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June 2014 issue - No 36

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#36 EDITOR

With one eye firmly on the future, Georgia Power is installing three solar generation facilities on US Army bases at Fort Stewart, Fort Benning and Fort Gordon, enhancing the state's reputation as a solar leader. Each of the sites will be capable of producing 30MW AC of solar energy and will be online by the end of 2016. You can read the full story on page 9.

Whilst looking to the future is important, it is also good to glance backwards and delve into history occasionally. That's why it is sad in this issue to report that the company that made fasteners for the airplane that Charles Lindbergh flew solo across the Atlantic in has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. John Hassall Inc has told all 83 employees that it could close in July. The full story can be found on page 10.

And ever fancied owning a part of the the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France? Then here is your opportunity. Rivets from the tower, which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, are on sale in the souvenir shop at the famous site, which regularly undergoes maintenance and replacement work. The 1,063ft tall structure is visited by seven million people each year. Catch up on that maintenance work on page 29.

David Bell
Editor

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2014 issue

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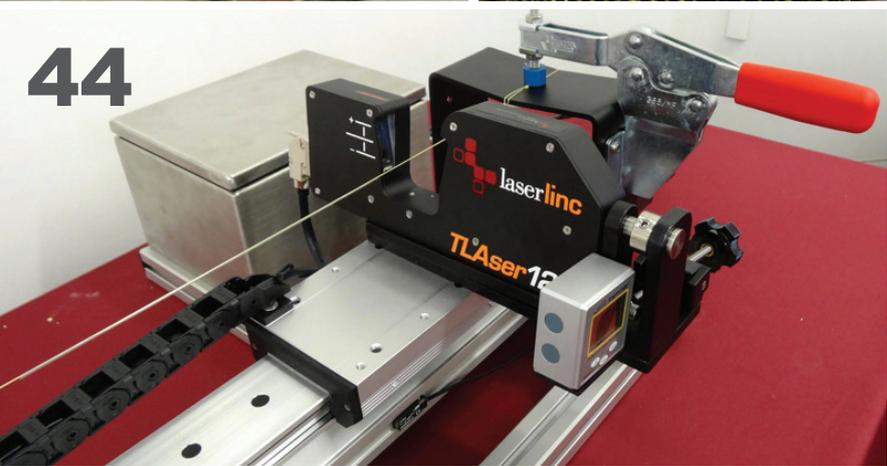


29



37

44



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34



DIARY SHOW EVENTS

2014

JUNE

16-18 June: **Guangzhou International**
Guangzhou, China
Exhibition
www.metalchina-gz.com

17-18 June: **Polymers in Cables**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Conference
www.amiplastics-na.com

SEPTEMBER

24-27 September: **wire China 2014**
Shanghai, China
Exhibition
www.wirechina.net

OCTOBER

28-30 October: **wire India**
Mumbai, India
Exhibition
www.wire-india.com

NOVEMBER

9-12 November: **IWCS**
Rhode Island, USA
Conference and table top exhibition
www.iwcs.org

2015

APRIL

28-30 April: **Interwire 2015**
Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Exhibition
www.wirenet.org



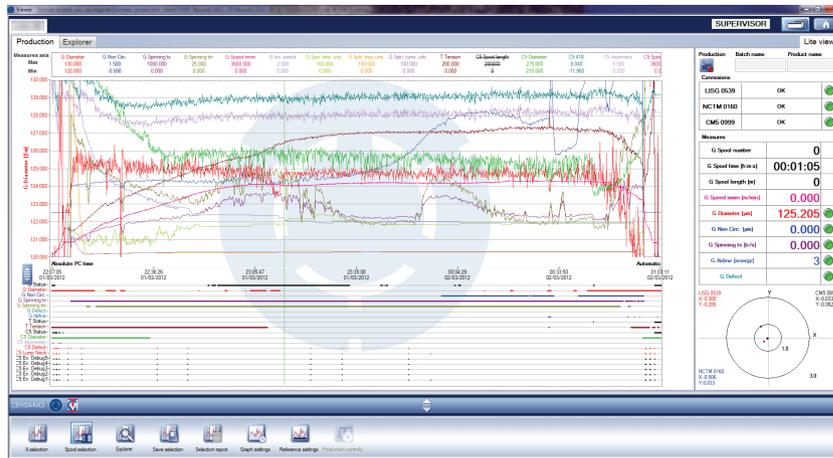
Measure & Control Instruments

OPTICAL FIBRES

Measurement Instruments

In line data collection,
display, record and report

CIM PC software:



LIS-Glass:

Laser Interferometric Sensor

- Diameter repeatability: $\pm 0.005\mu\text{m}$ at 50kHz
- Diameter uncertainty: $\pm 0.15\mu\text{m}$
- Defect detection 75kHz, event recording
- Ultra fine air line detection, $0.3\mu\text{m}$, 400Hz
- Fibre position: $\pm 2\text{mm}$ range $\pm 0.1\text{mm}$, 1kHz
- Spinning frequency profile
- Fibre no circularity measurement

NCTM:

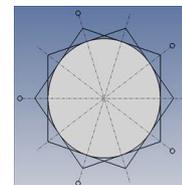
Non Contact Tension Measurement
(Drawing force Birefringence principle)

- 0-400 grams $\pm 1\text{gram}$, 1kHz
- Measurement field: 4mm \varnothing
- $\pm 1\text{ gr}$ within 10-40°C ambient

CM5:

Coating Monitor 5 axes

- Absolute diameter: $\pm 0.2\mu\text{m}$, 400Hz
- XY Positions $\pm 0.1\text{mm}$ 1kHz
- 5 axes Lump & Neck: $\pm 2\mu\text{m}$, 3.6MHz sampling
- Coating asymmetry: 30Hz
- Internal defect detection: 800kHz (Airlines, bubbles, inclusions, delaminations...)



Others:

- AIR (AIRline detector)
- LDS-T (Laser Diffraction Sensor for transparent product)

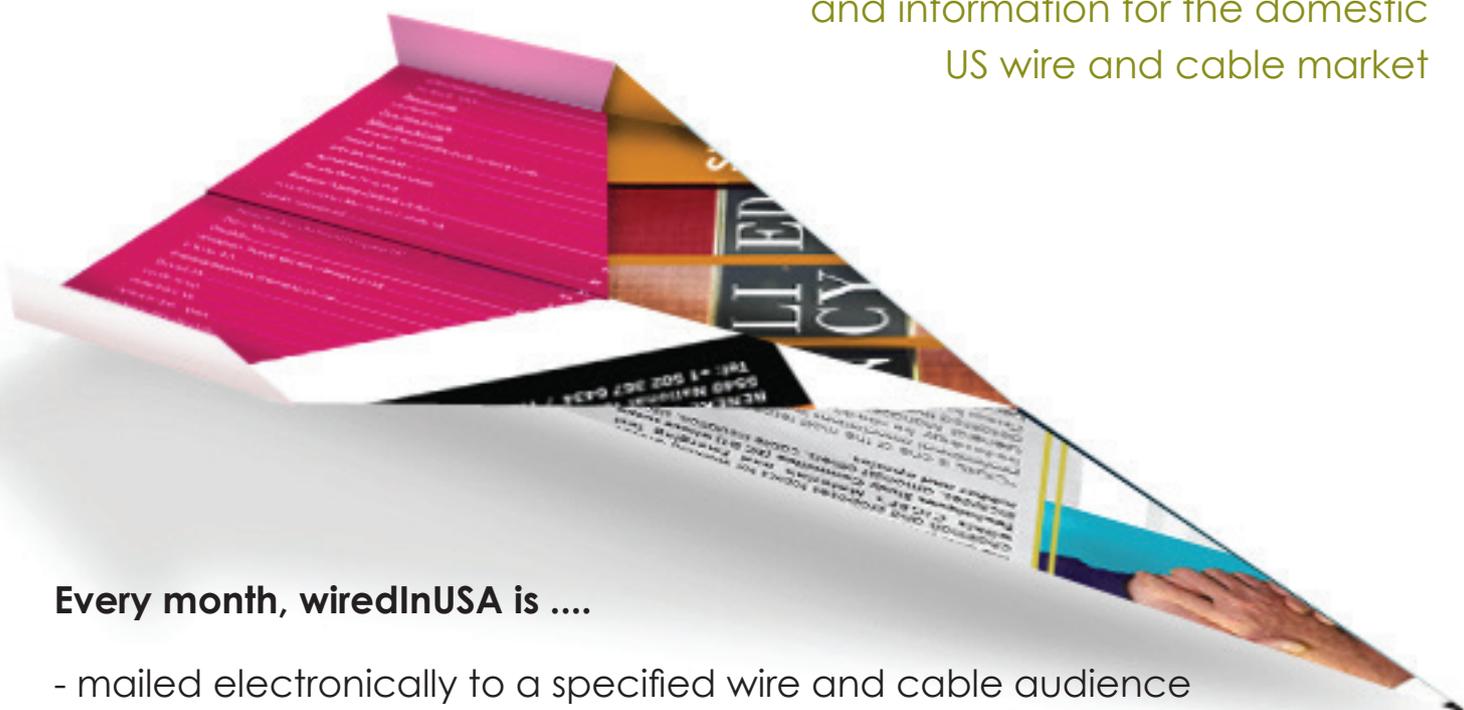
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MAKING THE NEWS

Army bases go solar

Georgia Power plans to build, own and operate three solar generation facilities on US Army bases in the state, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016. The facilities will each be capable of producing approximately 30MW AC of solar energy, and will be located at Fort Stewart near Savannah, Fort Benning near Columbus and Fort Gordon near Augusta.

“Through constructive regulation and thoughtful energy policy planning, Georgia is leading the way in developing cost-effective solar generation for customers,” said Norrie McKenzie, vice president of renewable development for Georgia Power.

“The agreement with the US Army not only marks another step for Georgia Power’s solar initiatives, but further enhances the state’s position as a solar leader and will strengthen both the bases and the surrounding communities.”

As part of the review and approval of the company’s 2007 integrated resource plan, the Georgia Public Service Commission approved the development of three cost-effective renewable projects of less than 30MW to be owned by Georgia Power. All three projects will be brought online at, or below, the company’s avoided cost – the amount projected it would cost the company to generate comparable energy from other sources.

In addition to the new solar projects with the US Army, Georgia Power anticipates more than 500 new solar projects will be brought online in the coming years through existing solar programs including the Large-Scale Solar initiative and Georgia Power Advanced Solar initiative.

St. Louis - Charles A. Lindbergh
10th May
1927
and the Spirit of St. Louis



Lindbergh's fastener supplier files for bankruptcy

A company that made fasteners for the airplane that Charles Lindbergh flew solo across the Atlantic has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and notified employees that it could close by July. John Hassall Inc could lay off all 83 employees, the company said in a regulatory filing.

According to the notice, the potential closure is due to economic factors.

In a published report Richard Bennett, a financial consultant for Hassall, said the company has enough financing to continue operations, and it hopes to emerge intact from the bankruptcy proceedings.

Hassall makes custom designed metal parts and fasteners for the aerospace, automotive and defense industries. The 157-year-old company says its products have ranged from metal parts on Lindbergh's Spirit of St Louis, to high-strength bolts for modern jet engines.

The company has suffered 'declining revenue as a result of the general downturn' in the industries it serves and the economy as a whole, and its sales during the first quarter were lower than expected, president and chief executive Theodore B Smith III wrote in a court affidavit.

Fiber joint venture in Brazil

Sterlite Technologies Ltd has entered into a joint venture agreement with Condu spar Condutores Eletricos Limitada (Condu spar). Condu spar specializes in copper and aluminum cables for low and medium voltage applications in Latin America.

The 50:50 joint venture will be a greenfield facility in Curitiba within the state of Parana

(Brazil), producing optical fiber cables for the Latin American markets. Among the fastest growing markets for fiber cable, Latin America has an annual demand of over 10 million kilometers of fiber. This venture will be a milestone in Sterlite's global expansion strategy.



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First solar tower in Arizona

Solar Wind Energy Tower Inc has announced a joint financing venture with National Standard Finance, LLC to develop the Solar Wind Energy Tower project in San Luis, Arizona.

Under the proposed terms, National Standard will fund the purchase of the renewable energy equipment and power station as well as cover development costs, then lease the equipment to Solar Wind Energy Tower Inc under a 20-year agreement. A definitive agreement is yet to be finalized.

Solar Wind Energy Tower is utilizing its Energy Generation Calculator software to calculate and predict energy production from local weather data. By feeding the weather data into the program, the tower's height and diameter can be adjusted along with the amount of water added as fuel to create a desired amount of energy.

The outcome dictates the tower's optimum height and width. Under the most recent design specifications, the tower has a design capacity on an hourly basis of up to 1,250MW hours/hour. Due to lower capacities during winter days, the average hourly output per day for sale to the grid for the entire year is approximately 435MW hours/hour.

Facility expansion

Fastenal Company, a distributor of fasteners, tools and construction materials, is to expand its operations in Indianapolis.

The Minnesota-based company will invest \$13 million to construct and equip a 167,000ft² addition to its current 900,000ft² regional distribution facility in Indianapolis. The facility, which will be fully operational by the end of year, will allow the company to expand its national corporate distribution.



"Indianapolis' geographically central location enhances our ability to service

our customers in a timely manner," said Terry M Hanley, regional operations manager of Fastenal. "We are excited about our continued expansion in the city and state." Fastenal, which currently employs approximately 18,000 employees worldwide, including more than 950 in Indiana, plans to begin hiring for additional full-time positions this summer.

Founded in 1967, Fastenal serves original equipment manufacturers, construction companies and maintenance and repair operations.

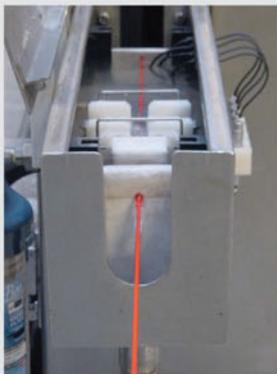
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The utility wants to bring the line in service for 2018, believing the line would make the system more stable once a link from Muskrat Falls in Labrador to the island is in full operation.

Company vice president Rob Henderson said that Muskrat Falls will significantly change the power system, and that upgrading the corridor between the Bay d'Espoir and western Avalon terminal stations is essential to provide additional capacity and to relieve congestion.

Approval sought for hydro line

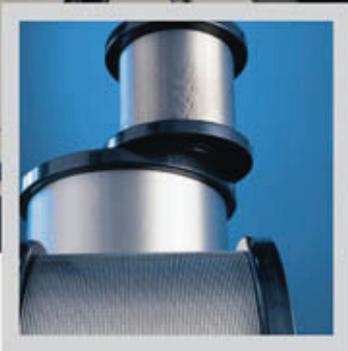
Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro has approached the provincial utilities regulator for approval of a new \$291.7 million transmission line from Bay d'Espoir to the Avalon Peninsula.

The company says the line would also improve the supply of energy to growth areas in the Avalon region. It has filed an application for the 230kV line with the board of commissioners of public utilities.

The Muskrat Falls hydro project was originally scheduled to begin operations in 2017, but construction has been delayed.

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The Quality Connection

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Cumberland fills a gap

Chant Engineering has acquired Cumberland Equipment Line, a division of Cumberland Sales Company (CSC) of Nashville.

Cumberland Equipment Line specializes in products from take-up and payout equipment to turntables and meter stands. Cumberland's gantry style take-up machine is rated at 5,000 to 60,000lb reeling capacity, and is well known for the heavy duty capabilities required for big rigging shops as well as providing the perfect degree of back tension required for efficient wire rope spooling.

"This is a fantastic acquisition for Chant Engineering and we are very excited," said Philip Chant, president of Chant Engineering. "This was the one machinery line we did not make or distribute."

Started in 1970, Chant Engineering has steadily developed its brand as a global, diversified engineering company that designs, manufactures, services and calibrates testing machines, systems and related accessories for worldwide industrial and military customers. With the addition of the Cumberland Equipment Line, Chant now offers the complete equipment range required for rigging shops.

The recent acquisition comes on the heels of Chant's facility expansion (January 2014) and partnership with Talurit AB (2012). "Chant Engineering has had phenomenal growth, and this acquisition will only enhance our position as the premier machinery supplier to the rigging industry," added Mr Chant.



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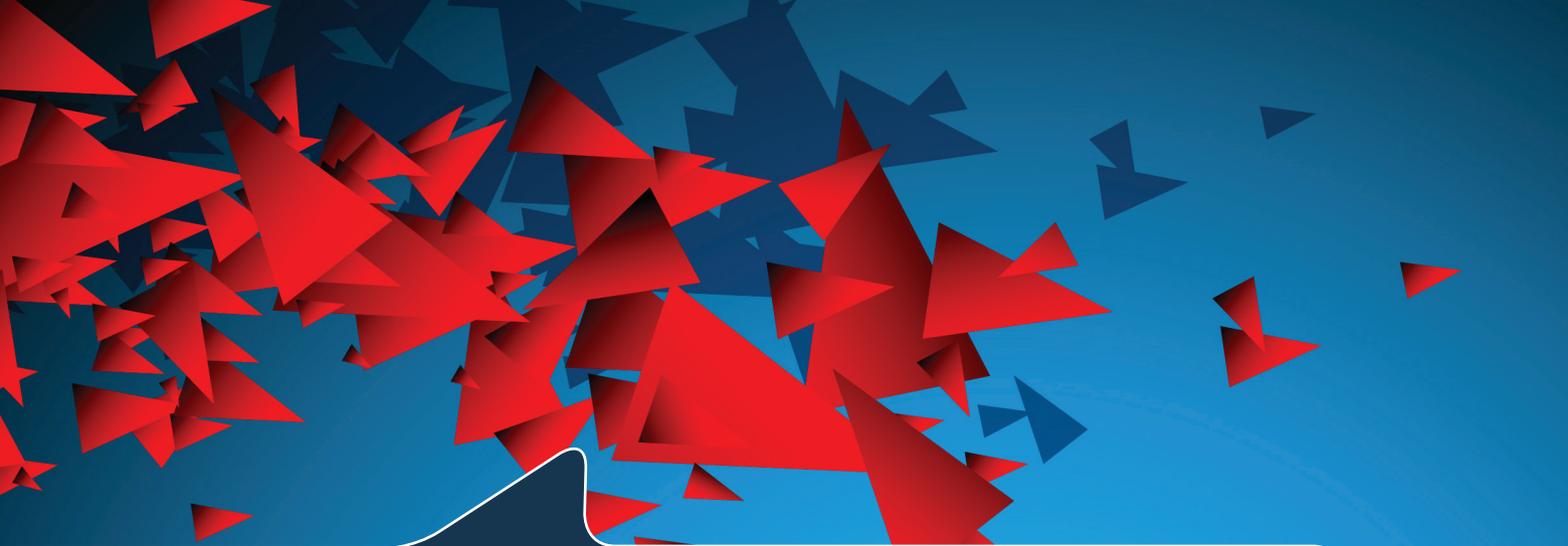
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Environmental efforts

The Superior Essex copper data cable manufacturing facility at Hoisington, Kansas has achieved a 98 percent landfill waste diversion rate for 2013, believed to be an industry-leading environmental milestone for the cable manufacturing industry. As a consequence of the plant's sustainability practices, over 4,000,000lb of waste were recycled or reused instead of being sent to a landfill.

Landfill waste diversion is defined as the prevention and reduction of generated waste through source reduction, recycling, reuse, or composting.

"This achievement in landfill waste diversion is an example of the high goals we have set for ourselves in environmental stewardship. It is important

to Superior Essex that we not only improve our sustainability performance each year, but that we also achieve performance levels that are considered world-class for any manufacturing industry," stated Lindsay Allen, vice president of marketing for Superior Essex International LP.

Superior Essex has also announced that its communications cable products are now fully compliant with the EU's RoHS 2 directive and the REACH restricted substances list. While compliance with RoHS 2 and REACH are not required under US or Canadian law, these directives are being utilized by North American agencies and companies to ensure environmental standards in the products they buy.

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Interrelated transmission projects underway

National Grid is to begin construction of a 15.4-mile 345kV electric transmission line project, following approval by the Massachusetts energy facilities siting board (EFSB).

The transmission line is part of a 75-mile 345kV transmission line known as the Interstate Reliability Project (IRP) planned for construction by National Grid in the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and by the Connecticut Light and Power Company in Connecticut.

The \$512 million Interstate Reliability Project is one of the interrelated 345kV transmission projects developed by ISO-New England, National Grid and Northeast Utilities, collectively known as the New England East-West Solution (NEEWS). National Grid's total investment in NEEWS projects in Rhode

Island and Massachusetts is expected to be around \$800 million.

"Investments like the NEEWS transmission projects are a perfect example of National Grid's commitment to help design, build, and operate an energy infrastructure that is responsive to 21st century needs," said Marcy Reed, president of National Grid in Massachusetts. "By strengthening the network in New England, NEEWS will improve operational flexibility, reduce congestion costs, and help integrate cleaner generation resources."

National Grid has already completed one 345kV NEEWS transmission project in Rhode Island, put in service in 2013, and is scheduled to complete two additional Rhode Island transmission lines by the end of 2015.

Metro hiring



Mark McCormick has been appointed as sales consultant for Metro Wire and Cable, Georgia. He joins Metro after serving in several capacities within the wire, cable, and electrical distribution industries.

McCormick will be working with customers in and around the southeast portion of the US, including but not limited to Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida,

Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Based on his previous experience, McCormick will be primarily focused on the industrial, contractor, fire and security, utility, and OEM client segments. Richard Wade, southeast regional sales manager said of the appointment: "Mark has a proven track record of providing customers top level customer service. We are excited to have him join our growing team and look forward to his growth within our growing branch and company."

The New Wire Drawing Standard

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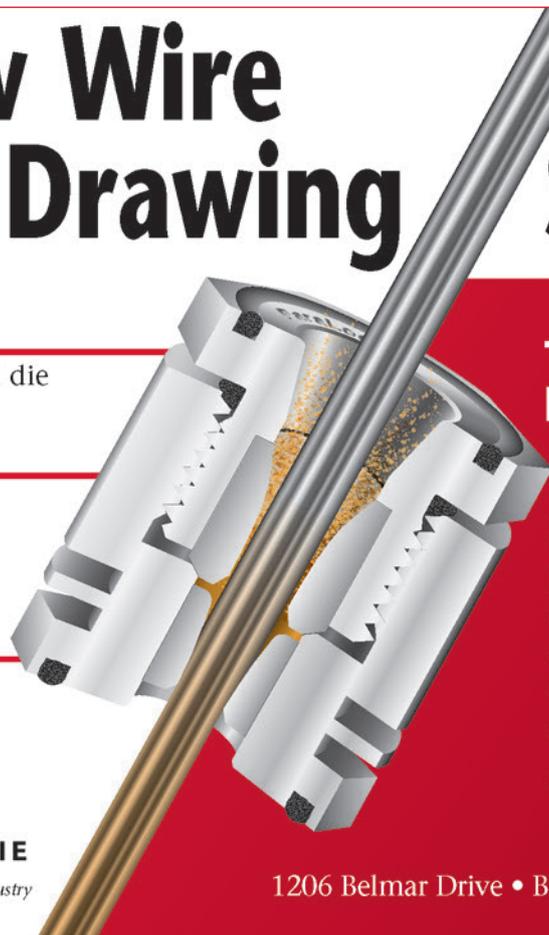
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Latin American wire investments

ArcelorMittal and Bekaert are investing in a Dramix steel fiber plant in Costa Rica. Having worked together in the region since 1975, the companies have reached a zero-cash agreement involving the mutual exchange of shares in Brazil, Ecuador and Costa Rica.

In Brazil, ArcelorMittal will transfer a 55 percent stake in its Belgo Bekaert Arames (BBA) ropes plant to the Bekaert group. Bekaert Cimaf Cabos Ltda will now be wholly owned by Bekaert, while BBA will continue to supply rope wires as semi-finished products. This transaction does not affect ArcelorMittal's control of the shareholding structure of BBA, a partnership established with Bekaert in Brazil in 1997.

In Costa Rica, where ArcelorMittal produces 370,000 tonnes of long carbon steel per year, the agreement involves the drawn wires business. It excludes the company's steel production business (100 percent controlled by ArcelorMittal).

In the drawn wires segment, the respective shareholding will be 27 percent (ArcelorMittal) and 73 percent (Bekaert), including the existing steel wire plant and a new Dramix steel fibers plant which will start production in the second quarter of 2014. Initial batches will use wire rod produced by ArcelorMittal Monlevade, in Brazil, and then by ArcelorMittal Point Lisas (Trinidad & Tobago).

In Ecuador, ArcelorMittal will take a 27 percent participation in Ideal Alambrec, a steel wire business controlled by Bekaert.

Leadership transition

General Cable Corporation has appointed Robert (Bob) Kenny as president and chief executive officer of General Cable Europe and Mediterranean, with effect from 1st August. He will succeed Emmanuel Sabonnadiere, who will assist Mr Kenny in the transition and continue to represent the company in certain of its business investments, including its Algerian joint venture.

Mr Kenny holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering with a minor in mathematics from Ohio Northern university. He has over 25 years of experience in the wire and cable industry, and has been named in more than 50 published patents in the US and Europe.

He joined General Cable in 2007 as the vice president and general manager of its data communications business and quickly assumed responsibility for the product portfolio throughout Europe. In 2013, he was promoted to senior vice president and general manager of the company's global communications business.

CEO Gregory B Kenny, said: "The Europe and Mediterranean region is an important part of General Cable's global strategy, and is home to many of our leading technologies as well as two of our most visible global businesses. Bob is intimately knowledgeable of our European business, and his strong technical and professional background positions him well for this job. He is extremely customer focused, very creative and team oriented. I am pleased that we were able to promote from within our organization for this critical role, and I welcome him to the global operating committee of General Cable."



NYC solar installation

The Ross Solar Group has completed the largest single SunPower rooftop solar installation in the borough of Queens. The 327kW system was designed and constructed for Ovation In Store Inc and comprises 1,000 SunPower solar panels. The system is expected to generate over 392,000kW hours of energy per year, and cover 100 percent of Ovation In Store's electricity needs for its warehouse and manufacturing facility.

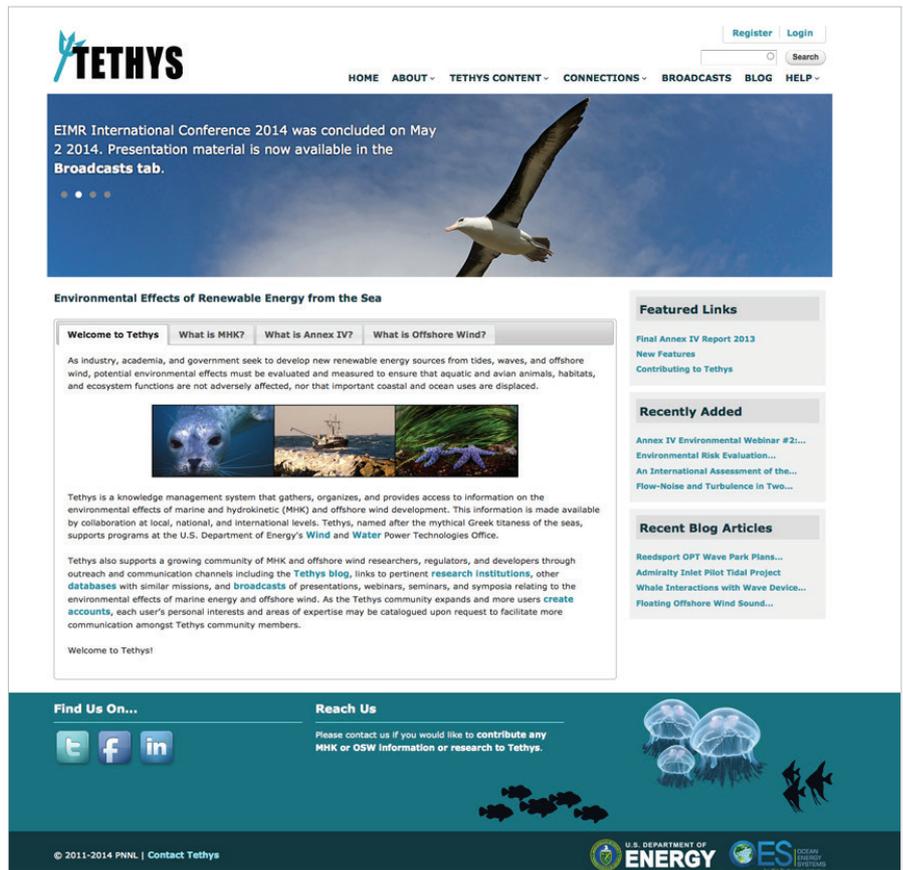
Ovation In Store creates unique in-store retail solutions for some of the world's largest brands including Clinique, L'Oreal, Donna Karan, and Bed Bath & Beyond.

"This solar project is a great fit for us as a company because it combines

cutting edge technology with a forward thinking philosophy," said Ovation In Store president Ben Weshler.

The solar system installation was funded in part by awards from the New York state energy research and development authority (NYSERDA) through Governor Cuomo's NY-Sun initiative.

"We are thrilled to partner with a company like Ovation In Store, implementing leading technology that will deliver operational savings for the company and help secure a reliable renewable energy future for New York," said Robert Kline, director of commercial sales for Ross Solar.



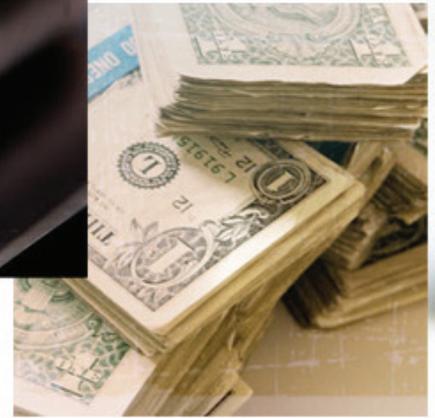
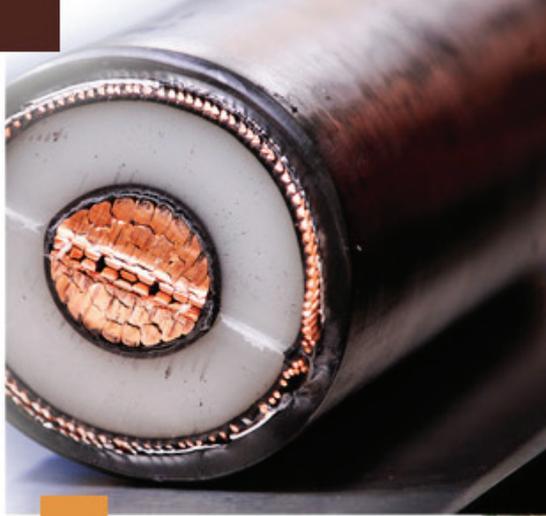
OCEAN ENERGY DATABASE

Tethys is an online resource available for free to anyone interested in ocean energy and offshore wind resources. The site, named after the Greek goddess of the sea, focuses on the environmental effects of proposed, underway or completed ocean energy projects.

The site was created by marine scientists and IT specialists at the department of energy's Pacific northwest national laboratory (PNNL) based in Richland, Washington.

The database includes scientific papers, technical reports, regulatory applications on file with federal and international bodies, and maps that show the locations of research studies and project sites under development around the world.

The website also serves as a virtual community to give users the opportunity to comment on new research, seek advice, inform peers about regulatory developments, or to find potential collaborators. The site is aimed at project developers, regulators, scientists, students, and anyone interested in the effects of marine energy projects on the environment.



Prestressed duties

It is reported that the US commerce department has approved a policy of anti-dumping duties on prestressed concrete steel rail tie wire imported from China and Mexico. The wire is used in commuter and high-speed rail line applications. The petitioners for the investigations were Insteel Wire Products Company and Davis Wire Corporation.

The duties are said to be 9.99 percent for imports from Mexico, and between 31.4 percent and 35.3 percent for steel wire imports from China. There will be no duties imposed on wire from Thailand.

A final decision will be made on 12th June to determine the final dumping duties.

China is said to have exported steel wire worth \$31.1million to the US during 2013, and Mexico shipped wire to the value of \$21.3million.

Fiber optic for Guantánamo

The US defense department has awarded a \$31 million contract to Xtera Communications Inc to build Guantánamo's undersea fiber optic cable, connecting the US base in southeast Cuba with South Florida.

The project is a major investment in upgrading services at the remote base for around 6,000 residents, including 2,200 soldiers and other temporary staff at the prison camp currently holding 154 captives.

The work has an estimated completion date of December 2015.



Further approval for wind project

Jericho Wind Inc has received a further key approval for its 92-turbine wind project in Lambton and Middlesex counties. The Ontario energy board has approved the construction of a collection substation and transmission line. The Jericho Wind Energy Centre will be connected to the Bornish customer switching station by 15.7km of 115kV line for delivery to the power grid.

The environment ministry approved the 150MW wind energy project in May 2014. Construction is expected to begin in Lambton Shores, Warwick and Middlesex County during this spring.

Buried power proposal

Developers are proposing a \$1.2 billion hydropower transmission line to run beneath Lake Champlain from the Canadian border to Benson and Ludlow.

The New England Clean Power Link will carry 1,000MW of high voltage direct current through two plastic-covered cables and is planned to be completed by 2019. The project will be financed by investors, with charges made to electricity companies that choose to use it.

Project manager Josh Bagnato said the line will diversify the energy supply in the greater New England region where the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant and nearly 30 coal- and gas-fired facilities (representing over 25 percent of the area's generation capacity) are set for closure.



EUROPE NEWS

Picture : www.bigstockphoto.com 'Spring' Photographer - 'Rafal Steciuk'



Riveting anniversary for tower

The iconic iron lattice Eiffel Tower, constructed with 2.5 million rivets, is 125 years old this year.

The 1,063ft structure is equivalent in height to an 81-story building and visited by seven million people annually.

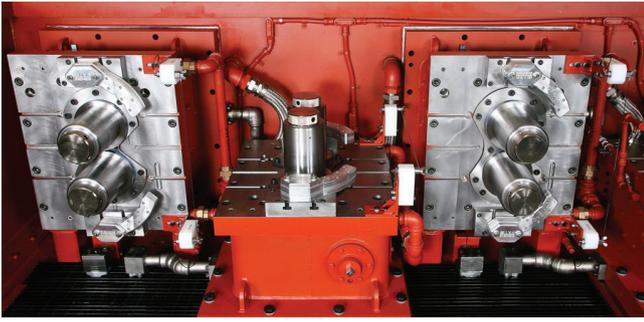
French engineer Gustave Eiffel designed and constructed the tower in 1889 for the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. Around 300 laborers installed the rivets, and 18,038 pieces of wrought iron, in a temporary structure expected to last only 20 years.

Meticulous maintenance of its rivets are key to the tower's longevity and rivets are

regularly inspected and replaced. Other vital iron fixings include anchorage for the 'shoe' of the tower ironwork. Each shoe was anchored into limestone blocks and held by a pair of bolts, 4 inches wide and 25 feet long.

There are 3,629 detailed drawings showing the design's complex angles and including the position of rivet holes within 0.1mm (0.04"). Components riveted in sub-assemblies were delivered by horse-drawn carts. The components were initially bolted, and rivets replaced the bolts during construction.

Sample rivets are sold in the Eiffel Tower gift shop.



Copper rod mill to go to China

Siemens Metals Technologies has received an order from the Southwire Company, Georgia, USA, to supply a copper rod system to the industrial materials company Guangqing Copper Co Ltd of Liao Cheng, China. The new mill is designed to produce 230,000 tonnes of copper rod per year and will be located in Lioacheng City, Shandong Province. Commissioning is expected in late 2015.

Siemens will be responsible for the engineering, manufacturing and commissioning of the rolling mill and coiler equipment for a Southwire SCR 4500 rolling mill to produce ETP copper. The contract scope includes 11 independently driven roll stands, which will run 35 tonnes per hour, annually producing 230,000 tonnes of 8mm, 9.5mm, 12.7mm, 16mm and 18mm diameter rods, from 5,430mm² cast bar.

Coil weights will range from two to four tonnes.

The contract also includes a 20-inch rotary shear and table, intermediate shear and downlooper, delivery and pickling system, rollerized turndown, pinch roll, orbital/laid coiler and a coil handling system.



Chile approval for solar-thermal plant

Abengoa has obtained a favorable environmental rating from the authorities of the Chilean environmental service to develop a solar-thermal plant. Using molten salts tower technology, the plant will have a 110MW capacity.

The project is to be located in the Atacama desert. The region has the highest levels of solar radiation in the world, and has been regularly visited by the authorities to perform evaluations as part of the process towards environmental authorization for the project. The evaluation and review committee voted unanimously in favor of the project after verifying the absence of any negative impact during the construction and operations phases. Issues such as use of the land, water, air, emissions and waste were taken into account.

Cerro Dominador will be the first solar-thermal plant for direct electricity production in South America, and the first non-conventional renewable energy plant to serve as a baseload power plant. The scheme will include a thermal storage system that enables electricity to be produced for approximately 18 hours without a solar resource.



Kenyan transmission line for wind farm

Norwegian company DNV GL is advising on the construction of a 400kV high voltage overhead transmission line and substations in Kenya. Designed to strengthen the Kenyan grid and build a connection between the capital, Nairobi, and Lake Turkana Wind Power, the 426km 420kV AC transmission line runs from the national grid at Suswa (80km north-west of Nairobi) to Loiyangalani (south-eastern of Lake Turkana).

Seven of the ten fastest growing economies in the world are in sub-Saharan Africa. This economic growth has created a severe electricity shortage in countries across Eastern and Western Africa, hindering further commercial developments.

The 400kV Kenyan transmission line is supporting the government initiative to harness the country's renewable resources to boost the economy and respond to consumption needs in the capital. Without similar transmission lines, the future development of reliable wind and geothermal sources will be limited and Kenya will be forced to rely on fossil fuels for power generation.



Industry response to EU directive

Karin Ahl, president of the FTTH Council Europe, responded positively to the EU's recent directive on cost reduction: "The FTTH Council Europe welcomes the recent adoption by parliament of the EU directive on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high speed electronic communications networks," she said. "It is an important and necessary step to reduce the costs of civil work for building new fiber networks."

Thomas Neesen, secretary general of Europacable, was also supportive: "If implemented stringently, the new directive will considerably reduce investment costs for broadband infrastructure. This will help to secure and improve Europe's competitiveness in the increasingly digitalised global competition of the 21st century. With that, Europe sets the right priorities."

The FTTH Council Europe hopes that national governments will use this directive as a starting point, and that all countries in Europe will move quickly to FTTH solutions. France and Spain have already taken action in this area and exceed the requirements of the new directive, requiring fiber cabling to be deployed in all new buildings.



Prysmian Group

Aussie grid works

As part of a project to replace and upgrade cables owned by Ausgrid, the state-owned utility of New South Wales, Prysmian has been awarded contracts for the design, manufacture, supply, civil works, installation, and testing of 132kV XLPE underground high voltage cables.

Production will involve multiple Prysmian locations: China will supply approximately 105km of 132kV cable, China and the Netherlands will supply joints and outdoor terminations and Prysmian Australia's Liverpool and Dee Why plants will supply bonding and fiber optic communications cables.

The group is currently involved in many projects in Australia, including Basslink, the Victoria-Tasmania submarine HVDC interconnector.

Cables in store

Prysmian Powerlink has awarded a long-term contract to Netherlands-based OceanWind to supply storage of energy cables and additional preparation services.

OceanWind's cable facilities in Velsen Noord will execute cable handling and provide cable handling equipment. The cables will be stored at one of OceanWind's internal warehouses.



Fastener acquisition

The German Würth Group has acquired US fastener distributor, Timberline Fasteners. Timberline has five branch locations in addition to its Commerce City, Colorado, head office.

Würth Timberline will form part of the industry division as a sister company of Würth Industry of North America (WINA). The acquisition is a step towards Würth Group's plans to double its US industry presence by 2020.

The addition of Würth Timberline expands WINA's presence in the western US and will extend market penetration and diversification. "As we implement our expansion plans, the geographical locations that Würth Timberline occupies will help us be a more complete supplier to our target customer base," said Marc Strandquist, executive vice president of the Würth Group.



Andrew Norman,
CEO of JDR

Cables in Brazil

Subsea umbilicals and power cables provider JDR is opening a new service and maintenance facility in Brazil. The new facility, planned for the port city of Macaé, will be operational in the third quarter of 2014.

JDR specialises in the design and production of steel and thermoplastic subsea production umbilicals, subsea power cables, and intervention workover control systems (IWOCS) as well as offering offshore and field services for the global oil and gas industry.

Andrew Norman, CEO of JDR, said: "The addition of a Brazilian facility is a significant step toward achieving our global growth strategy and a significant milestone in the company's development.

"Our technologies have been at the heart of a number of significant subsea projects throughout the world and we believe that our expertise and our umbilical core competency lend itself to becoming a leading regional supplier of intervention and workover (IWOCS) products, production umbilicals and hydraulic flying leads (HFLs) that will be needed for pre-salt developments in Brazil."

Training for the Future



The gaining of new skills and experience is actively encouraged by the IWMA, through its educational trust fund, for future stars of the wire and cable industry.

The IWMA also realises how important it is not to rest on its laurels and keep one eye very firmly on the future and with that in mind, the Walter Niehoff Scholarship provides funding to train an individual supported by a member company.

Individuals that apply must be an apprentice, student or individual trainee at an institute, training organisation, college, university or other places of research and learning and committed to the study and future employment in the field of engineering applicable to the wire, cable or wire products industries.

Applications from educational and training establishments can also be considered.

The association also considers one of its primary functions is to promote new technology, education and growth in the industry and through conferences and educational seminars provide an international forum for the exchange of technology, regular focused meeting places for the industry and excellent reference sources from our library of past papers.

This is an ideal opportunity to recommend a suitable applicant. For more information visit www.iwma.org or contact the IWMA office.

www.iwma.org

Promoting new technology, education and growth

Here at the IWMA we consider our primary function is to promote new technology, education and growth within the wire and cable industry.

Our conferences and educational seminars provide an international forum for the exchange of technology, regular focused meeting places for the industry and excellent reference sources from our library of past papers.

As a proud industry partner of Messe Düsseldorf GmbH, we offer assistance to members wishing to exhibit at the best international wire exhibitions as well as helping provide excellent

publicity opportunities through the “Wire & Cable News” newsletter and wirefirst.com directory web site.

The IWMA also realizes how important it is not to rest on its laurels and keep one eye very firmly on the future. Through both the IWMA's Educational Trust Fund and its Travel Award scheme we actively encourage the gaining of new skills and experience for future rising stars in the industry.

Visit www.iwma.org for further information on the services provided.

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



Image credit: Flickr User: Global Marine Photos

Subsea broadband project

Alcatel-Lucent and Nextgen Group are to develop a 2,000km undersea cable system between Darwin and Port Hedland, in North West Australia.

The fiber optic cable system will provide high-speed data and voice communication services to the INPEX Ichthys liquefied natural gas and Shell Prelude floating liquefied natural gas projects located in the Browse Basin. Work began in May and is scheduled for completion in 2016.

The Prelude and Ichthys projects will contribute equally to the construction of the system, which will be built by Alcatel-Lucent and owned and operated by the Nextgen Group. The system has a design capacity of over 3.2Tbit/s, with the potential for more than 32Tbit/s.

Ichthys Project managing director Louis Bon said constructing subsea infrastructure of this kind for private customers on the mainland was an Australian first. "This is a great achievement for the Ichthys Project and an excellent example of what collaboration in the oil and gas industry can achieve," he said. "It means that both of these projects, far north of Port Hedland, will be connected to data centers thousands of kilometers away in Perth."

Shell Prelude asset manager Jim Marshall said Prelude FLNG's close proximity to Ichthys represented a significant opportunity for INPEX and Shell to achieve a better technical and commercial outcome, adding: "The subsea cable will give us a highly reliable and stable high-speed voice and data service which is essential for effective and efficient operations at our future offshore facilities."



Steel exports up in April

Tangshan Steel, a subsidiary of Hebei Steel, exported 312,600 tonnes of steel products in April; an increase of 35.5 percent from April 2013.

The steelmaker has made efforts to increase its international market share by upgrading its products and adjusting the product mix. As a result, Tangshan Steel has increased its sale of steel products and super thin hot rolled coil, high end welding wire and hard wire into the overseas market.



Nobel Tanihaha,
SUPR president director

Indonesia preparing for 4G

Indonesian telecommunication infrastructure provider PT Solusi Tunas Pratama (SUPR) plans to expand its fiber optic network in Indonesia's major cities. SUPR president director Nobel Tanihaha said that his firm will be spending up to \$1.56 million on 1,000km of fiber optic cable, giving his company a total 3,200km of fiber optic cable network by the end of the year.

"We will install the cables mostly in Greater Jakarta and Bandung, West Java," he said, adding that he expects demand for fiber optic networks in the country's cities to surge in three to five years, driven by a growing use of 4G technology for Internet data use.

The association of Indonesian Internet providers (APJII) is predicting a total of 125 million mobile data subscribers in the country by 2017.

Nobel Tanihaha revealed that SUPR has spent \$21 million on developing its fiber optic network from only 400km in 2010 to 2,200km. Nobel said that besides expanding its fiber optic business, the company would also add 1,000 new telecommunication towers and possibly acquire some minor companies this year.



State seeks grid funding

The Kenyan energy ministry is looking to borrow \$800 million over the next five years to finance power connectivity infrastructure. The money will be spent to increase the number of people with access to electricity, primarily funding 'last mile' power connections in remote regions lacking easy access to the national power grid.

Principal secretary Joseph Njoroge said the ministry is currently in talks for concessionary loans. He added that the ministry and agencies that will implement the connectivity projects have already secured a substantial amount of money, in particular a \$160million facility, and are set to start implementing some of the projects towards the end of 2014.

"We plan to use the \$800 million over the next four to five years to undertake the last mile connections which will increase the number of people with access to electricity from the current 32 percent to 75 percent of the population," Eng Njoroge explained.

Call for broadband

The Himalayan News Service reports that telecommunication experts are urging the Nepalese government to make broadband services available nationwide.

The call comes at a time when the government is delaying a policy to guide broadband development and build the required infrastructure.

It is over five years since the government drafted a broadband policy to use the rural telecommunications development fund (RTDF) to extend optical fiber connections to district level, but it is yet to be implemented.

An official at Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) said that they would make some changes in the previous draft and bring in the policy. The draft broadband policy had targeted broadband Internet penetration of 15 percent by 2015.

There is no official data, but it is estimated that broadband (wire and wireless high speed data connection) penetration rate in the country has reached around 10 percent. A 10 percent increase in broadband penetration is thought to help achieve a 1.38 percent increase in gross domestic product.



Optic fiber for Nigeria

In line with its policy to extend broadband connectivity in the country, Nigeria's federal ministry of communication technology is offering a subsidy to service providers. The minister, Mrs Omobola Johnson, announced at the 2014 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day in Abuja that the government is looking to fund 6,000km of broadband infrastructure to the rural and underserved areas in Nigeria.

Johnson said the subsidy for the broadband roll out is necessary to enable investors to increase their reach beyond the urban and developed cities. She also disclosed that the ministry would subsidize the infrastructure of base stations in the same areas.

The ministry has already invested significantly to supply all 36 federal universities with broadband facilities, through the universal service provision fund, USPF. This, the minister added, is also part of ongoing efforts to connect schools within the shortest possible time.

Power boost for Philippines

Hydropower projects could bring an extra 1,200MW of capacity to the Philippines.

Four new plants are proposed by San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders and Developers Group Inc (SLRB). The company, with Banco de Oro Capital and Investment Corporation, is currently seeking partners for a 500MW development in the Rizal province, 312MW combination conventional/pumped storage plant in Samar, and 160MW Davao River and 240MW Chico River plants in Northern Luzon.

SLRB said a number of foreign investors have expressed interest in the projects, but that the company is not ready to disclose potential partners. "These projects are very much needed in our country," SLRB president and CEO Oscar Violago confirmed.

Once underway, construction of the projects would be expected to take between three and four years.



Lionel Lee, Ezra's group CEO and MD

Subsea contract scoop

Ezra Holdings Ltd has won contracts around the world and across its subsea services and offshore support services divisions worth over \$95 million.

Ezra's subsea services arm EMAS AMC has a variety of cable lay and subsea installation contracts in the North Sea and Gulf of Mexico, including one of the longest HVAC cable lays in the world – 160km.

The group's offshore support services arm EMAS Marine has several contracts in Africa and Asia, with an aggregate value of more than \$55 million. Under these contracts, EMAS Marine will be deploying one anchor handling tug and supply (AHTS) and two platform supply vessels (PSV) in Africa, and another five AHT/AHTS and one PSV in Asia.

"I am delighted that our core divisions are strengthening their presence in all our target markets," said Mr Lionel Lee, Ezra's group CEO and MD.

"The projects that EMAS AMC is winning are growing in quality and complexity, which is a recognition of how far we have developed our subsea engineering capabilities."



400G long-haul field trial

Tata Communications, Huawei and Huawei Marine have revealed the successful completion of a 400G field trial on a subsea network over 6,000km. The test results demonstrated an optical transmission of 400G signals, believed to be an industry first for a submarine cable system of this length.

Huawei and Huawei Marine's technical solution adopted the modulation format of dual carrier polarisation division multiplexing quadrature phase shift keying (DC-PDM-QPSK), a faster-than-nyquist (FTN) compensation and recovery algorithm, proprietary clock recovery technology and soft decision forward error correction (SD-FEC) technology to address the problems of high speed signal distortion and unstable clocks.

Mr Hon Kit Lam, vice president, international transmission and IP business, Tata Communications, said: "The 400G technology of Huawei and Huawei Marine demonstrates that our existing subsea network asset is capable of supporting future, next-generation transmission technology as shown in the 400G trial."



PRODUCTS - MACHINES

& TECHNOLOGY

Voltage measurement

HBM has expanded its QuantumX modular data acquisition platform with an MX403B module for precision measurement of up to 1,000 volts.

The MX403B module has four differential channels for the direct measurement of electric voltages and is fitted with high insulation for maximum security. Each channel is equipped with analog anti-aliasing filters, digital filters and 24-Bit A/D converters while it outputs data with sampling rates of up to 100kS/sec/channel and acquires signal bandwidths of up to 38kHz.

The parameters of the measuring ranges can be freely varied or fixed at 10V, 100V and 1,000V enabling the acquisition of high voltages and smaller differential voltages from high potentials against ground reference. The module was developed to the latest IEC 61010:2013 standard and has been certified by the VDE.

The MX403B integrates with other QuantumX family modules to give time-synchronous acquisition of mechanical, electrical and thermal measurands and digital bus signals. Different QuantumX modules can be integrated utilizing real time via outputs such as standardized voltage, EtherCAT or CAN and can be spatially distributed.

The MX403B provides users with a flexible solution whose main applications are for mobile and stationary tests of energy storage systems or complex mechatronic systems.

Heat-shrink expansion

Alpha Wire has expanded FIT family of heat-shrink tubing products to include a new low-smoke, zero-halogen option and FIT-FILL adhesive filler.

“Our new FIT-221L LSZH heat-shrink tubing is a highly flexible, environmentally friendly, flame retardant option to standard tubing because it contains no lead, no halogens, has low-smoke generation, and produces no toxic fumes when burned,” explained Tim Howlett, director of marketing at Alpha Wire.

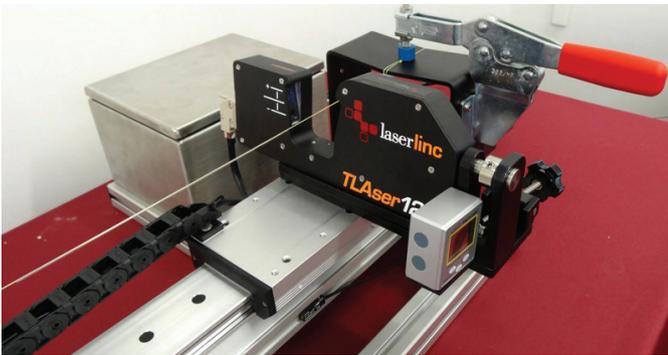
“Not only will FIT-221L tubing help our OEM and maintenance customers satisfy CA Prop 65 and RoHS requirements in a variety of applications, its low outgassing meets NASA requirements.”

Made under the tightest manufacturing controls, the low-outgassing FIT-221 LSZH tubing features a shrink ratio of 2:1, temperature range of -55°C to +105°C, and ten sizes ranging from 3/64" to 1" in diameter.

FIT-FILL is beads of adhesive, said to be ideal where additional adhesive is needed, or when the tubing does not effectively cover the desired locations. FIT-FILL is designed to complement FIT heat-shrink tubing for applications involving multiple wires in a tubing array, where the tubing's inner adhesive does not touch the inner wires. FIT-FILL helps create an improved tubing-to-cable seal to prevent water entry, while providing extra protection to maintain the integrity of the cable.

Spring profile measurement

LaserLinc has introduced the TLaser122™, a new system for measuring the diameter and pitch of springs, coiled tubing, and other corrugated or convoluted products. The measurement system features a scanning laser micrometer mounted to a linear actuator.



The linear actuator traverses the length of the spring. The actuator includes a tilting fixture that allows the micrometer to align with the spring's exact pitch angle. To verify the pitch angle, Total Vu™ software displays the spring's profile. A digital angle gauge ensures an exact mechanical angle setting. By incorporating measured diameter and pitch angle, the software computes the true enveloping diameter. An encoder provides distance value and measurements necessary for program calculations.

Applications include springs, coiled tubing, other coiled products, corrugated products, convoluted products, and any product that requires tilting the micrometer to match pitch angle.

Microwave cable assemblies

Molex Incorporated will showcase its flexible microwave cable assemblies at the international microwave symposium.

The combination of Temp-Flex® coaxial cables and high-performance radio frequency (RF) connectors are designed to replace semi-rigid assemblies. They are assembled using a proprietary technique that minimizes voltage standing wave ratio and insertion loss.

"Semi-rigid assemblies can suffer performance degradation and a shortened lifespan when they are bent to fit into today's smaller modules. By bringing together our flexible cable capabilities with our advanced RF connector termination expertise, Molex delivers a product that can easily be installed into virtually any size device, while still providing superior electrical performance and remaining competitively priced," said Darren Schauer, product manager, Molex.

The assemblies are available in a wide range of standard and custom options and comply with both US and European standards.

The cables come standard with silver-plated conductors, fluoropolymer (FEP) dielectric, double shields and FEP jacket. The solid-core, low-loss version uses proprietary low-loss FEP dielectric with 70 percent velocity of propagation (VOP) while the air-dielectric ultra-low-loss version uses a unique air-enhanced design with up to 87 percent VOP.

The cable impedance of 50 ± 1 Ohms provides consistent electrical performance while the helically wrapped foil covered by a braided shield offers 100dB or greater shielding effectiveness and protects signals from internal and external interference.

HVHC connector system for vehicles

The ruggedized Imperium™ HVHC connector system from Molex is a high voltage and amperage solution for reliable performance in extreme shock and vibration conditions, as experienced in commercial vehicles.

Designed for hybrid-electric and all-electric technologies, the connectors are capable of handling up to 1,000V and 250.0A per contact and provide vehicle OEMs and electrification system architects with superior shielding performance and current density. Available in 8mm and 11mm diameter versions, a variety of configurations are in development for future release to meet most customer-specific applications.

“Hybrid-electric and all-electric commercial vehicles are having an incredibly positive impact on the environment by significantly lowering emissions and oil consumption,” said Rich Benson, new product development manager, Molex. “Advanced electrification technologies are critical for their continued success and Molex has answered the call for a product that can reliably and safely deliver power under extremely harsh conditions.”

The Imperium HVHC system features an integrated MX150™ high-voltage interlock loop (HVIL) crimp terminal that helps eliminate high voltage arcing during disconnects. The closed-loop 360° shield design with grounding tabs provides EMI and RFI mitigation for reliable in-vehicle communications, while the header face shield simplifies the grounding process for device manufacturers. The one-piece

contacts (in plug and receptacle) reduce resistance for lower power loss, and the mated connectors are rated IP6K9K to provide protection from fluids.

New fibers

Verrillon, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AFL, has launched its VHS700 series of harsh environment single-mode fibers featuring ultra-low bend loss for use in tight bend applications. The single-mode VHS700 series fibers are available with coating combinations to withstand temperatures from cryogenic to 300°C including polyimide, silicone-PFA, silicone-MTA, MTA and carbon.

With their optimized optical design, VHS700 fibers are engineered to operate under small bend radii down to 7.5mm with minimal bend loss at 1,550nm. This low bend loss performance is said to represent a significant improvement over standard SMF. In addition, the fibers are MFD compatible with standard SMF for ease of splicing and minimal splice loss.

Suitable for use in high pressure, high temperature and corrosive environments, the VHS700 series fiber is available with carbon coating for both hermeticity against water and hydrogen in downhole applications and for fatigue resistance in long-term deployments.

Send us your editorial
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by 25th June.

To David Bell at
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