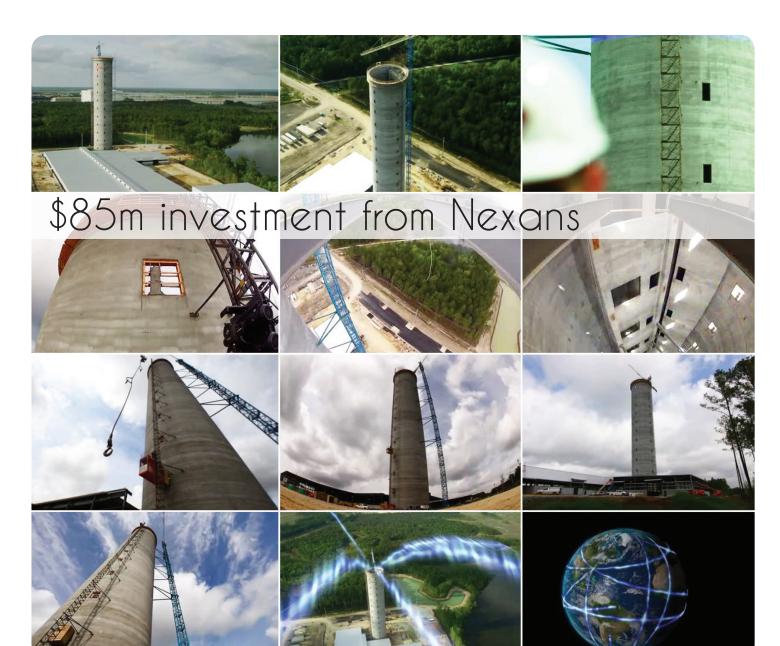


June 2013 issue - No 24

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BETA LaserMike Measured by Commitment

wiredInUSA - June 2013

EDITOR

Numbers in the wire and cable industry are, nearly always, big. The investments, company buy outs, length of cables on the ocean floor, they are all big numbers.

And it seems that this theme continues in the June issue of wiredInUSA with the first two stories providing some startling numbers to digest.

Our lead story is from global giant Nexans which has committed \$85m for its extra high voltage cable plant in South Carolina. And it was a serious building project for the new vertical continuous vulcanization tower with trucks working around the clock seven days a week for 20 days to pour 6,000m³ of concrete! You can read the full story on page 9.

Hot on the heels is news that California's newest power plant has gone online – three months ahead of schedule.

The 800MW CPV Sentinel Energy project, near Palm Springs, has already started flowing electricity to 640,000 homes in Southern California's Edison service territory. All the details are on page 10.

But there is a lot more to read the further you get into the magazine. Enjoy!

David Bell Editor

CONTENT CONTENT CONTENT



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#24

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Industry news from the USA







Industry Trade Association Spotlight on awards, education and events







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Products, Machines and Technology The latest news from machine industries

DIARY SHOW EVENTS

2013

JUNE

16-18 June: Guangzhou Wire and Tube Guangzhou, China Exhibition www.julang.com.cn

25-28 June: wire Russia 2013 Moscow, Russia Exhibition www.wire-russia.com

SEPTEMBER

17-19 September: **wire SE Asia 2013** Bangkok, Thailand Exhibition <u>www.wire-southeastasia.com</u>

OCTOBER

1-3 October: **wire South America** São Paulo, Brazil Exhibition <u>www.wiresa.com.br</u>

NOVEMBER

3-5 November: **Cabwire 2013** Milan, Italy Conference <u>www.cabwire.com</u>

10-13 November: **IWCS** Charlotte, NC, USA Conference <u>www.iwcs.org</u>

7

OPTICAL FIBRES

Measurement Instruments

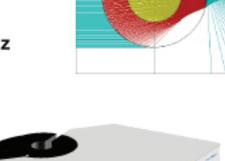
- LIS-G: Laser Interferometric Sensor for Glass fibre Diameter repeatability : ±0.005µm, 50kHz Diameter uncertainty : ±0.15µm Defect detection 75kHz, event recording Ultra fine air line detection, 0,7µm 400Hz Fibre position: ±0.01mm, 1 kHz Spinning frequency profile Non circularity measurement
- NCTM : Drawing force Birefringence principle Non Contact Tension Measurement 0-400 grams ±1gram, 1 kHz ± 1 gr within 10-40°C ambient
- CM5: Coating Monitor 5 axes Diameter, lump & neck, defects detection, coating asymmetry Absolute diameter: ± 0,15%, 50-400µm, 400Hz Lump & Neck: ±2µm, 500kHz Internal defect detection: 400 kHz (Airlines, bubbles, inclusions, delaminations...)
- CIM PC CERSA-MCI's instrument data software: collection, display, record and report

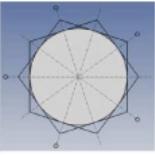
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MAKING THE NEWS



Towering completion

Nexans has completed the construction of a 125m tower for its extra high voltage cable plant in South Carolina. The vertical continuous vulcanization (VCV) tower will house the triple extrusion process.

Construction of the massive project began on 7th January and was a non-stop 24/7 operation for 20 days. Three trucks delivered 6,000m³ of concrete, every hour, for the slip pour. Fréderic Michelland, senior corporate executive vice president, high voltage and underwater cables business group, and North America and South America areas, said: "The commitment of \$85 million toward the construction of our newest extra high voltage plant in South Carolina demonstrates Nexans' position in the fast growing North American market."

The Tower will be the hub of the extrusion process and pivotal for the entire operation.

California's newest power plant goes online

California's 800MW CPV Sentinel Energy project has begun electricity flow to the power grid – three months ahead of schedule.

Competitive Power Ventures Inc (CPV), GE Energy Financial Services and Diamond Generating Corporation (DGC) said the California independent system operator (CAISO) and the California energy commission have declared commercial operations, while the chief building officer issued a final certificate of occupancy for the natural gas-powered plant in Riverside County.

The CPV Sentinel Energy project is located near Desert Hot Springs, five miles northwest of Palm Springs. The project uses the most modern "peaking" power generation technology available, the GE LMS100 aeroderivative gas turbine, to provide electricity to approximately 640,000 homes in Southern California Edison's service territory.

Eight units with quick-starting and fast-ramping capability make the project a perfect fit for Coachella Valley residents during the summer days of triple-digit temperatures and peak energy use, while also backing up California's growing solar and wind farms.

"With California's San Onofre nuclear plant off-line and power reserve margins expected to be tight, it is more important than ever that the CPV Sentinel Energy Project be available to support electric reliability this summer," said John Murphy, senior vice president of engineering and construction for CPV.

"Gemma Power Systems did a fantastic job of working with GE and our team to complete this project ahead of schedule and on budget."

Well done is better than well said

Benjamin Franklin

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CABLING

Corning Incorporated will supply optical cable for the Miami/ Atlanta segment of Allied Fiber's network-neutral system. The 754-mile Miami to Atlanta route is expected to be completed by the end of 2013.

The network-neutral system is intended to provide fiber for lease, as legacy backhaul network infrastructures can no longer support the exponential growth occurring in the industry. The end users for these physical-layer services include submarine cable systems, large wire line and wireless carriers and network operators, private enterprises, cooperatives, cable television companies, and data center operators.

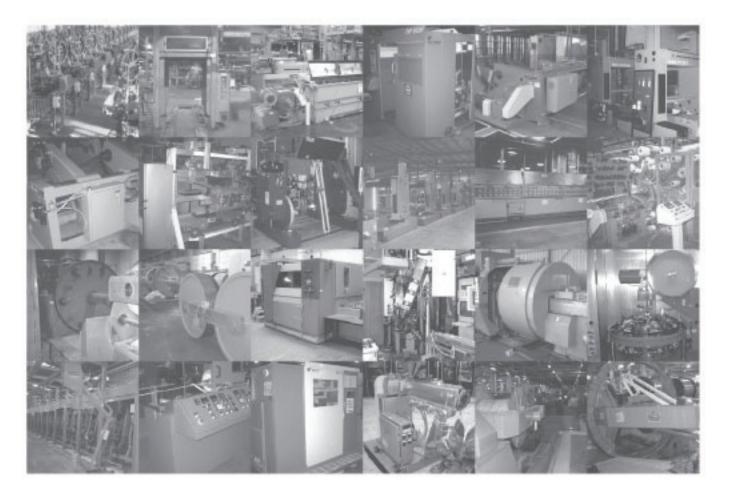
Corning will supply its 528-fiber SST-UltraRibbon[™] cable containing Corning[®] SMF-28e+[®] and Corning[®] LEAF[®] optical fibers. Optimized for long-haul and metro networks, Corning LEAF optical fiber is said to provide high-capacity broad system flexibility with proven performance.

"Allied Fiber worked closely with Corning to develop a custom designed 528-fiber ribbon cable optimized for the unique network design we are deploying throughout the United States," said Jason Cohen, president and chief operating officer, Allied Fiber.

"Corning's telecommunications solutions have been requested by many of our customers and are capable of supporting the newest generation of high-performance opto-electronics equipment."

Planned future phases of the Allied Fiber network within the US will extend 11,500 route miles.

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Harness facility closes

Commercial Vehicle Group Inc (CVG) has revealed plans to close its wire harness assembly facility in DeKalb, Illinois, taking effect during the third quarter of 2013. Work currently undertaken at DeKalb will be transferred to CVG facilities in Edgewood and Monona, Iowa.

Kevin RL Frailey, president and general manager of electrical systems for CVG, said: "To remain competitive, we continually evaluate CVG's manufacturing footprint based on changing customer demand and industry trends. As a result, we are realigning our North America wire harness capacity and consolidating our North American footprint from five to four wire harness facilities."

He added: "We regret having to close our DeKalb facility and understand the impact this action will have on our employees and their families. However, following a long term, extensive analysis of our business and changing customer needs, it is a step we have to take to keep CVG an efficient and cost effective competitor in an evolving global economy."

Return of the dividend

General Cable Corp has announced a regular quarterly dividend to its shareholders for the first time since 2002. The initial dividend will be 18 cents per share, payable on 28th June.

The company's board of directors has also extended its \$125 million one year share repurchase program, originally adopted in October 2012, to the end of 2013. The program has yet to be used, due to restrictions imposed while the company restated its 2012 financials as a result of a mis-statement.

"Over the past several years we have continued to transform the company, expanding into faster growing emerging markets, and enhancing our product portfolio in developed markets through both acquisitions and organic investments," General Cable CEO and president Gregory Kenny said in a statement.

"Our financial position and confidence in our operating model have strengthened considerably over this time, and we believe the company is now in the position to begin returning cash to shareholders." . Digital . Networking . Monthly

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85 testing years!

Magnetic Analysis Corporation is celebrating 85 years of designing and producing inspection instruments and systems for metal manufacturers.

Founded in 1928, a time when testing for quality purposes usually meant laboratory sampling techniques which essentially destroyed or altered part of the product being tested, MAC began working with electromagnetic techniques to non destructively test steel bars without altering the product.

After six years in development, MAC introduced its first successful bartester to identify cracks in steel bars. Since then, the company has been involved with NDT technology for metal bar, tube and parts, with rotary eddy current testers, phase gating, pulsed eddy current, polar presentation, fully digitized test instrumentation, vivid color presentations, rotary ultrasonic testers and advanced flux leakage inspection.

"Serving the world's metalworking industry with reliable, cost effective, top-of-the-line instrumentation and test systems to ensure they can meet the high quality requirements of their customers, is our 24/7 goal," said company chairman William Gould 3rd, whose father and grandfather were the original founders.

"But the real key to our survival and growth has been innovative MAC people, over several generations, who have understood the challenge to make product that truly serves the world's needs – product that works reliably, is economic to make, and practical to use. MAC people's energy and imagination continues to enable us to serve a very diverse and challenging world."

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Bay Bridge steel rods at risk

The San Francisco Chronicle reports that over 1,200 steel bolts used in the new Bay Bridge may be at risk of cracking. They have been manufactured from a steel that is virtually identical to a high-strength alloy which has been banned for bridge use because it can crack with prolonged use. The bolts serve vital roles on the new bridge span.

The California department of transportation (Caltrans) is to test 192 bolts on the bridge that are similar to 32 galvanized bolts that cracked when workers tightened them in March. The failed bolts were made to be harder than the level at which federal guidelines consider them to be at risk of cracking when installed, and were among 96 supplied in 2008 by the same firm that delivered the batch of 192 bolts two years later.

Caltrans documents examined by the Chronicle show that 932 additional fasteners procured for the bridge in the past five years were, like the failed bolts, made of high-strength, galvanized steel.

The fatal problem for the 2008 batch of bolts may have been their high strength (hardness).

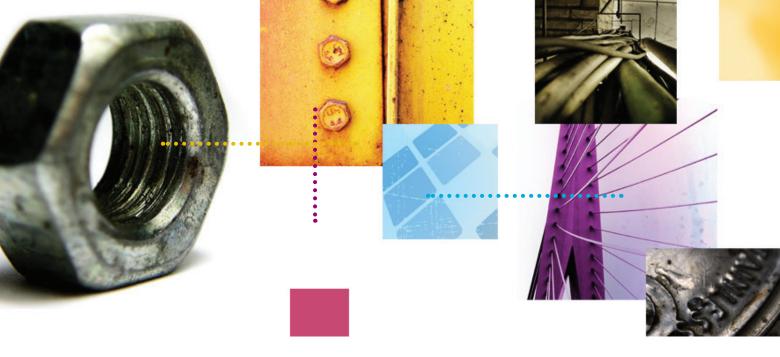
Harder steel is vulnerable to invasion by hydrogen, either during manufacture or over time in a moist marine environment. The 32 bolts that snapped in March sat in holes on the span that had periodically filled with hydrogen-rich rainwater over the past five years. When the bolts were tightened to 70 percent of their rated capacity, they cracked.

Insteel acquires Tatano assets

Insteel Wire Products Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Insteel Industries Inc, has purchased all of the concrete pipe and box culvert reinforcement production equipment and certain related assets of Tatano Wire and Steel Inc.

Tatano is a producer of welded wire reinforcement and wire products located in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Insteel currently manufactures concrete pipe and box culvert reinforcement products at six facilities located in Arizona, Florida, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas.





Transmission line approval

American Electric Power has announced that Texas regulators have approved the application of Electric Transmission Texas, an AEP joint venture with MidAmerican Energy, to build a \$318 million, 156 mile long 345kB transmission line.

The Public Utility Commission of Texas has also agreed settlements with nearly a hundred landowners, as well as the Texas Parks and Wildlife department. The line is to run between Laredo and Edinburg, and will include two new substations.

AEP's transmission network currently includes 40,000 miles of lines, including 2,100 miles of higher voltage 765kV lines.

Construction is expected to begin in 2014, and should be complete by 2016.

HWCC celebrates Minneapolis center

On 1st May, Houston Wire & Cable Company opened a new distribution center in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area. John Marchiando, region vice president responsible for the territory expansion, said: "This new distribution center will enable our customers to obtain more of the products they need even faster than they could before. The long term benefits of an HWCC location in this part of the country are several, and we are excited about the increased service and value this investment will deliver to our customers."

With 35 years in the industry, Houston Wire & Cable Company is among the largest providers of wire and cable in the US market.

New GM at EFG



Elgin Fastener Group (EFG) has appointed Carl Ondraka as general manager of Cleveland operations, with responsibility for EFG's

manufacturing operations at Chandler Products, Quality Bolt & Screw, and Telefast Industries. A graduate of Western Michigan University, Carl earned his MBA from Indiana University/South Bend.

He is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and the Precision Machine Products Association (PMPA), with previous senior management experience in a variety of industrial engineering and manufacturing positions.

EFG CEO Jeff Liter said: "Carl Ondraka is uniquely qualified to lead our manufacturing efforts in northeast Ohio. His skill set includes all of the components required to produce consistent success and customer satisfaction at these three plants, and we are pleased to have him join our organization."

Elgin Fastener Group is comprised of nine domestic specialty fastener manufacturers and a metal finishing facility.

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Optelian gear for Alabama network

Troy Cablevison Inc has installed Optelian's MPX-9110 100Gbps platform in its fiber network, providing FTTH and FTTB services to Alabama.

The network covers six counties across the south east of the state, connecting Montgomery, Troy, Dothan, and the markets in between. Troy Cable funded the network enhancement with an award from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

Optelian says the addition of its 100G LightGAIN optical transport and reconfigurable optical add/drop multiplexer (ROADM) technologies will enable Troy Cable to support the expected jump in bandwidth demand via a low-latency, high capacity fiber backbone. It also will support such advanced services as alternate disaster recovery and scalable offsite storage, as well as providing greater reliability through the creation of diverse network paths.

"This 100G enhancement to our network delivers a major expansion throughout the region," explains Conley Freeman, CTO of Troy Cable.

"Never before has there been a contiguous network from Dothan to Montgomery. In delivering this critical inaugural connection, we wanted a high capacity platform that would allow us to easily scale, but still efficiently use, our fiber."



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Award for Pelican

Pelican Wire Company Inc has been named the Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association's (SRMA) Manufacturer of the Year in the small business category.



The SRMA represents 3,600 companies engaged in manufacturing operations in the SWFL region.

Pelican Wire was recognized for its wire and cable constructions for critical applications in diverse industries, including the aerospace and medical fields. Pelican Wire has been successful in the cable industry by specializing in fine gauge resistance, thermocouple RTD and custom wire and cable.



Three of Pelican Wire's employees, Martha Langston, Angel Santana, and Kathleen Wilson, were nominated for Manufacturing Employee of the year. Martha Langston was named as the Manufacturing Employee of the Year in the Administrative category.______

Ted Bill said: "It was wonderful winning this award...[It] really pays a nice tribute to the hard work of our employe<u>e-owners."</u> The leading trade publications for the Wire & Cable industries

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Arizona solar dedication

Arizona secretary of state Ken Bennett, Maricopa county supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, and mayor Jackie Meck joined Sempra US Gas and Power officials and community leaders to dedicate the 150MW first phase of Sempra US Gas and Power's Mesquite Solar facility.



Located in Arlington, Arizona, about 40 miles west of Phoenix, Mesquite Solar 1 is part of Sempra US Gas and Power's 4,000-acre Mesquite Solar complex, with the potential to build up to 700MW of capacity. The Mesquite Solar complex is well positioned to become North America's largest photovoltaic (PV) solar power installation.

"Mesquite Solar 1 represents a major step forward for the state of Arizona as we continue down the path toward our goal of establishing ourselves as the nation's leader in solar generation," said Bennett. "Sempra US Gas and Power has demonstrated remarkable leadership with this project, and we look to continue working together to fully build-out the Mesquite Solar Complex."

Construction on Mesquite Solar 1 began in June 2011 and was completed in December 2012. It generates enough emission-free electricity for about 56,000 homes.

Completion of Mesquite Solar 1 brings Sempra US Gas and Power's operating solar portfolio up to 300MW. The company has another 308MW under construction at its Copper Mountain Solar 2 and Copper Mountain Solar 3 facilities in Boulder City, Nevada.



Added power for design team

Tulsa Power has appointed three new design engineers to its mechanical engineering department.

Jack McCready will help the company build on strengths in design and application engineering. He has a wealth of experience and knowledge built up over four decades of designing coiling, spooling and winding equipment for flexible materials. Jack is a recent graduate with a BSME and MSME from the University of Tulsa.

Jim Mascola has over 20 years of machinery design and product development experience and holds seven current patents. In addition, he has a BSME degree and lean manufacturing, quality and finite element analysis training.

Shelby Coulter has extensive experience in mechanical design and new machinery development. Shelby has a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Oklahoma State University.



COMMSCOPE

Innovation in Ireland

CommScope has opened a new technology innovation center at its Bray, Ireland, facility. The center incorporates a research and development laboratory and a solution demonstration area. The display area is complemented by an executive briefing center which opened in 1999.

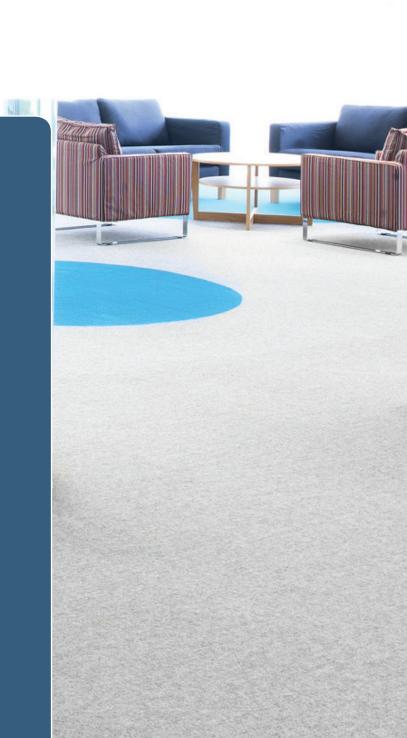
Combining the new innovation center with the executive briefing center will provide customers from across the European, Middle East and African regions with a greater opportunity to see and learn about the latest technologies underpinning the most advanced networks in the world.

"We believe this facility will have a tremendous impact on all visitors, especially those who are not entirely aware of our global reach and deep expertise in developing the end-to-end solutions that enable the economic delivery of Internet services," said Fiona Nolan, senior vice president, global marketing, CommScope.

She continued: "We have a long history of enabling wired and wireless communication networks and invest an average of approximately €100 million each year in developing innovative and agile solutions, some of which are now included within the Bray facility."

Bray is a prominent location in CommScope's global manufacturing and distribution network. The facility, which employs approximately 180 people, occupies over 130,000ft² and is one of the largest manufacturers of Systimax[®] enterprise solutions for CommScope. It is also home of the engineering, marketing, sales and finance support organization for the Europe, Middle East and African regions.





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wiredInUSA - June 2013



Ormiston Wire – flying with the times

British company Ormiston Wire celebrates its 220th birthday this year. The company, formed in London in 1793 by Philip Ormiston, is currently under the stewardship of his descendant, Mark Ormiston.

Ormiston Wire began trading as a manufacturer of spring wire for corsets andwigs, but diversified in the 19th Century. During the 1960s and 1970s Ormiston provided vital support for some of the biggest television stars of the decade. Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds puppets were lifted by Ormiston Wire, and in the 21st Century the company has supplied the wire that made the broomsticks fly in the popular Harry Potter series.

Other bespoke applications of Ormiston wires include sculptures from the Thomas Heatherwick Studio, and antenna braid for the British Antarctic Survey.

EUROPE NEWS



New optical cable plant in Romania

Prysmian Group has opened a new facility at its Slatina, Romania, plant for the production of optical fiber cable.

The Slatina factory began manufacturing energy cables in 1973, and first added optical fiber cables in 2009. The new plant will triple its production from 500,000km to 1,500,000km of cables per year, with the potential to reach 3 million kilometers.

The Slatina plant has a total yearly production capacity of 30,000 tons of energy cable (from high voltage cable up to 110kV and building wires, power, instrumentation and control cables), almost 1,500,000km of optical cable and 500,000km of copper telecom cable. It employs over 400 people.



Ericsson's power cable operations pass to nkt

nkt cables has signed a conditional purchase agreement to acquire Ericsson's Energy Business power cable operations. The transaction is subject to relevant regulatory approval and is expected to be completed beginning of third quarter 2013. Ericsson's Energy Business is a leading supplier of medium voltage products to the Nordic utility groups, and an important supplier of low voltage products to wholesalers and installers in Sweden.

The acquisition is a central element in the growth strategy for nkt cables' products business unit, focusing on strengthening the company's position in the medium and low voltage cables segment in selected markets. The acquisition will add a number of unique products to nkt cables' portfolio, strengthen development competences for new power solutions, and improve scope for servicing Nordic customers.

nkt cables will gain 320 employees and a factory in Falun, Sweden, including production facilities and a development department. The factory's location and product portfolio will be complementary to nkt cables' factory in Asnæs, Denmark.



Electricity transmission projects for Brazil

Abengoa has been chosen by the Brazilian National Electricity Agency (ANEEL) to complete an electricity transmission project in the country.

The contract will enable part of the country's energy consumption to be supplied in an efficient and sustainable way. Abengoa will be responsible for carrying out the engineering, design, construction, maintenance and commissioning of the three electricity transmission concessions, covering 2,920km. The project is expected to be complete within three years.

The first concession comprises a transmission line covering 615km in the states of Pernambuco, Piauí and Ceará; while the second concession involves the construction of a 544km transmission line in the states of Maranhao, Piauí and Ceará. The third concession consists of various transmission lines with a combined length of 1,761km, together with construction of a new substation.



Higher copper output

In its quarterly report, Swiss-based Glencore Xstrata announced an output of 321,000 tonnes of copper between January and March. The company said that the growth was driven by increased production at its mines in Peru's Antapaccay, as well as Mount Margaret in Australia, and in Katanga and Mutanda in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Africa alone, copper output increased by 44 percent.

Glencore Xstrata noted that capacity at the Katanga and Mutunda mines would expand this year to produce an annual output of 270,000 tonnes and 200,000 tonnes.

Glencore Xstrata was formally created at the beginning of May, following a merger between commodities trader Glencore International and mining heavyweight Xstrata.

Chinese regulators were the last to give approval to the merger, which was suspended for several months pending the decision. A condition of China's approval was that Glencore Xstrata would sell its interest in the Las Bambas copper mine project in Peru to Chinese-approved operators by the end of September 2014.

EUROPE NEWS



Cable fault closes offshore project

Vattenfall's 110MW Lillgrund offshore wind farm went offline on 16th May as a result of a cable failure. The company has launched an investigation into the causes of the failure, and sent in remote cameras to track the fault.

Lillgrund is located in Öresund, the strait between Denmark and Sweden. It is Sweden's largest offshore wind farm and came online in December 2007. It comprises 48 Siemens SWT-2.3-93 turbines.

In a Vattenfall document detailing the installation work, the company revealed it had problems deploying the cables, the export cable in particular. Linking offshore wind farms to the shore is one of the biggest challenges to the sector, with a high number of claims already in process resulting from damaged subsea cables.

Past examples of issues include insufficient protection against the current or poorly implemented erosion protection damaging the cables.



ExxonMobil cable contract

Prysmian Group has been awarded a \$100 million contract for the supply and installation of submarine cables for a section of ExxonMobil's existing offshore operations in the US.

The work involves the replacement of 50km of submarine power cables with increased capacity 40kV EPR cables designed for water depths of up to 450m. The cables will supply electric power from the existing shore-based generating plant to offshore platforms.

The submarine power cable will be supplied by Prysmian's Drammen, Norway, factory and installed using the Cable Enterprise laying vessel. The Cable Enterprise will undergo significant modification work during 2014 to be converted to a full dynamically positioned (DP) vessel in readiness for the installation works.

Elsewhere in the US, the group is currently involved in the Hudson Transmission Project to supply clean power to about 600,000 new homes in Manhattan, New York, and has commissioned the TransBay Cable Project in San Francisco.



Wind farm wins step to approval

The department of the interior of the Swiss area of Vaud has agreed to a wind farm in the rural community of Sainte-Croix, although appeals to the cantonal administrative court and to the country's supreme court are still possible. Utility company Romandie Energie plans to erect six wind turbines, but has agreed to abandon a seventh near the village in the Jura Mountains after concerns were raised about its visual impact.

The company says the turbines will generate 22 million kWh of electricity a year, enough to power 6,000 homes, or the entire municipality and industry of Sainte-Croix.

Renewable energy has taken on greater importance in Switzerland following a government decision to phase out nuclear power plants, which currently produce around 40 percent of the country's electricity. The last nuclear plant is scheduled for decommissioning in 2034.



Rod mill gets makeover

Siemens Metals Technologies has been contracted by Nexans to equip a copper rod mill with a modular crop shear solution. The new equipment is expected to simplify operation and increase output and safety.

The 35-year-old rod rolling line in the Nexans plant in Lens, France, will be equipped with a four-bladed rotary shear, replacing a hydraulically operated traversing shear. The new shear, a standard product for Siemens, will cut the size of the current crop section in half, maximizing yield. It will also provide a profiled front end to the cast bar to improve feeding it into the finishing mill during the thread-up operation.

In addition, Nexans has contracted for a mechatronic package of controls to integrate the new equipment into the main mill control system. Depending on the end product, the mill will be able to process up to 30 tons per hour, and has a nominal capacity of 200,000 tons per annum.





Taste of the Orient for IWMA members



Credit: www.bigstockphoto.com Photographer S Kinnari

There will be an international flavor mixing with a taste of the Orient as Bangkok, Thailand, plays host to wire Southeast Asia from 17th to 19th September this year.

The BITEC center in the the capital city, known as the 'city of angels', will stage the three-day show as more than 400 companies from around the globe show off their latest innovations at the much-anticipated exhibition.

The wire and cable industry remains robust in the region as ASEAN prepares for further development with major infrastructural projects

already in the pipeline. Seven national pavilions and country groups from Austria, China, Germany, Italy, Singapore, Taiwan and the USA have already secured their places at the exhibition.

Some 15 percent of companies are first-time exhibitors and organizers Messe Düsseldorf Asia are confident that visitor numbers will surpass the 2011 figures.

This event is a platform that links a targeted audience of key decision makers from Thailand and around the region with international industry leaders showcasing the latest wire and cable processing machinery and equipment, new technology and manufacturing solutions.

The IWMA is offering its members the opportunity to take part in this exhibition by taking its exclusive exhibitor package ensuring an excellent stand location and all the benefits to make exhibiting easy and effective.

For further details, call the IWMA on **01926 834680** or email **info@iwma.org**.

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Heading for Milan...

Co-organizers of this year's CabWire are once again joining forces ahead of the conference at the Palazzo Turati in Milan, Italy, on Monday, 4th November.

This year's theme will be 'Innovations driving worldwide wire and cable markets' and will feature a panel of both ferrous and non-ferrous expert speakers, presenting the latest technological developments within the industry.

A number of opportunities are available for anyone wishing to attend the conference.

In the evening, there will be the opportunity to attend a gala dinner at the nearby Royal Palace overlooking the historic Duomo Piazza. The following day, Tuesday, 5th November, there will be the opportunity to visit a local factory for a guided tour of the facility.

To find out more, simply go onto the designated website: www.cabwire.com

Full details including terms and conditions are included on the site.

You can download the relevant application form and either email or fax to the details on the form.

If you are interested in attending the conference as a delegate, details will be posted on the website shortly.



The 6th biennial world conference at the Palazzo Turati in Milan, Italy, on the 4th November 2013.

This year's theme will be "*Innovations driving worldwide wire and cable markets*" and will feature a panel of both ferrous and non-ferrous expert speakers, presenting papers on the latest technological developments within the industry.

For more information, visit the website, email info@iwma.org or telephone: +44 (0)1926 834680.





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Syrian Internet outage

An outage of Syria's Internet has been blamed on the failure of a fiber optic cable.

The outage effectively cut off the country from the rest of the Internet for almost a day. It is not yet known whether it was due to a technical failure, or whether the Syrian government deliberately cut off one of the three fiber cables connecting the country to the rest of the world. Cutting off Internet access has been a common tactic in the Middle East, most notably the Egyptian government under former president Hosni Mubarak.

"It was normal news for us ... It did not affect us," Ahmad al-Khatib, an activist in the Jabal al-Zawiya region in Syria told the Associate Press via Skype. "Those who were affected are activists who use 3G and they are mostly activists in regime-controlled areas."

Many activists rely on 3G despite the intermittent problems with connectivity and the potential for government surveillance, because using satellite phones marks them as sympathizers with the rebel cause. The government has already cut off 3G access in areas of the country under rebel control, forcing them to use satellite phones.

The Internet in Syria is operating again, though an earlier outage in November lasted for two days and coincided with a strike in Damascus and its airport. No military action appeared to be responsible for the latest outage.



Intercontinental cable

AMEinfo reports that Etisalat, a leading telecom operator in the Middle East and Africa, has announced a strategic partnership in the construction of the Bay of Bengal (BBG) submarine fiber optic cable. Other major operators involved are Telekom Malaysia Berhad (Malaysia), Vodafone Group (UK), Omantel (Oman), Reliance JioInfocomm Limited (India) and Dialog Axiata (Sri Lanka).

"Etisalat's Smarthub is the strategic terminal point for Bay of Bengal (BBG) cable. This reaffirms UAE's position as the telecommunication hub in the region. We are delighted to be part of this consortium that will enhance our already robust intercontinental capacity to support our customers growing high speed data requirements," said Ali Amiri, executive vice president, carrier and wholesale services, Etisalat.

The construction of BBG will provide connectivity between the Middle East, south east Asia and south Asia, and is a clear indication of the growing demand for bandwidth in the participating countries.

The 8,000km cable will provide upgradable and transmission facilities using 100Gbps technology. The system is expected to carry commercial traffic by the end of 2014.



Fiber funds for Burundi

Executives of the PTA Bank have confirmed their approval of a \$11.5 million loan for Burundi Backbone Systems Company (BBS) to build a national fiber optic network.

The 13,000km fiber optic project will cover the capital, Bujumbura, 17 provinces and the country's borders with Rwanda and Tanzania, connecting the country to international fiber optic cables for the first time.

Burundi will rely heavily on the Rwandan and Tanzanian infrastructure. Rwanda has already completed laying its 2,300km national backbone, while Tanzania is still working on a 10,000km fiber infrastructure.

The World Bank initiated the project in late 2008 with a funding of about \$10.5 million. The East African states are jointly investing \$400 million in terrestrial fiber optics for backbone cables that, when complete, will provide a vast network for Internet connectivity covering over 15,600km.



ACE launch for Ghana

Expresso Ghana landed the \$700 million, 17,000km ACE fiber optic cable on the Ghanaian coast in time for its mid-May launch. ACE is the acronym for the Africa Coast to Europe submarine cable, and represents a consortium of 19 members.

The cable connects 23 countries, mainly on the coast of Africa but also using terrestrial links to landlocked countries including Mali and Niger. It is the first cable system to connect seven African countries in a stretch.

Expresso Ghana said: "ACE will connect Ghana with 22 countries from South Africa to Portugal to France and other International Gateways."

Ghana already has the WACS cable from MTN, SAT-3 from Vodafone, Glo One from Globacom and the MainOne cable on its shores, which gives the country a huge fiber optic redundancy capacity.



Network in Taipei

The Taiwan Intelligent Fiber Optic Network Consortium (Taifo), a joint venture established in 2012 specifically to establish a fiber optic communications network around Taipei City, began construction during May.

Initially Taifo plans to deploy the fiber optic network in three administrative districts, to reach coverage of 20 percent, about 40,000 household users, by the end of 2013. The city government hopes that the fiber optic network can cover 80 percent of households around the city by the end of 2015.

Taiwan-based Tai Tung Communication, the major shareholder of Taifo with a 72 percent stake, will supply fiber optic cables for the project.



High temperature fire resistant cables

LS Cable & System has developed fire resistant cables able to withstand temperatures up to 1,000°C. The new products are designed to supply power and signals for over three hours, to allow people to leave in safety.

Existing fire resistant cables can withstand temperatures up to 750°C, but the new cables will withstand extreme conditions, such as physical impact caused by collapse of a building and water spray for fire extinguishing. The products ensure stable operation of fire fighting and prevention facilities during fire, keeping human and property damages to a minimum. The company has also developed silicon-insulated fire resistant cable and fire resistant optical fiber cable.

LS Cable & System has obtained all international standard certifications, the IEC (International Engineering Consortium), the BS (British Standards) and the EN (European Standards).

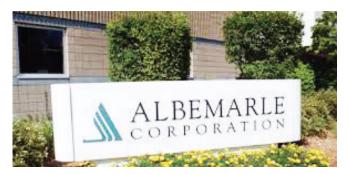


Smart grid in Kazakhstan

The US trade and development agency (USTDA) has awarded a grant to the Kazakhstan electricity distribution company, JSC Alatau Zharyk (AZHK), to provide a feasibility study on a distribution automation project in the Almaty region.

The USTDA grant will allow JSC Alatau Zharyk to determine the economic, technical and financial feasibility of an electric power distribution automation smart grid project. By implementing a modern supervisory control and data acquisition system, an outage management system, distribution management systems and smart meters, the company will be able to improve efficiency, thereby reducing power generation needs.

AZHK is the electric power distribution company for the Almaty region and, as such, is responsible for supplying electricity to more than 2.2 million customers over more than 35,000 kilometers of power lines.



Flame retardant joint venture

Albemarle Corporation and Senze Meilu Company of Shanxi, China, have signed definitive agreements to establish a joint venture company in Lvliang, Shanxi. Upon final approval from the relevant government authorities in China, the venture, Albemarle Senze Chemicals (Shanxi) Company Ltd, will build and operate a new 50,000 tonnes facility to manufacture Martinal[®] fine precipitated alumina trihydrate (ATH) flame retardants based on Albemarle's proprietary technology, principally used in wire and cable applications.

Production at the new facility is expected to begin in mid-2015. Albemarle, as majority stakeholder, will market Martinal on behalf of the joint venture in the Asia-Pacific and Indian markets.

Fine precipitated alumina trihydrate is an environmentally friendly, mineral-based flame retardant and smoke suppressant, used in a variety of polyolefin resins. The largest and fastest growing application is in low-smoke wire and cable applications within the energy sector, which is benefitting from rising energy consumption in China and other rapidly developing economies throughout Asia-Pacific.



Heated cables in action

The Lianzi fields, situated in an offshore zone between the Republic of Congo and Angola, are to be connected to the Benguela Belize Lobito Tomboco (BBLT).

Nexans has been contracted to supply what is believed to be the world's deepest water direct electrical heating (DEH) system, at depths between 390m and 1,070m. The DEH package will include a DEH riser cable, armored feeder cable, and a 43km piggyback cable with an integrated protection system. They will connect to the pipeline between the Lianzi subsea facilities and the BBLT platform.

DEH was developed to protect the well stream as it courses through the pipeline to the platform. Alternating current transmitted from the DEH cable runs through the steel in the pipe and heats it.

Nexans says that, by controlling the current, the pipeline inner wall can be maintained above the critical temperature for wax and hydrate formation.

The Lianzi DEH cables will be manufactured at the Nexans factory in Halden, Norway, for delivery in summer 2014.

Aircraft system powered by laser over fiber

LaserMotive has launched InvisiTower, believed to be the world's first tethered vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft system powered by laser over optical fiber. The portable system is designed to power any multi-rotor helicopter using laser power, sent via fiber optic cable. The system allows aircraft to stay in the air for as long as power is available on the ground.

"The beauty of the InvisiTower system is that it allows unlimited flight, even in small systems, because fiber optics are much lighter than copper wires," said Tom Nugent, president and CEO of LaserMotive.

"In addition, it is safer because the fiber cable is non conductive – it won't conduct lightning or short-out power lines – and no high voltages are needed. The laser energy is completely contained, and interlocked in case the cable is damaged, so there are no laser safety issues."

InvisiTower can be used for applications in both the military and civilian markets, including ISR and situational awareness, communications relay, news and sports reporters, first responders, and industrial facility security.

Unique steel screw

Dongguan City Yuhuang Electronic Technology Co Ltd has been instrumental in the development a custom square steel zip tie screw for ILG, based in California. Over a period of three years, various other factories had been approached to manufacture the fastener, but all failed due to the complicated manufacturing procedure. Dongguan City Yuhuang Electronic Technology Co Ltd is the first to succeed.



"It is really miraculous that Dongguan City Yuhuang Electronic Technology produced such a complicated screw in only 20 days... Visiting their production facilities and working closely together with them has made me very happy and also extremely confident in their manufacturing capabilities," said Bruce Scott, founder of ILG.

Recently Dongguan City Yuhuang Electronic Technology also helped manufacture an ultra-thin head specialty screw for another US client that specializes in manufacturing accessories for Apple products. Founded in 1988, Dongguan City Yuhuang Electronic Technology Co Ltd produces a wide selection of screw, nuts, bolts, rivets and a variety of other fasteners and custom designs with GB, Japan's JIS, the United States ANSI, the German DIN, and BS British Standards.

Cleanroom power and data

Helukabel has launched its Cleanflex series of cleanroom approved power and data cables. The UL/CSA-approved, shielded and unshielded cables are suitable for use in the continuous flexing, cable track equipped machinery used in semiconductor and electronics manufacturing.



To prevent dust or microscopic particles originating from materials within the cable during continuous flex operations, Helukabel designed the Cleanflex with a special polyurethane (PUR) outer jacket to minimize the release of cable dust into the air.

Cleanflex cables are flame retardant and halogen free (LSZH), and resistant to oil, UV and chemicals such as solvents, acids, alkalis and hydraulic fluids. They can withstand high levels of mechanical stresses and alternating bending cycles, and are tear, abrasion and impact resistant, even at cold temperatures. The Cleanflex line is suitable for cleanroom environments at temperatures between -40°C and +80°C, application dependent. If radiation is present, Cleanflex cables can withstand up to 100 Mrads of exposure.

The Cleanflex-HF power cable is available in sizes from 20 to 14 AWG, while the shielded HF-C power cable is available in 20-16 AWG. The Cleanflex-HF and twisted-pair, shielded HF-TP-C data cables range is between 24 AWG and 22 AWG. Each power and data cable comes in varying conductor configurations.

In addition to UL and CSA, Cleanflex cables are CE approved for machine builders exporting to Europe.

Training Canada

Fiber optic training specialist The Light Brigade, a division of AFL, will provide six of its open class training sessions in Canada this summer and fall. The classes derive from the company's Fiber Optics 1-2-3 and Fiber Optics for Oil and Gas programs.

"We are seeing a significant need for more fiber optic training in the oil and gas industry and plan to offer this training to our Canadian customers," stated Jim Clodfelter, marketing manager for The Light Brigade.

"Our fiber optic oil and gas course features 12 hours of classroom training and 12 hours of hands-on skills labs that are designed to provide our attendees with the practical understanding and the skills required to properly design, install, and maintain fiber optic systems in petrochemical environments such as offshore drilling, pipeline, refineries, and process plants."

The four-day Fiber Optics 1-2-3 courses comprise 16 hours of classroom training and 16 hours of practical sessions, and cover design, installation, and maintenance of fiber optic communications systems in telco, broadband access, and premises applications. Students use the latest fiber optic technology and equipment to learn how to splice, connectorize, test, and troubleshoot networks.

Micro and nano cables



Miniature electronics continue to add circuit functions and increased circuit speed while reducing size and increasing portability. As the number of circuit functions increase, the resulting wire harnesses must support a mixture of signal paths, power lines, twisted pairs and other detector lines.

Omnetics' design team works directly with system engineers to optimize cable size, flexibility and current carrying capacity to ensure they meet the size and performance expected. Individual wiring inside cables are usually assembled with insulated copper wire composed of 7 or 19 strands per wire, but when flexibility is critical, stranding of up to 37 wires can be used. In some cases, cable routing requires "T" shaped breakouts for signal "drop-off" points that require precision wiring and shielding management. A method of over-molding at those breakouts and at the final termination points is often the best solution. This over-molding is done as part of the cable assembly process before testing.

When diameter is not critical, but flexibility or low flex resistance is important, cables with loose insulation jackets can be used to allow the wiring to bend more easily inside the overall jacketing material. Waterproofing is often specified within portable military and medical interconnections, probes and catheters and in some cases, special seals, boots and/or materials are selected to provide sealing, anti-bacterial protection as well as sterilization. Omnetics can be found in healthcare and military electronics, from dental cameras to UAVs.

Custom designed nano cables from device. Once configured and integrated the SmartLinc can be left unattended. without the need for ongoing monitoring.

Micrometer/control interface



LaserLinc has introduced the SmartLinc™ processor, a device for direct interface between LaserLinc's laser micrometers and control systems.

The processor is said to integrate easily into the line control system, communicating via ethernet or serial port to the PLC. A single unit provides a communications link for one, two, or three of LaserLinc's full line of single, dual, and triple-axis laser scanning micrometers. To simplify communication management, the processor transmits data to the PLC at user-defined intervals and to user-specified locations in the PLC via tags.

Straightforward configuration and diagnostics tools enable the user to access and manage all SmartLinc devices over the plant network, or by ethernet connection from a laptop directly to a SmartLinc

Live line maintenance

The latest development from National Fire Fighting and Manufacturing (NAFFCO) will facilitate high voltage lines maintenance without interrupting the electricity supply. The live line maintenance unit is an advanced version of NAFFCO's aerial insulated access platform unit, but with a much higher capability. It can reach up to 215 feet (65m) in height whilst facilitating maintenance works at 500,000 volts.

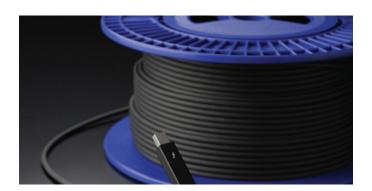
This unit is equipped with a centralized auto lube system that reduces the need for human intervention. The CTIS (central tire inflation system) allows it to work in deserts and off-road situations; the operator can inflate or deflate tires from the cabin. Its robust telescopic and articulated boom is foam-filled to prevent humidity and thus making it insulated for additional safety.



This unit exceeds the IEC 1057 approval for maintenance vehicles.

"We have undergone the most stringent testing for our live line maintenance unit, which can carry 500lbs to scale 65 meters [and] which has been tested at a world record 1,250,000 volts," said Engineer Mohammad Nadeem Siddiqui, regional export director of NAFFCO.

World's thinnest Thunderbolt?



Intel Corporation has given certification to Sumitomo Electric Industries Ltd for its thin Thunderbolt cable. Mass production of the cable began in May.

Based on Intel's Thunderbolt technology, Sumitomo Electric has developed thin cables, reducing a 4.2mm diameter to 3.2mm without sacrificing performance. The thin Thunderbolt cable will be available in lengths of 0.3m, 0.5m, 1m and 2m, and in black or white. The new range will be added to the existing 15 products (12 metal and three optical cables).

The thin Thunderbolt cables have an approximately 25 percent smaller outer diameter. Transmission data rates will not to be compromised by the construction, and high-speed 10Gbps standards are maintained.



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Send us the details and a photograph for our new Products, Machines & Technology section in wiredInUSA.

To make sure your editorial is published in the July edition – send us the details by **21**st **June**

All editorial should be sent to editor David Bell at **david@wiredinusa.com**

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