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May 2014 issue - No 35

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#35 EDITOR

Feedback from wire 2014 in Düsseldorf, Germany, last month has been exceptional with the exhibition living up to its billing as the most important one in the wire and cable industry calendar. You can get the views from a number of US companies in our round-up, starting on page 42.

And while many companies will still be going through their paperwork and leads from the five-day extravaganza, they will also be turning their attention to Wire Expo in Indianapolis, which is being staged from 6th to 7th May at the Indiana Convention Center. Our coverage of the Wire Association International's biennial event begins on page 46.

If you are heading to Wire Expo, please feel free to stop by our booth 108 and collect your free copy of *wiredInUSA* and sister publications *EuroWire* and *Wire & Cable ASIA*.

Our lead stories in this issue involve PG&E offering a \$250,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of criminals responsible for a power grid attack in Silicon Valley nearly a year ago. The attack, in which a sniper put 17 transformers out of action, and AT&T fibre optic lines were cut, led to millions of people in Santa Clara county being asked to conserve energy. You can find this on page 9.

You can also keep up with the latest expansion news as WireCo acquires the majority of the assets from Edenburg BV (Gouda), a Netherlands-based company founded in 1855. This is on page 21

David Bell
Editor

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2014 issue



May 2014 issue - No. 35

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PRODUCTS, MACHINES AND TECHNOLOGY
The latest news from machine industries

DIARY SHOW EVENTS

2014

MAY

6-7 May: **Wire Expo 2014**
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
Exhibition
www.wirenet.org

14-15 May: **National Electric Wire
Processing Expo**
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
Exhibition
www.epishows.com

14-17 May: **Lamiera**
Bologna, Italy
Exhibition
www.lamiera.net

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



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- 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:

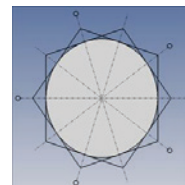
Non Contact Tension Measurement (Drawing force Birefringence principle)

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

CM5:

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- 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
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Others:

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

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MAKING THE NEWS

Reward offered following power grid attack

Pacific Gas & Electric Co is offering a \$250,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction for a power grid attack mounted in Silicon Valley nearly a year ago.

The coordinated attack on 16th April, the day after the Boston Marathon bombings, cut AT&T fiber optic lines and fired shots into a PG&E substation. The sniper bullets put 17 transformers out of action and, with telephone communication down, millions of people in Santa Clara county were asked to conserve energy.

Former federal energy regulatory commission chairman Jon Wellinghoff has called the incident an act of terrorism. However, FBI spokesman Peter Lee has said that the agency has no information to support the view, and the investigation is ongoing.

“One year later, the perpetrator or perpetrators of this crime remain at large and we want to help change that,” Gregg

Lemler, PG&E's vice president of electric transmission operations, said at a press conference to announce the reward. PG&E's reward is funded by shareholders and comes nearly a year after AT&T offered its own \$250,000 reward for information leading to arrests.



At the time, power was rerouted to avoid a blackout, but it took PG&E workers nearly a month to repair the damage. No arrests have yet been made.

PG&E has said it plans to spend \$100 million on security measures, and has guards stationed at substations around the clock.

Transmission approval

Regulators have approved an application from American Electric Power Co for a \$309 million transmission line in Texas.

The AEP-backed project brings a collaboration between Electric Transmission Texas LLC and the privately owned Sharyland Utilities LP to ensure consistent service for citizens living in and between Edinburg and Brownsville. Electric Transmission Texas LLC is a joint venture of American Electric Power Co and Berkshire Hathaway's MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company.

"This project will not only improve both the reliability and stability of the grid in the lower Rio Grande Valley, it will also provide a real engine for economic growth in communities throughout the region," said Sharyland president Mark Caskey.

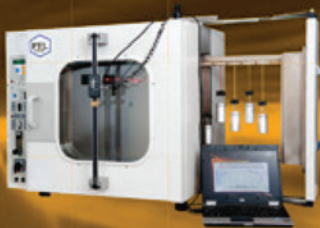
Although the Electric Reliability Council of Texas approved the project in 2012, the latest announcement marks the official approval from the Public Utility Commission of Texas. With regulatory approval confirmed, American Electric Power Co expects the 345kV transmission line to be completed during the summer of 2016.



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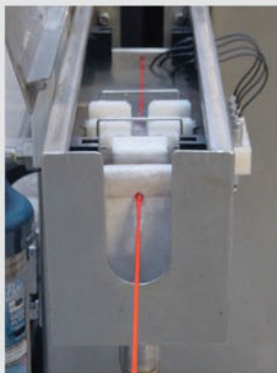
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Regional realignment

In line with regional realignment and management moves, Beta LaserMike's Ethem Erdas, previously western USA district sales manager, will assume the north central eastern USA area. His new sales territory includes eastern Ohio, West Virginia, western New York, and western Pennsylvania.

Mike Cooley will manage midwest USA, continuing to oversee the Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota regions and including northern Arkansas and northern Oklahoma. He will work closely with partner Concept Machine Tool and its metrology division to develop the plastic medical tube extrusion business in Minnesota.

Brad Robillard is to assume the regional territory responsibilities for Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and western Ohio. Given the business opportunities in this region and the focus required to best serve key customers, Mr Robillard brings an exemplary track record of success in the sales of Beta LaserMike's measurement and controls solutions.

More facilities for fiber

Applied Optoelectronics Inc (AOI), a developer and supplier of fiber optic access network products, is to increase its manufacturing capacity in Taiwan with the move to new facilities.

"Our facility expansion in Taiwan is consistent with the previously announced planned capital investment and manpower in order to support rising demand in our data center and FTTH markets," said Dr Thompson Lin, AOI's chairman and CEO.

"We have simply outgrown our existing facility and we are pleased to have found a much larger facility that meets both our current and future needs. The facility more than triples our available floor space and is better suited for a manufacturing environment than our current space. ...We plan to begin moving manufacturing operations, on a staged basis, to the new location in July, and expect to complete the move by Q1 of 2015."

AOI will invest around \$5.8 million in improvements to the new facility for manufacturing and research and development efforts.

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Houston expansion

Houston Wire and Cable has expanded its Baton Rouge distribution center for electrical wire and cable. The new center is double the size of the former facility.

Joe Ezekiel, region vice president, said: "Our expansion will allow us to better serve the growth in Louisiana and the gulf coast by increasing the available local inventory for our customers."

The new distribution center is located at Exchequer Drive.



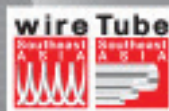
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New moves for the Americas

Beta LaserMike has added three new team members to its Americas organization. The new sales managers will report directly to Bob Stockholm, director of sales for the Americas.

Jesse Gallop joins Beta LaserMike as western district USA sales manager. He will be responsible for the market penetration of Beta LaserMike's products and services with key customer accounts and target market segments. Jesse comes to Beta LaserMike with 25 years of sales and account management experience in analytical instrumentation, most recently working for Thermo Scientific as senior sales engineer.

As south central USA sales manager, Michael Spurgin will be responsible for

creating new business opportunities and managing customer relationships in South Arkansas, South Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas. Mr Spurgin will play an essential role in the development of sales programs aimed at expanding Beta LaserMike's footprint in this region.

Rafael Cairo will become sales engineer for Brazil, responsible for developing business opportunities with existing and potential customers within the country. He will focus on delivering Beta LaserMike's portfolio of measurement and control solutions for metrology, on-line gauging of rolled products, wire and cable, and plastic pipe and tube extrusion. Rafael brings several years experience working for Keyence Brazil as a sales engineer supervisor.

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Extrusion appointments

American Kuhne, a provider of plastic, rubber and silicone extrusion systems to the wire and cable sector, has appointed David Madar (product manager) and Vladimir Ilyutovich (director of international business development) to its medical solutions division.

David Madar's career spans 35 years in precision extrusion lines, specializing in medical tubing. He began his career with Harrel, ultimately becoming president of the company. Madar has extensive experience in technical sales, service and support of precision extrusion lines.

With a career of over 20 years in extrusion, Vladimir Ilyutovich began as

a process development engineer at the Davis-Standard technical center. He has extensive international and emerging markets experience selling, marketing and project managing technical solutions for major US medical device manufacturers.

"Solving customer challenges with high quality, reliable equipment has made American Kuhne the preferred provider of engineered solutions for plastic, rubber and silicone extrusion," said Bill Kramer, president. "We are excited to combine David's and Vladimir's medical market knowledge to our processing expertise and in-house screw design to meet the demands of this specialized segment," he added.

Metro management

Metro Wire and Cable, Iowa City, has announced the promotion of Ryan Wesley to sales manager.

Ryan has been a member of the Iowa City staff since Metro Wire and Cable opened in the region in 2008. During the past five years, he has been increasing his industry knowledge and his consultative selling abilities. In 2013, Ryan was promoted to sales leader and assumed several new responsibilities.

His latest promotion will make him responsible for general oversight, training and development of staff members, and developing new and existing customers in multiple industries. Working closely with the management team, Ryan will play an integral role in the continual development of Metro Wire and Cable and the Iowa City branch.

General manager Devin Ezop said: "Ryan has been a leader of this branch for several years."

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1,000-volt rooftop installations

With equipment available in Europe tested to 1,000 volts DC, regulatory authorities in the US are beginning to approve the components that allow 1,000-volt DC installations, as opposed to a previous 600-volt maximum.

California-based Fresco Solar has just completed two rooftop installations using the newly available parts. One is a 102kw array on the roof of a nine-story office building in San Jose, and the other is a 440kw array on an industrial building in Hayward, CA.

“The building departments of both cities confirmed that these are the first commercial thousand volt systems they have plan checked,” said Sean Kenny, CEO of Fresco Solar. “It was careful attention to the nuances of the National Electrical Code that saw us through, that

and the fact that we could show that the installations were only accessible to authorized personnel and not to the public.”

The Hayward solar array uses over 15,000 feet of 1,000V PV wire. “This is half of what we would have needed at six hundred volts,” said Mark Jacobi, VP of operations for Fresco Solar. “And half the complexity. In both cases we passed inspection first time which is also a great reflection on our crews.”

There are over 1,400 panels on the roof and 15 ABB Power One inverters. The San Jose installation also uses a distributed inverter strategy with four similar inverters. Only the small three-phase 480v AC, 1,000V DC inverters that meet US rules for grid interconnection make such projects possible.



Founded in 1855, Endenburg supplies hoisting and lifting gear, including steel wire ropes, shackles and high performance synthetic ropes.

“The new WireCo Crane Center...will allow WireCo to adjust to changing markets by reducing order to shipment turnaround time, while also providing new opportunities to improve services to our distributors,” said Blake Chandler, senior vice president.

“This new facility establishes a key central stocking location with good inland transportation routes near the Rotterdam port,

WireCo ropes in Endenburg assets

WireCo WorldGroup Inc (WireCo), a major producer and marketer of steel wire and synthetic ropes, has announced the acquisition of the majority of the assets of Endenburg BV (Gouda), a Netherlands-based company. As part of the agreement, WireCo will establish a crane rope distribution center at the current Gouda location, to be called the WireCo Crane Center.

allowing WireCo to provide quicker response times to support both our European and international distributors.”

The Gouda location will exclusively service WireCo's distribution partners and select OEMs, focusing on the Casar and Oliveira crane ropes, while WireCo's German fabrication and distribution center will continue to operate.

Endenburg's current maritime, offshore and heavy lifting departments will continue from Lankhorst Ropes, located in Dordrecht, the Netherlands, under the Lankhorst Ropes name.

Possible fast track for Canadian fiber

The Canadian Northwest Territories government hopes to use existing data, along with new studies, to help speed the proposed Mackenzie Valley fiber link project through its permit phase. The plan is to build a 1,100km fiber optic cable to supply high speed Internet between Fort Simpson and Inuvik.

“The Mackenzie gas project did quite a bit of work through that area, where there isn’t a lot of information, so any information at this point in time is valuable,” says Sean Craig, an analyst overseeing the project. The hope is that sufficient work has already been done to avoid a full environmental assessment.

“The highway also worked with a lot of the organizations up there and built off a lot of the work the Mackenzie gas project had put together, so a lot of that baseline data was brought forward to our project.”

Installing the Mackenzie Valley fiber link will necessitate clearing a 6m wide access along existing roads and rights of way from Fort Simpson to Fort Good Hope, then traversing the Mackenzie Valley to the Dempster Highway, and along the Dempster to Inuvik. The cable would be buried in a small trench and left in place at the end of its operational life (around 25 years).

The government hopes to begin construction in January 2015.

Global steel wire market report

Global Industry Analysts Inc has released a comprehensive report on the steel wire market, predicting that the global market will reach \$34 billion by 2020, driven by growing demand in major end-use markets.

The construction sector is one of the most prominent end-use markets for steel wire. Strong recovery in the construction industry in the United States after years of slowdown, and steady gains in construction spending in developing countries including BRIC, are expected to benefit demand in the near term.

Steel wire is also of critical importance in automotive manufacturing and the projected increase in automobile production and sales, particularly in developing countries such as China and India, is therefore expected to especially benefit demand for steel wire in this sector.

The research report cites Asia-Pacific as the largest and the fastest growing regional market worldwide with a compound annual growth rate of 7.6 percent over the analysis period. Growth in the region is driven by economic development, industrialization, urbanization, and the resulting increase in construction spending, automobile production, and continued strengthening of manufacturing activity in China, India, Taiwan, Singapore, Korea and Indonesia.



Wire rope realignment

Alps Wire Rope Corporation's Columbus, Ohio, warehouse has completed its move to a new location in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and proffered its recognition for the hard work of key employees.

The Columbus warehouse has been part of Alps Wire Rope Corporation for over 21 years, with all of Alps staff contributing to its success. However, Brad Benner, president of Alps Wire Rope Corporation, gives special thanks to Rocky Chapman, a long time Alps employee who has been described as "the heart and soul of the Columbus warehouse," managing the warehouse and working with customers.

"Rocky is the one of the key people who has made Columbus successful and

we are grateful for all of his dedication and hard work," said Mr Benner. Rocky has been given the opportunity to move with the company and is part of the team opening the new warehouse in Harrisburg.

In addition, Travis Zelvik and Eric Strawser are also seasoned employees of Alps Wire Rope Corporation, and the company thanks them for their skills, expertise and contributions throughout the years.

This is the final move in Alps Wire Rope Corporation's strategic realignment process. Alps warehouses are strategically positioned around the US to facilitate prompt delivery of its wide range of wire rope.

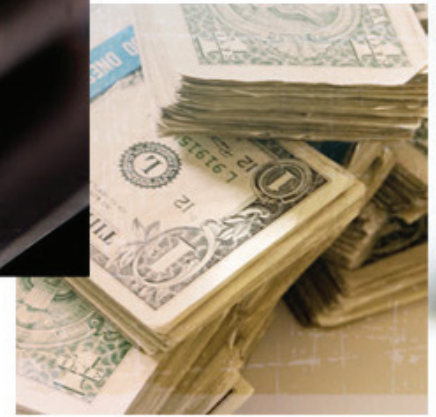


FASTENERS UP IN FIRST QUARTER

Fastenal Company of Winona, Minnesota, has reported first quarter sales of \$876.5 million, an increase of 8.7 percent over the previous year. Net earnings were \$111.9 million, up 2.6 percent from the same period in 2013.

The number of stores open in the first quarter were up 0.9 percent year-over-year to 2,683. FAST Solutions machines – the distributor’s industrial vending initiative – were up 31.7 percent to 42,153 vending machines. Employee count was up 16 percent year-over-year to 17,788.

According to the earnings news release, sales growth in the first quarter was primarily due to higher unit sales. Growth was impacted by slight inflationary price changes in non-fastener products and some price deflation in fastener products, with the result being a slight drag on growth, although daily sales for the first quarter grew 8.7 percent from the same period in 2013.



Georgia network installed

Advanced Control Systems (ACS), with its fiber optic partner PCS, Inc, has completed a three-year network installation project with the Marietta Board of Lights and Water.

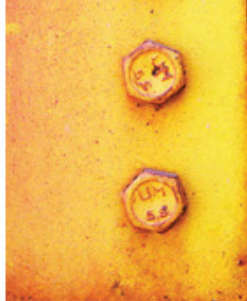
ACS and PCS designed, installed and maintained a fiber optic network to provide high-speed connectivity between the utility's ACS PRISM™ SCADA system and its 17 electrical substations and 144 automated switches. The project delivered Marietta with a 120-mile, fully digital 48-fiber backbone ring, managed and maintained using PCS' FiberTrak asset management system. Primarily designed for utility SCADA functions, the network also provides critical fiber use for the city's traffic, IT, police, fire and other public works entities.

Washington's fiber expansion

Lightower Fiber Networks has completed a 400-mile fiber expansion in the Washington DC metro area. The expanded network delivers increased density between key cities, commercial centers, and data centers in the region.

The new fiber is a response to increasing demand in the region for high performance bandwidth, driven by the growth in industry, educational institutions, government, wireless, social media, and cloud services.

In a recent industry report, Bell Labs stated that total metro area traffic is expected to increase by 560 percent by 2017. This growth will be driven by IP video, cloud services and the need to reach data centers, which will increasingly be located within the metro areas.



Long steel expansion

Praxair Inc has commissioned a new air separation plant in Pisco, in central Peru. Under a long-term contract, Praxair is to increase its supply of oxygen to Aceros Arequipa, Peru's largest long steel maker, to meet the company's expanding steel production capacity. This is Praxair's third plant serving Aceros Arequipa's Pisco facility.

The new supply will enable Aceros Arequipa to expand its production of steel wire rods and other steel products used in Peru's construction sector. Aceros Arequipa produces more than one million tons of steel products per year.

Rapid approval

Rapid Wire Cable has become Underwriters Laboratories certified. The company specializes in time sensitive wire harnesses, cable assemblies and box build prototypes and will now be in a position to provide UL labels upon product shipment. This label assures customers that Rapid is following the appropriate safety measures and that production is carried out correctly, to specification, and approved by the Underwriters Laboratories.

"This is a great addition to Rapid Wire Cable. UL certification is an important criterion that our customers depend upon to ensure that their wire harnesses, cable assemblies, and contract assemblies are being manufactured correctly and safely," said Ben Gallo, general manager of Rapid Wire Cable. "UL certification will broaden our customer base as well as allow us to do those projects that we were not able to do in the past."



EUROPE NEWS

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



Scotland hits the million milestone

Over one million homes and businesses in Scotland have access to superfast broadband. As part of the £2.5 billion UK rollout, OpenReach engineers have laid down around 1,850km of fiber optic cables, and installed 3,500 new cabinets.

BT Scotland director Brendan Dick, visiting Hawick-based company Emtelle, producers of 29 million meters of cable duct for BT, said: "Today marks a high point in Scotland's development as one of Europe's leading nations for high speed communications. Scotland's fiber infrastructure is growing rapidly, with another 400,000 premises to be

passed before our commercial programme is complete.

"In addition to the direct benefits of fiber for Scottish businesses, the deployment is good news for our supply chain, with Emtelle being a great example of a local company that's thriving [through] its support of this enormous undertaking."

Scotland's fiber optic broadband is expected to cover 85 percent of the country by the end of 2015, and 95 percent by the end of 2017.



Another Queen's Award

Lubricant manufacturer Metalube Ltd has been awarded a Queen's Award for Enterprise for the second successive year. Exporting to over 86 countries worldwide, the company won in the international trade category in 2013.

This year's Innovation Award is made to Metalube for developing a synthetic grease, OCG 6000, to protect overhead electrical conductors. The corrosion-preventing grease can operate at over 200°C and has an operational life exceeding 20 years. OCG 6000 extends the lives of conductors and ultimately saves capital investment by delaying the renewal of pylon infrastructure.

Chris Nettleship, technical director at Metalube, said: "This is a great feather in our cap. To win the Queen's Award once is a major achievement, but to win two years in a row is a superb honour. I am so proud of all our chemists who innovate on a daily basis. It is fantastic that their hard work and technical expertise is now acknowledged by this esteemed recognition."

Metalube's lubricants and greases are manufactured chiefly for the wire and cable industry.



Nanotube exclusive

Weatherford International Ltd has entered into an agreement with CurTran LLC to use, sell, and distribute LiteWire, the first commercial scale production of carbon nanotube technology in wire and cable form.

"With LiteWire products, we gain exclusivity to a revolutionary technology that will greatly add value to our business," said Dharmesh Mehta, chief operating officer for Weatherford. The company will use LiteWire in its operations, as well as acting as sole distributor of the product to the oil and gas industry.

CurTran manufactures LiteWire, which can be utilized wherever a metallic conductor is used, as well as in places where metals cannot go. "There hasn't been any real innovation to replace copper wire in the last hundred years until now," added Mr Rome. "LiteWire is a sustainable, lighter and stronger technology that combines the electrical and mechanical aspects of wire and cable into one product."

LiteWire can be used as the main conductor or as shielding in a cable application, and is produced in filaments for processing into any standard wire size and delivered on spools. It can be processed using the same equipment as copper wire.



Cable route survey

Svenska kraftnät has awarded the contract for the Själland cable survey to MMT.

Svenska kraftnät, and its Danish counterpart, Energinet.dk, are the owners and operators of the 400kV HVAC cable system across the Öresund, between Sweden and Denmark.

MMT will investigate and verify the feasibility of the proposed submarine cable route. This marine survey will cover geophysical information such as bathymetry, surface geology and sub-bottom conditions. MMT will also perform a geotechnical investigation, cable tracking, and identification of cable crossings.

The offshore operations will be performed from the 40m Icebeam, MMT's survey and ROV vessel, and the coastal surveys from the survey vessel Seabeam. The operation will begin this spring.



Wire rod investment

Aluminum producer UC Rusal is to invest over \$5.5 million in aluminum-zirconium wire rod production at the Irkutsk aluminum smelter (IrkAZ). Initial samples of the products have already been certified by consumers.

Rusal's aluminum-zirconium wire rod has been certified by Russia's leading cable producers. Rusal has signed a contract with Seco Warwick to supply electrothermal equipment to IrkAZ. Under the agreement, the equipment will be supplied to the production site in September 2014, with planned production levels expected to be reached in early 2015. Once thermal treatment equipment is installed, IrkAZ wire rod production capacity will increase to 3,000 tonnes per year.

JSC Russian Grids will be the major consumer of aluminum-zirconium wire rod in Russia. The use of conductors made from aluminum-zirconium wire rod instead of traditional rod is expected to result in a two-fold increase in transmission capacity over existing power lines.



Vessel conversion

The Prysmian Group will convert its vessel "Cable Enterprise" from a moored cable-laying barge into a barge able to use its own propulsion within the work site.

The vessel will be converted into a DP2 ship that will operate autonomously without the need of tugs during cable laying and will have a total of 9.2MW of power supplying six thrusters. Upgrade works will include a new cable tank for future HVDC projects. The vessel will retain its ability to ground out and operate in shallow waters.

The Cable Enterprise vessel became part of Prysmian Group in November 2012 with the acquisition of Global Marine Systems Energy Ltd, and the entire team has become part of the company under the name of Prysmian Powerlink Services.



Turkish steelmaker orders rolling mill

Turkish steelmaker Karabük Demir Celik (Kardemir) has ordered an SMS Meer rolling mill for the production of surface-quenched and tempered rebars, straight bars, wire rod and bar in coils.

With commissioning scheduled for early 2015, the mill's phase one capacity will be 700kt per annum and will double in capacity to 1.4Mt per year on completion of phase two.

The mill comprises a walking-beam reheating furnace with a capacity of 150 tons per hour, 18 modern housingless two-high stands in H/V arrangement, a precision sizing mill (PSM), shears, cooling lines, cooling bed with finishing facilities, a wire rod line with ten-stand MEERdrive® wire rod block, laying head, LCC®, coil handling equipment and two coil compactors, plus a coiling line with two coilers and cooling facilities.

Using the PSM, with hydraulic roll adjustment under load, all finished sizes for bar in coils (20mm to 55mm in diameter) and SBQ bars (20mm to 100mm in diameter) can be cost-effectively produced even in small batches, claims SMS Meer. The mill is designed for a maximum speed of 120m per second for wire rod and 16.5m per second for bars.



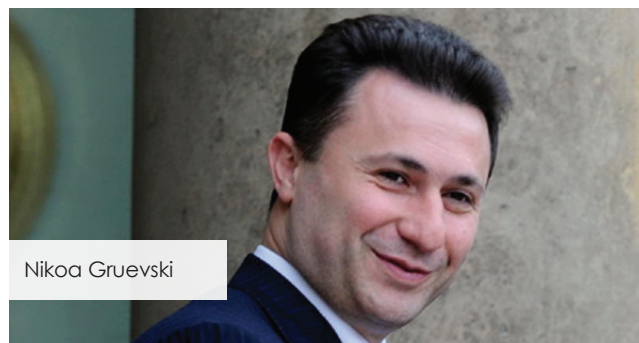
Copper progress

A falling copper price and improving economy in Europe is expected to lift 2014 sales volumes of copper wire for European smelter and producer Aurubis.

“The European economy has developed well and we have a big exposure to Europe, so our product sales went up,” said Stefan Boel, a member of Aurubis's executive board.

Mr Boel estimates overall growth in wire rod sales volumes in Europe this year at three percent to five percent. “But our volumes? Double digits,” he said, declining to give an exact figure. “I cannot go more into detail. Last year we had no growth.”

Mr Boel anticipates a balanced copper market in 2014. In the first three months of its financial year, commencing 1st October, Aurubis's wire rod output rose 23 percent to 156,000 tons. Aurubis's copper end users include the electrical engineering, automotive, mechanical engineering, telecommunications and construction industries.



Nikola Gruevski

Cables plant in Macedonia

The Macedonian prime minister, Nikola Gruevski, has announced that German cable and wire manufacturer ODW Elektrik is planning a new production facility in Macedonia's Ohrid-Struga free economic zone.

Macedonia's government and the company completed negotiations in mid-April. Under the plan, ODW Elektrik will build its first Macedonian plant on a 10,000m² site. The factory is expected to be operational by the end of 2014, creating up to 1,000 new jobs.

Based in Steinau an der Straße, the manufacturer operates three production facilities in Germany, Ukraine and Hungary, using various plastics, including PA and PTFE.

Ludwig Bathon, chief executive of ODW Elektrik, said that Macedonia's labor force and the support provided by state institutions were among the reasons why the manufacturer chose to launch its greenfield investment in Macedonia.

ODW Elektrik is forecasting revenues of €75.2m for 2014, an increase of 3.4 percent from €72.75m a year earlier. The project in Macedonia is estimated to be worth about €15m.



Celebration time for association in Düsseldorf

A new look, increased membership enquiries and a constantly busy stand saw huge interest in the International Wire and Machinery Association at April's wire 2014 in Düsseldorf, Germany.

The exhibition was once again excellently organised by Messe Düsseldorf and the new IWMA image was well received.

There was a buzz on the stand as members entertained both existing customers as well as potential new clients.

The stand meeting room and office were in constant demand and the refreshments proved

to be a welcome tonic during the busiest wire and cable show in the calendar.

The association was delighted to welcome new members during the week as well as receiving many new enquiries from companies interested in joining in order to enjoy the many benefits of membership to the world's largest corporate wire and cable association.

Through the association's Educational Trust Fund, the IWMA is fully committed to providing educational opportunities within the wire and cable industry and was delighted to award the "John C Hogg Travel Award" for wire 2014 to 15 individuals.

www.iwma.org

This year's awardees come from China, India and the UK and represent the full spectrum of the industry.

Award winner Mr Kashyap Rao, of data M Software India Pvt Ltd, said: "We got the chance to visit various leading manufacturers in the wire and cable industry. Normally exhibitors are keener on visitors attending, but I think since we were from the IWMA team each exhibitor we visited explained their technology and products in a manner to educate and encourage us to enlighten our knowledge. I felt truly privileged to get this opportunity."



A presentation was made by representatives of the association and exhibition organisers, Messe Düsseldorf, at a special ceremony held on the IWMA stand during the afternoon of Wednesday, 9th April.

Applicants for the award scheme were recommended or sponsored by a member of the IWMA and winners were provided with free air travel, accommodation and entry to the exhibition as well as free entry to the IWMA industry dinner held during the evening of Tuesday, 8th April.



A three-hour tour of the exhibition was given to the group by Mr Geoff Church, IWMA executive board member during which they were given the opportunity to meet key influential individuals working within the industry from companies such as Mario Frigerio Spa, Niehoff, SAMP Spa, Tata UK, Condat, Queins Machinery and QED Wire Lines, providing the awardees with an overview of the typical manufacturing process route from feedstock through to the finished product.



Picture on the right: Helene Phillips, Intras Ltd

ASIA & AFRICA NEWS



Production expansion in China

ABB plans to invest \$300 million in the city of Xiamen, establishing a new development and production hub for power products and low voltage products.

When complete, ABB's existing plants in Xiamen will be relocated to the hub's upgraded facilities in the new Torch Hi-Tech industrial park where production capacity can be expanded.

Chunyuan Gu, head of ABB North Asia and China, said: "Our strategic move is based on Xiamen's excellent investment environment.

"This expansion will give us a base to further improve productivity and optimize our

footprint while further growing our local research and development, low-voltage products and power businesses. In addition, we will help the industrial value chain development in Xiamen."

ABB has a full range of business activities in China, including development and manufacturing.

The company employs 19,000 people within 37 local companies and an extensive sales and service network across 109 cities. The vast majority of ABB sales revenue in China comes from localized manufacturing.



Telkom fiber investment

The Jakarta Globe reports that state-owned telecommunications company Telekomunikasi Indonesia (Telkom) is planning to spend around \$600 million during 2014 on the expansion of its fiber optic network across the country. The project is part of Telkom's "Indonesia digital network 2015" scheme, which aims to improve the nation's Internet connectivity.

The fiber optic network, with an advertised downlink speed of 1Gbps, will be rolled out in 30 cities across Indonesia, including Jakarta, Bandung, Surabaya, Medan, Denpasar and Makassar. Rizkan Chandra, Telkom's network and solutions director, admitted: "The investment for this project depends on the technology we use. Building a fiber optic network for one household usually costs between \$100 and \$300."

New board for Uganda Telecom

Stephen Kaboyo will assume the role of chairman of Uganda Telecom (UTL), and the board will also see three new members, in a move by LAP GreenN and the Ugandan government to provide renewed leadership for the communications subsidiary. "We are delighted to welcome Stephen Kaboyo as chairman of the UTL board and would like to thank Dr Ben Mbonye [the previous chairman] for his service," said Wafik Shater, LAP GreenN CEO.

Mr Kaboyo, an ex-Central Bank executive, brings 20 years of knowledge and experience to the position of chairman. He currently operates a private practice, Alpha Capital Partners, an indigenous Ugandan firm with interests in sovereign asset management, foreign exchange trading strategies and financial sector advisory. He has served as an intermittent expert for the IMF, participating in international missions providing technical assistance in developing financial systems.

"UTL has great potential for growth throughout Uganda," said Stephen Kaboyo. "We will need to evaluate our growth areas and continue the massive push for all around improvement in performance for our customers as we continue to reposition the company."



Abu Dhabi contract

Prysmian Group has been awarded a contract by UAE-based construction company Emirates Holding, on behalf of the offshore oil and gas producer Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Company (ADMA-OPCO). The contract is for the design and manufacture of submarine cable links for the Zakum, Abu Dhabi offshore oilfield.

The Zakum field is the first submarine electrification project planned by ADMA-OPCO and will be the benchmark for future projects aimed at developing and implementing a power distribution and transmission network among offshore oilfields.

The project includes the design and supply of around 200km of XLPE insulated medium voltage submarine cables for the distribution of energy to oil towers and platforms, plus accessories and network components. The project will be implemented by the group's office in the UAE, using production from Pikkala (Finland) with first 70km batch due for delivery in November 2014 and final delivery due mid-2015.

Malaysia investment

Dialog Axiata PLC, a unit of Malaysia's Axiata Group, is to invest \$30 million in a submarine cable. The company has entered into an agreement with the Bay of Bengal Gateway (BBG) consortium to establish a cable landing station in South Colombo.

The 8,000km BBG submarine cable system will link Sri Lanka and the region, spanning from Singapore to Oman to high capacity Internet hubs in Singapore and India, and onward to submarine cables to Europe and the USA.

The project is expected to be fully commissioned by the end of 2014.

Investors of the BBG consortium include Telekom Malaysia Berhad (Malaysia), Vodafone Group (UK), Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd (India), Oman Telecommunications Company (Oman) and Emirates Telecommunications Corporation (UAE).



Saudi solar event

Saudi Energy 2014, organized by the Riyadh Exhibitions Company and Informa Exhibitions, will take place on 26th to 28th May at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

With regional investments in the energy sector at a peak, Saudi Energy 2014 (the International Trade Exhibition for Electricity, Power Generation, Alternative Energy, Water Technology and Lighting) will be a marketplace for specialized and related industries and companies to promote their products and services. It will also be an opportunity for them to explore regional markets and penetrate the lucrative Saudi Arabian market.

Saudi Arabia plans to invest \$109 billion to produce 41GW of solar energy by 2032, almost 30 percent of its anticipated total energy requirement by that time. Over the next two decades, the government will seek to establish PV energy generation projects with a capacity of 16GW. It also plans to facilitate projects with a capacity of 26GW that will make use of energy concentrate.



Power for the Philippines

The Philippines' National Power Corporation (NPC) has approved the contract for the installation and supply of materials for the 76km 69kV transmission line project connecting the municipalities of Mobo and Cataingan in Masbate.

The project is part of the department of energy's 2012–2016 Missionary Electrification development plan. "Aside from minimized system loss, the transmission line will also improve power dispatch, enhance system protection and attain power stability and reliability in the Masbate grid," said NPC president, Ma Gladys Cruz- Sta Rita. Should there be a future increase in power demand, the 69kV transmission line is expected to accommodate future power generators.



Pakistan adds 747MW to grid venture

A new 747MW combined cycle power plant in Guddu is adding power to the national grid, ahead of schedule. The prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, inaugurated the plant in late April, originally scheduled to commence power generation in April next year.

Sources suggest that the Central Power Generation Company (CPGC) played an active role in the installation and early initiation of the new plant, in anticipation of growing power demand.

The 747MW plant, sited within the premises of the existing Guddu power plant complex, consists of two gas turbines of 243MW, two heat recovery steam generators, one steam turbine of 261MW and associated equipment. No additional gas will be required for the new plant and the existing supply will be used for power production.



Third Route, first rate!

Huawei Marine has partnered with Telkom Indonesia to upgrade the PT Telkom 3rd Route submarine cable system with 100Gbps technology. The solution was implemented over existing 380km and 360km segments.

The application of the advanced OptiX BWS 1600S 100G platform will provide a resilient, high capacity upgrade that operates seamlessly with Telkom Indonesia's terrestrial network. Together with the Telkom Dumai Dangas submarine cable, a meshed architecture has been created to provide vital restoration and ring protection. In the event of a terrestrial or submarine cable failure, services can be restored and transported within this ring architecture.

The PT Telkom 3rd Route submarine cable is one of three existing cable systems that providing significant capacity for growth in this expanding region.

Huawei Marine has been developing its 100G technology since 2011, and has successfully completed 100G field trials on trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific cable systems to improve undersea transmission technology for both upgrades and new builds.

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Praise as numbers rise at Düsseldorf

Meeting rooms booked, pens poised, a huge number of visitors for exhibitors to meet and explore opportunities with – this was wire and Tube 2014 in Düsseldorf. There was a buzz around the halls at the Fairgrounds – and that reached the stands and visitors alike as more than 72,000 people flooded into the halls for the five-day extravaganza.

“The trade fairs took place at exactly the right time. Now several companies are planning on investing in order to position themselves for continued competition,” explained Joachim Schäfer, managing director accountable for the fairs at Messe Düsseldorf.

“Once again, wire and Tube recorded exhibitor growth as well as a significant increase in booked exhibition space,” he added.

Visitors came to learn about the latest machines, equipment and products for the wire, cable and tube processing industries, and meet up with current and prospective suppliers and equipment manufacturers.

The steel and non-ferrous metal industry has long been considered to be a reliable early indicator for all other industries. The entire economy benefits when this market is strong – and with more than 108,000m² of net exhibition space booked, around 98 per cent of exhibitors gave top marks for the way the two trade fairs went.

More than 1,300 companies from 54 countries journeyed to Düsseldorf for

the wire exhibition, and occupied approximately 58,500m² of space – a two per cent increase compared with the square meter figures from 2012.

The offerings in exhibition halls 9 to 12 and 15 to 17 ranged from machines and equipment for wire production and processing to tools and auxiliary materials for process engineering to materials and specialty wires.

Innovations from the areas of cable, measurement and control technology, as well as test engineering, were presented. Special fields such as logistics, conveying systems and packaging rounded off the offerings. The mesh welding machinery domain was presented combined under one roof for the first time – roughly 20 companies showing their products in hall 16.

Current forming technologies were presented in hall 15, while the latest spring-making methods were featured in parts of hall 16. All applications involving wire, cable and fiberglass machines, wire and cable production, as well as trade, were located in halls 9 to 12, 16 and 17.

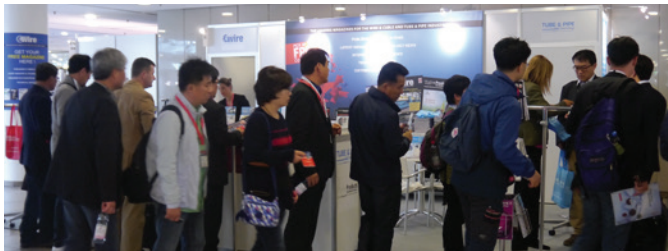
The percentage of international trade fair guests is traditionally high with 66 per cent of the wire visitors traveling from abroad, representing a total of 70 countries.

The majority of all wire visitors came from the classic visiting nations of India, the USA, France, Italy, UK, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the Netherlands and Japan. The visitors came primarily from

industry (75 percent), trade (11 percent) and craft (four percent).

Of primary interest to the visitors were machines for the processing of wire, steel bars and steel band (35 percent), machines for the fabrication of wire, steel bars and steel band (32 percent), end products (22 percent), assistive equipment (machines, devices, tools, consumables; 21 percent), forming technology (15 percent) and spring-making technology (11 percent).

INTRAS Ltd, publisher of *EuroWire*, *Wire & Cable ASIA*, *wiredInUSA*, *Tube & Pipe Technology* and *Tube Products International*, was also warmly received at the exhibition with more than six tonnes of magazines, media packs and CDs being given to visitors at its stands.



Staff from INTRAS handing out magazines from its stand in the North entrance of the Düsseldorf Fairgrounds

Staff on the company's stand at the North entrance were forced to recruit additional help as the doors were opened with magazines being handed out to people heading into the halls each day.

"wire Düsseldorf 2014 was a very good experience for Keir Manufacturing," said Mike Walters, sales and marketing manager. "This was the first wire Düsseldorf trade fair for us to exhibit completely on our own, and we

had the opportunity to display our full range of the three product groups manufactured for the: Composite flyer bows, air wipes and ceramic guide parts. Our newly revised website was shown live and translating it into many different languages throughout the week proved very helpful.



The Keir Manufacturing booth in Düsseldorf

"The traffic at our stand was very consistent. We spoke with many new end users along with some distributors and OEMs. The interest level in our products as well as optimism about the global economy was positive. Since the fortune is in the follow-up we will maintain consistent communication with all contacts made during the show as we together develop productive engineering solutions for their processes."

Richard Snaith, Beta LaserMike's sales director for Europe, Middle East, Africa, and India was equally enthusiastic about the exhibition.

"We had great attendance, visitors really liked our booth design and were very interested in seeing our latest measurement and control solutions. Many of our visitors included the world's leading wire and

cable manufacturers, and they were looking for new ways to improve product quality, increase productivity, and reduce manufacturing costs. These organizations were particularly interested in learning more about our new ultra-fast AccuScan 5000 Series diameter gauges, LayScan lay length measurement system, and DCM SCS-700 and ES-2G cable testing systems, as well as our other measurement solutions.

“Our new dual-axis AccuScan 5000 Series gauges perform high-speed diameter and ovality measurements at 2400 scans per second per axis and provide the highest single-scan accuracy in the industry,” added Mr Snaith. “The AccuScan 5000 Series effectively monitors unique shapes and profiles for faster process control, catches flaws faster with the High-Speed Tolerance checking option, and easily connects to PC, PLC, or other processes with leading protocols.”

“Overall, this show provided us with an excellent opportunity to meet with existing and new potential customers and increase business. Beta LaserMike is looking forward to the next wire show.”

And Woody Holland, sales manager for Clinton Instrument Company, added: “This year our new products focused primarily on automated calibration equipment for spark test systems that will enable customers to meet EN standards for both voltage and sensitivity. Having this new equipment for the world market generated a lot of interest and we were pleasantly surprised with a

consistent flow of customers beginning early in the morning on Monday and continuing through Tuesday afternoon.

“The busy flow of Monday and Tuesday returned to us on Thursday with many promising leads and constructive conversations. As many customers made their way back home, Friday was a good time to visit with friends and OEM customers in the booth.

“Wire is certainly the biggest and best show we attend and the show in 2014 did not disappoint. The quality of conversation and busy atmosphere was a significant improvement in the activity we had seen in both wire 2012 and 2010. It is encouraging to see levels of activity and interest returning to levels prior to the world market decline in 2008.

“Based on what I’ve heard, other exhibitors were very pleased with the people who attended and optimistic about 2014 and beyond. We look forward to future years at wire and now is the time to turn our efforts from 2014 into more business.”

Plans are already well underway for wire 2016 which takes place again in Düsseldorf from 4th to 8th April 2016.

WIRED EXPO

MAY 6-7, 2014

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BACKGROUND

The WAI Operations Summit & Wire Expo is organized by WAI and is held biennially in a different industry hub within the US for the wire and cable manufacturing industry. The event incorporates technical paper presentations, a comprehensive exhibit, on-floor production solutions demonstrations, networking activities, and more.

VISITORS

The WAI Operations Summit & Wire Expo attracts attendees from the local and national markets and participants from overseas markets. These attendees, most with purchasing influence, represent the ferrous, non-ferrous, and electrical segments of the industry. The attendee profile has grown to include interest in several industries allied to wire and cable including:

- automotive
- manufacturing
- environmental and reclamation
- appliance
- building
- furnishings
- housewares
- communications
- medical instrumentation
- fasteners
- electronics
- energy



American Kuhne

Booth 348

American Kuhne provides extruders and small diameter turnkey extrusion systems specifically designed to meet the needs of the wire and cable segment, including: energy, fibre optic, telecom, building, automotive, high temperature, construction, medical, oil and speciality.

American Kuhne's ultra series extruders are available in sizes ranging from ¾" (19mm) to 8" (203mm). These extruders feature a heavy-duty double reduction gearbox, deep finned cast barrel heaters, single- or dual-bolt heated clamps and die hinge support arms. The control panel can be mounted to the extruder base or floor.



The ultra series from American Kuhne

"Solving customer challenges with high quality, reliable equipment has made American Kuhne the preferred provider of engineered solutions for plastic, rubber and silicone extrusion," said Larry Fitzgerald, product manager, wire and cable.

"We leverage our processing expertise and in-house screw design to meet the demands of this specialised segment," he added.

American Kuhne – USA

Website: www.americankuhne.com

Baloffet

Booth 521



Balloffet machines are well known worldwide

Balloffet recut machines for diamond dies are well known around the world for their high quality, reliability, productivity and low maintenance requirement. The company is upgrading and continuously developing its machines for the best interests of its customers.

The company's research and development department now has available the equipment to control the diameters of the diamond dies and enamelling guides in three to ten seconds.

Also a diamond die producer since 1870, Balloffet manufactures:

- natural and synthetic mono-crystalline diamond dies
- polycrystalline diamond dies
- compacting and stranding dies
- shaped dies
- enamelling guides (dies)
- special tooling with diamond insert

Balloffet Die Corporation – USA

Website: www.balloffetdie.com

Beta LaserMike

Booth 316

Beta LaserMike will be exhibiting its new high-speed AccuScan 5000 series diameter and ovality gauge claim to have the highest single-scan accuracy in the industry. The latest cable testing solutions include the new DCM ES-2G LAN/Data testing platform now to 2.2 GHz and the new SCS-700 LAN/Data cable testing platform with high- and low-frequency measurement capabilities.

The new dual-axis AccuScan 5000 gauges perform high-speed diameter and ovality measurements at 2,400 scans per second per axis. The improvements in the single-scan calibration algorithm ensure each scan is highly accurate and reliable.



The AccuScan 5000 family

AccuScan gauges effectively measure transparent, translucent and opaque products up to 80mm in diameter. All gauges offer highly flexible communications including RS-232, Ethernet/IP, Ethernet TCP/IP, DeviceNet, Profibus, Profinet, CANOpen, analogue and digital.

The latest DCM ES-2G testing platform extends the high-frequency measurement range to test Cat 5e/6/6a/7/7a cables

now up to 2.2 GHz. This bench-top system is also optimised to test next-generation 40 Gb/s Cat 8 cables. The base unit includes automatic four-pair switching and the baluns needed to interface the cable under test to an external vector network analyser for fast cable testing.

Testing can be performed in less than three minutes. The heart of the system is the Windows-based software engine that includes a simple, easy-to-use test program with automatic comparison to the test specification, full test reporting, and data management.

The new DCM SCS-700 enables cable makers to efficiently and effectively test both the high- and low-frequency characteristics of Cat 5e/6/6a cables. The high-frequency (HF) testing range is to 700MHz. The low-frequency option includes an integrated LCR meter that enables users to test resistance, mutual capacitance, and capacitance unbalance at frequencies down to 100Hz.

The low-frequency (LF) testing capability also enables cable makers to test longer cable lengths up to 10km and avoid the cutting and scrapping of product to perform required tests. Dual-frequency testing can be performed with a single connection to significantly reduce set-up and testing time. The automated four-pair switching platform enables HF and LF cable tests to be performed in less than three minutes. As with all DCM cable testing systems, the SCS-700 is equipped with easy-to-use test software for comprehensive test data management and reporting.

Beta LaserMike application specialists will also be available to discuss the following measurement and control solutions for wire and cable: LayScan lay length measurement system; LaserSpeed length and speed gauge; high-frequency spark tester and pre-heater systems; LN Series lump and neckdown detectors; BenchMike table-top cut sample measurement system; DataPro process controller and data management system; and the SRL Pro on-line structural return loss (SRL) prediction and analysis system.

Beta LaserMike – USA

Website: www.betalasermike.com

C M Caballé SA

Booth 515

With over 70 years of experience in the design and manufacture of rotating machinery for the production of power and telecommunication cables as well as steel ropes, Spanish company C M Caballé provides the cable industry with a wide array of stranding, twinning, bunching and cabling machinery.



Caballé's rigid strander CES-36x630

The firm is constantly developing new, high quality equipment to meet the ever-changing needs of the wire and cable Industry.

The company's portfolio includes the following equipment for:

- Power cables: double twist stranders, rigid stranders, drum twisters, single twist stranders, bow skip stranders, tubular stranders, planetary stranders and SZ stranders
- Telecom and LAN cables: double twist pairing-quadding machines, single twist cabling lines, group twinners, drum twisters, shielding-jelly filling-sheathing lines and SZ stranders
- Steel ropes: double twist stranders, tubular stranders, planetary stranders and bow skip stranders
- Ancillary equipment: pay-offs, take-ups, capstans, caterpillars, taping machines and binders

Caballe will show the new range of rigid stranders and drum twisters that have been redesigned and upgraded in collaboration with top energy cable producers to manufacture the following products:

- Compacted conductors of copper and aluminium for LV, MV, HV and EHV insulated conductors
- Sector conductors (Milliken) of copper and aluminium for high and extra high voltage insulated conductors
- Aluminium overhead conductors (AAAC, ACSR) with round or trapezoidal wires
- Screening with copper wires (single or multi-wire) for MV and HV conductors
- Armouring with galvanised steel wires

Construcciones Mecánicas Caballé SA – Spain

Website: www.cmcaballe.com

Cemanco Booth 214

For 25 years, Cemanco has provided quality parts and machinery to the wire and cable industries.



Quality is the name of the game for Cemanco

To reach and maintain top quality of the finished product during wet drawing of non-ferrous materials the choice of the right drawing tools is essential. Cemanco ceramics in zirconium or aluminium oxide are manufactured to the highest standards regarding raw materials, density and surface finish with each finished part subjected to two separate levels of end control. Customers can choose from over 2,000 drawings for standard machines like Niehoff, SAMP, Herborn, Henrich or Syncro. As a specialist for ceramic wear parts the company also offers a wide selection of standard ceramics like flanged eyelets, ceramic rods, tubes and bow guides in a variety of qualities and surface finishes.

Pulleys and sheaves are available in a choice of materials ranging from aluminium or steel coated with ceramic or tungsten carbide to solid ceramic or composites with metal or plastic flanges and solid ceramic inserts as well as plastic materials. In addition to an extensive inventory Cemanco offers customers assistance with individual solutions. Custom parts can be provided with short turn around times even in smaller quantities.

The company offers KMK spooling traverses that are known for their cost efficiency, longevity and precision. These mechanical rolling ring drives are easy to maintain and have been the bench mark for take-up traverses for many years.

Recently KMK added a dual, laser-guided, self-adjusting traverse system that automatically optimises winding results for a variety of spool types. The system has been designed as a cost effective step towards automation and rationalisation of the spooling process providing consistently high quality winding results.

Roller guides for wire and cable and wire straighteners complete Cemanco's product programme. Guides are available in many standard sizes from stock or as individual solutions, with standard hardened and chrome-coated rollers or with special coatings like ceramic or tungsten carbide. Straighteners come with standard quick opening levers and cover material diameters from 0.02" to 1.6", either with V-grooved rollers or custom radius grooved rollers.

Cemanco – USA

Website: www.cemanco.com

Clinton Instruments

Booth 105

Clinton Instruments will introduce a new addition to the ST-CAL calibration system, the Sensitivity Module, SM. This equipment will check the spark tester's fault detection sensitivity and will assure compliance with EN50356 (IEC/CEI 62230).



The ST-CAL calibration system will be on display

The system utilises a rotating spark gap that controls arc duration and gap distance. When the test is initiated, the SM will produce a specific number of controlled faults, which the spark tester must correctly identify to meet the norm.

The sensitivity module will work with high frequency, power mains frequency and DC spark testers from any manufacturer. The SM is compact and portable making it easy to test units while they are installed in the factory.

The operator simply selects the type of unit to be checked and will then have visual confirmation of the detection current and number of faults produced via a digital display on the front panel. Once the procedure is started the SM will complete the specified number of faults without additional operator input.

The SM is offered as an accessory to the ST-CAL voltage calibration unit, which allows voltage calibration of most common spark test units including AC, both mains and high frequency, as well as DC equipment. With the ST-CAL system, spark test voltages up to 30KV AC and 40KV DC can be calibrated easily.

The operator interface is a Windows 8 tablet computer that controls the process as well as the printing of a certificate or by utilising the onboard USB port to download the test results on to a memory stick. The file can then be kept for historical use in any computer.

When these two units are used together the operator will be assured that the spark test unit will meet all known specs once the calibration is finished.

Clinton Instrument Company – USA

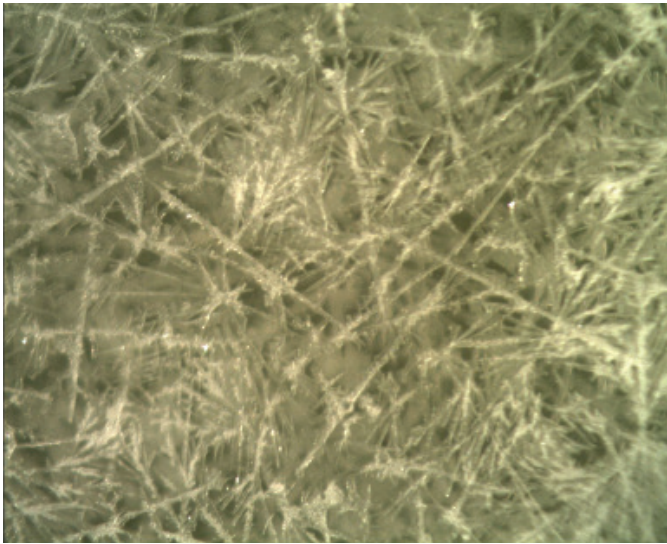
Website: www.cicsparkers.com

Condat

Booth: 534

Condat offers an extensive product range for wire drawing, including pre-coatings, powder lubricants, neat oils and greases, soluble oils and pastes, weaving lubricants, cleaners and protective products.

Condat continues to develop close partnerships with its customers to offer high performance products with environmental responsibility and compliance to the latest legislation.



Optimal crystallised coverage with Vicalfil TS7112

Backed by a strong team of industry experts, Condat offers lubricant solutions for the most demanding applications and continues to develop new and innovative products and services for the wire industry such as Vicalfil TS 7112, a simple, efficient and more environmentally friendly surface treatment product.

Condat – France

Website: www.condat-lubricants.com

Die Quip

Booth 106



The die saver MGF-200

Die Quip specialises in innovative solutions for wire, bar and tube production facilities. This year the company will feature several options of new quality cutters from many lines to provide innovative cutting solutions for a variety of production situations.

The cutting line includes Knipex pliers and hand tools, Krenn triangle blade bolt cutters, air powered, battery, electro-hydraulic and full hydraulic cutters. The entire line can be viewed online at www.wirecutterstore.com

Eliminate huge inventories, hidden labour costs, high overnight and two-way freight fees for rush orders and wasted good dies from short runs with a Die Quip in-house die shop. Production costs decrease with an efficient internal die shop, and Die Quip has the expertise, training, support and machinery.

Die Quip offers a variety of options in specialising a work cell designed to maximise production in each facility. Its line of grinders operates manually, semi-automatically and fully automatically to optimise each operation. The right training and machinery allow each die to be sized quickly for production and allow for immediate adjustments to accommodate any production run.

The company works to solve production die issues through die geometry, equipment adjustments and operator training. In-house die shops have proven to be an effective and cost efficient solution in eliminating several common production problems.

Die Quip – USA

Website: www.diequip.com

Flymca and Flyro

Booth 236

Flymca is continuously manufacturing special solutions for stranding and cabling purposes adapted to the global cable market. Its range of expertise covers the complete range of machines for stranding and laying-up of conductors for the power cables field, as well as for the steel ropes market. Off-shore, submarine and umbilical cables production is also part of the scope of supply.



Flymca and Flyro – catering for the whole wire and cable industry

The stranding technology, under unceasing development, is one of Flymca's key areas of expertise. A huge technical knowledge helps customers to achieve goals together with a complete capability that goes from research and development to final delivery, and later after-sales service going through the whole engineering, manufacturing, assembling, software and quality control, as well as installation and commissioning by experienced staff.

The company is also involved in the high voltage area, delivering a screening line

and several sets of take-ups over 100 tons with reels diameter of 5m; the fibre optic market, delivering an armouring line based on a 30 bobbin tubular with a bulkhead to locate the fibre optic reel; and a bow cabler prepared for laying-up of control cables and insulated conductors located in reels with a diameter of 1,600mm, with precise tension control for conductors from 4mm² to 185mm².

Sister company Flyro deals with used machinery, covering the whole wire and cable industry with a huge inventory. Special offers can be made combining used and new equipment as well as revamped solutions, modernising equipment mechanically and also using updated electrical solutions to achieve better and quicker production.

Flymca and Flyro – Spain

Website: www.flymca.com

Website: www.flyro.es

Fort Wayne Wire Die

Booth 303

Since it was founded in Indiana, USA, in 1937, Fort Wayne Wire Die has been at the forefront of innovation in wire die manufacturing and remained a constant in the evolution of optimum die quality and performance value.

Today, this constant extends throughout the vast international wire manufacturing market as it maintains production facilities in the USA, Canada and the Philippines, sales offices in Germany and China, and sales agents in more than 30 countries.



A range of dies from FWWD

All of these locations are integrated under one corporate vision and structure, giving wire manufacturers the assurance that, no matter where your brand is sold in the world with Fort Wayne Wire Die as single-source supplier, clients can achieve the consistency your customers expect and maximise the return on your die investment.

Fort Wayne Wire Die – USA
Website: www.fwwd.com

Gem Gravure Co
Booth 121

Gem Gravure Co is a proud co-sponsor of the keynote at Wire Expo 2014. Dr Philip Cornwell, an award winning professor and key official at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, will address the kind of manufacturing expertise needed for the future. Dr Cornwell will present 'The Technical Professional Of 2020' on Tuesday, 6th May.

Gem is famous for ink. It designs and manufactures premier inks for the wire and cable industry, including low VOC and VOC-exempt inks. Ink is the key to

successful ink jet printing. It contains the components that actually form the printed code. Materials used to create the ink are responsible for appearance on the surface when printed, adhesion and physical characteristics of the code and operation in the printer.

The colour of an ink can be created by dye, soft pigment or heavy pigment. This component gives the code its colour and opacity.

Dye inks are bright colours but transparent. They do not show up when printed on dark surfaces. Dye inks run standard printers, without any mixing during operation. They tend to be easier to operate in the printer with fewer maintenance requirements (print head cleaning, etc). Dye inks are less likely to survive exposure to direct sunlight and high temperatures after printing.



Gem Gravure – famous for its ink

Soft pigments run in most standard printers, like the dye-based inks. Some are opaque, producing codes that stand out on dark surfaces. Soft pigments withstand more

exposure to direct sunlight and heat than dye inks. They are much less likely to fade or disappear. Gem yellow and orange inks are examples of opaque soft pigmented inks.

Heavy/hard pigments require pigmented printers for good operation. Heavy pigments generally contain titanium dioxide, giving them a bright white colour. Mixing is required to keep the titanium dioxide evenly distributed throughout the ink. These inks appear bright and easy to read on any colour surface. Gem white inks are examples of this type of ink.

Gem Gravure Co Inc – USA
Website: www.gemgravure.com

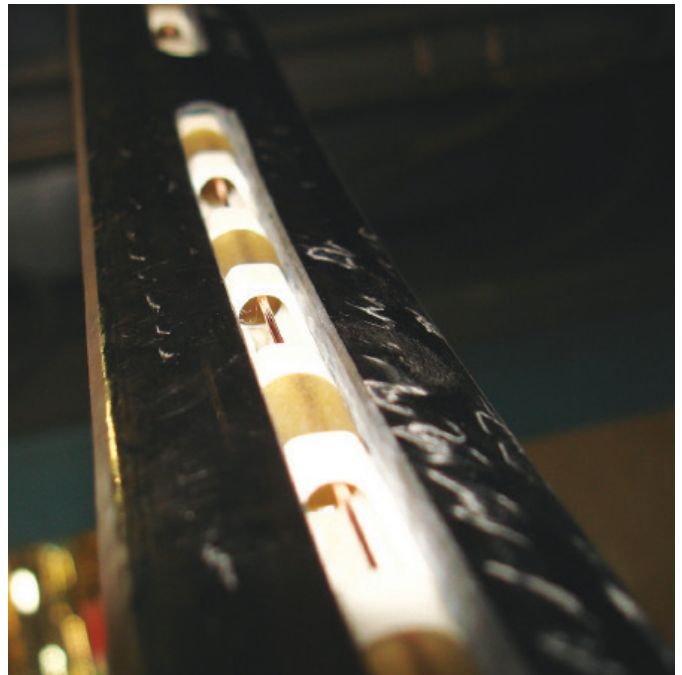
KEIR Manufacturing
Booth 531

KEIR Manufacturing is an American manufacturer of high-purity 99.8% alumina ceramic guides – the Frontiersman™ line of air wipes, and composite flyer bows serving the worldwide wire and cable industry.

The company is dedicated to making products that enable manufacturing processes to run more efficiently and productively through the application of leading edge materials. Its solutions are focused on continuous process improvement, energy savings and longer operating life.

KEIR's patented SureShot and SplitShot air wipes provide an effective drying method that does not depend on high-volume air consumption. The efficient design yields

effective drying using a very low volume of compressed air and lasts longer due to the rugged ceramic insert lining the wire path. This equates to over 25 per cent reduction in compressed air usage and an operating life of years versus months.



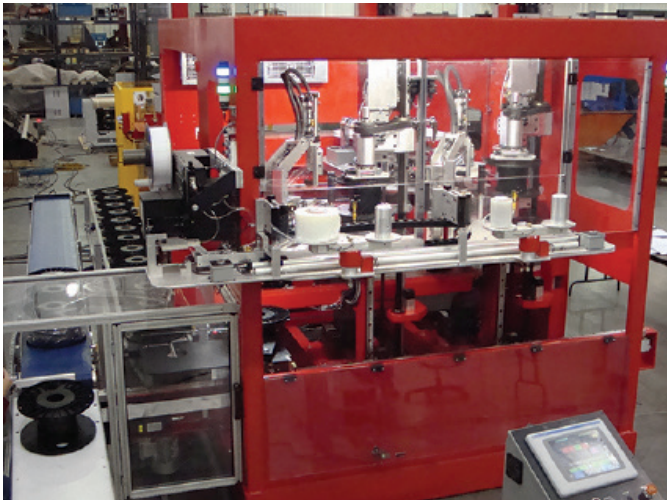
BackBone bow from KEIR Manufacturing

Its triaxially braided composite Standard and BackBone™ flyer bow constructions have greater durability than layered/laminated designs, allowing them to take more hits and endure higher stress, yielding increased operating life and less machine downtime.

The more aerodynamic BackBone™ design functions at lower power consumption and higher TPM with improved wire quality and a further reduction in bow breakage. Up to 40 per cent less energy (AMPS) is used along with a decrease in the wire scrapped.

KEIR Manufacturing Inc – USA
Website: www.keirmfg.com

**MGS Group
Booth 103**



Automatic dual take up from the MGS Group

The MGS Group, which consists of MGS Manufacturing, Hall Industries and Northampton Machinery Co, is an international supplier of automation and technology solutions for product handling and twisting systems, customised to optimise all applications.

Products to be featured at Wire Expo include: Fully automatic dual take-up with a unique robot handling system for depalletising and palletising, various dual reel take ups from fibre to 1,000mcm cable, the Northampton triple twist twinner, the latest design in slip ring brushes and holders, plus the standard product range which includes: Pay-offs, take ups, rewinders, dancers, accumulators, capstans, length counters, air wipes, swage tools, electric brazers, double twist bunchers, twinners, tape heads and single twist cablers.

The MGS Group – USA
Website: www.themgsgroup.com

**Nextrom and Rosendahl
Booth 333**

Nextrom and Rosendahl will be co-exhibiting on Booth 333.

Nextrom is a supplier of optical fibre glass preform manufacturing equipment, producing fibre draw towers and associated machinery for the global fibre market using MCVD, OVD and VAD technologies. Besides providing optical fibre equipment, Nextrom is a supplier of fibre optic cable production lines.

Rosendahl, a global supplier of high-tech wire and cable manufacturing solutions, offers products and turnkey solutions in the fields of extrusion, corrugation, fibre optic cable and SZ stranding.



Be sure to visit both companies on booth 333

Together, the companies combine leading edge know-how and state-of-the-art technology in close cooperation with its customers and product suppliers.

Nextrom Oy – Finland
Website: www.nextrom.com

Rosendahl Maschinen GmbH – Austria
Website: www.rosendahlaustria.com

Paramount Die
Booth 532

Paramount Die is more than just a die company, with its sales engineers averaging over 20 years of experience in the wire industry. In addition to helping its customers with their die needs, Paramount also offers expertise in all areas of the wire drawing process.

Several wire industry trends have dramatically shaped the company's development over the past ten years. Perhaps the most dramatic has been the ever-growing trend for wire drawers to outsource their finished die requirements.

As this has caused wire drawers to become somewhat more dependent on die suppliers, great pressure has been placed on the company to increase capacity for die finishing, to reduce finished die costs, and to improve lead times.

Paramount has been able to reduce die costs by standardising on cost-effective carbide inserts and by increasing quality and capacity through automation. It is working to take the human factor out of the manufacturing process.

Many of its highly automated machines now run on "lights out operation" meaning that they will continue to manufacture product as long as there is raw material being fed into the system. This not only improves the production output, but also the quality (eliminating the human error aspect). Paramount's highly automated production equipment combines high volume speed and efficiency with accuracy and repeatability. Average lead times

have been reduced from three weeks to just less than five days by investing heavily in finished inventory.

As the company continues to grow domestically and globally as a high quality, high volume producer of carbide drawing dies, it becomes very important for it to continually invest in new manufacturing and innovative technology.

It is leading the way on another industry trend, "eco-friendly products". Paramount is a leader in supplying eco-friendly products to the wire industry. Its die design allows the carbide insert to be easily recycled, and many of its customers worldwide participate in this programme.

Paramount will exhibit a full line of wire drawing dies and related equipment. Products featured will be the TR-Series carbide drawing inserts, the new 'T' series inserts for PC wire, extrusion dies, stranding dies, shape dies, polycrystalline diamond dies, ParaLoc pressure, non-pressure holders and ParaLoc accessories.

Paramount Die Company – USA
Website: www.paradie.com

Pourtier and Setic of America
Booth 442

Pourtier and Setic of America has rebranded its new machine division, located in Greenboro, North Carolina.

With more than 20 years' continuous presence and after several recent major machine installations in the USA, the Gauder

Group subsidiary now promotes the sales of its Pourtier and Setic product range under the name "Pourtier and Setic of America".

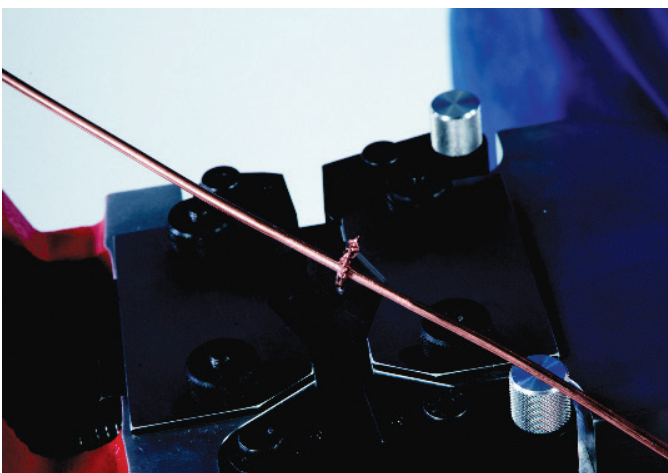


Left: The Setic AST1000R for Cat 8 cables
Right: Rigid strander from Pourtier

This product line includes Pourtier's successful rigid stranders and drum twisters for producing low, medium, and high-voltage cable and conductors, as well as Setic's large and small double twist bunchers, and a complete line of machines for the production of LAN and special cable.

Pourtier and Setic of America – USA
Website: www.gaudergroup.com

PWM
Booth 402



The M101 from PWM

PWM, which celebrates 30 years of service to the wire and cable industry this year,

will showcase its comprehensive range of high-performance manual cold pressure welding machines. The products will be presented by Joe Snee Associates, PWM's exclusive distributor for the USA and Canada.

The versatile M101, one of PWM's best-selling machines, is the largest cold welder on show. Precision engineered to produce strong reliable welds on copper wire 0.04" to 0.141" (1mm to 3.6mm) and aluminium wire 0.04" to 0.197" (1mm to 5mm), the M101 is also used to weld profiles and strips for armouring lines.

Low maintenance and easy to operate, the M101 can be used on a workbench or supplied with a trolley, enabling the operator to move it quickly to the work area.

PWM's hand-held M10, M25 and M30 models, for wire 0.0039" to 0.071" (0.1mm to 1.8mm) diameter, are comfortable to hold and simple to use. The larger BM10 and BM30 cold welders, for use on a workbench, are durable, low-maintenance machines for similar wire sizes.

PWM cold welding equipment is designed and made to high quality standards by skilled technicians in PWM's own UK workshops. Dies are individually hand-made in matched sets, in standard or custom sizes, to suit round or profile wire.

PWM Ltd – UK
Website: www.pwmltd.co.uk

QED

Booth 335

QED specialises in equipment for heat-treating, cleaning and coating of steel wire. Custom designed and built, its high-speed lines are for galvanising, Galfan®, patenting, annealing, and oil tempering processes. Combining innovative design concepts with 30 years' practical experience, QED has developed a range of products and equipment that is both technologically advanced and ruggedly dependable.



The latest Mk4 advanced recuperative burners on QED immersion burner galvaniser

With a view to improved efficiency and to minimise environmental impact, QED developed the dual loop pressure control combustion system. This system maintains

a steady output and close air-gas ratio. It now uses this patented combustion control system on all its multiple burner furnaces.

QED has recently upgraded its fluidbed technology with proportional, closed-loop feedback and mass flow controls. The Siemens PLC-based system provides much higher thermal efficiency and lower fuel costs than previous systems. Fluidbeds operate from DV=120 to DV=240 and from 1.5t/h to 8t/h production.

The latest development in galvanising furnaces is the advanced recuperative technology mark 4 immersion burner. This burner offers dramatically higher combustion efficiency from a double pass pre-heat design with extended heat-transfer area. Constructed of stainless and high nickel alloy steels this modularly constructed burner offers an extended operating lifespan and reduced maintenance.

In addition to the fuel savings, the new burner runs with a cooler skin temperature, providing a more pleasant working and maintenance environment.

The company also supplies the latest development in HighTurbulence® pickling and galvanising technology. The multiple stage cleaning systems have high turbulence acid that greatly accelerates the pickling process. Now with computer control, nitrogen wiping in galvanising and Galfan offers significant savings and accurate coating weights.

QED Wire Lines – Canada

Website: www.qedwire.com

Refractron

Booth 434

Refractron celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, and designs and manufactures complex ceramic products.



Porous ceramics, structural ceramics and dessicants from Refractron

The company produces specialty ceramics and desiccants which encompasses three product lines. These product lines are categorised as porous ceramics, structural ceramics, and desiccants. Each of the product groups are manufactured with proprietary materials used to reduce costly downtime associated with maintenance. Some of the markets it serves are wire manufacturing, mineral processing, waste water filtration systems and refrigeration.

For wire drawing, the Izory[®] (proprietary magnesia partially stabilised zirconia – MgPSZ) drawing cones and guides have quickly become recognised as the tool for making premium wire. Refractron claim Izory's[®] performance will increase wire production, and that its pristine finish and outstanding material properties contribute to making quality wire with limited maintenance. In addition, each part is laser

marked with part numbers and lot numbers to ensure quality control. The company can also personalise parts with customer numbers for ease of inventory control.

Refractron carries a full range of parts to support wire drawing including rings, rolls, eyelets, air wipes, drawing cones and guides.

Refractron – USA

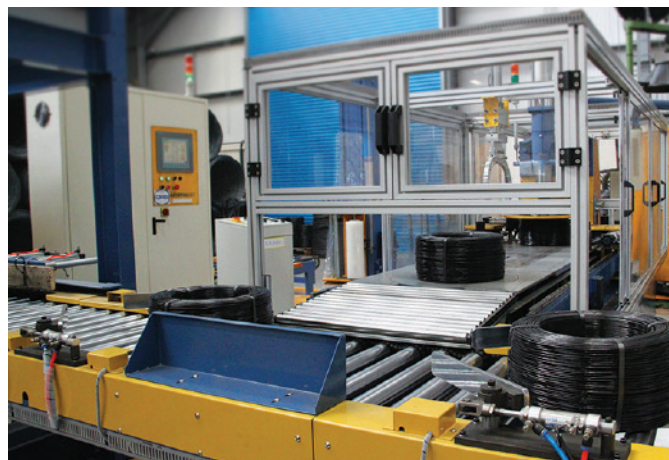
Website: www.refractron.com

Simpacks

Booth 1025

Simpacks offers a range of coilers, including:

- Dual head automatic coiler which can coil 18 AWG up to 8 AWG solid building wire or strand. It can also coil flat wire/cable. This coiler is capable of producing 6-7 coils per minute at a length of 100m
- New single head short length coiler for building wire cables, both round and flat, in a variety of lengths from 2m to 100m, at 6-10 coils per minute



Steel coilers from Simpacks

Simpacks coilers can process round or flat cable, solid or stranded cable, telephone

cable, battery cable, armored cable, annealed steel wire and special cable.

The new automatic coiler, strap and coil holder are available for all packaging solutions, including 2/4 straps on coil for wire, cable and steel applications. Controls, including Allen Bradley, Siemens, Telemecanique, Mitsubishi and Omron, can be chosen by the customer.

Simpacks – USA

Website: www.simpacks.com

Joe Snee Associates

Booth 402

Joe Snee Associates is the exclusive US and Canadian distributor for PWM, which is celebrating 30 years of service to the wire and cable industry, and is the New England representative for Beta LaserMike and AW Machinery.

Showcased on the booth will be a number of working hand held and manual cold pressure welders. PWM's manual range includes hand-held, bench and trolley-mounted cold welders, with capacities from 0.0039" to 0.141" (0.1mm to 3.6mm) copper and 0.197" (5mm) EC aluminium.

The M101, one of PWM's best-selling machines, is designed to weld copper wire 0.04" to 0.141" (1mm to 3.6mm) and aluminium wire 0.04" to 0.197" (1mm to 5mm). The M101 is also used to weld profiles and strips for armouring lines. The smaller range BM10 and BM30 cold welders will also be shown.

PWM's hand-held M10, M25 and M30 models are for wire from 0.0039" to 0.071" (0.1mm to 1.8mm), are comfortable to hold and simple to use.

Beta LaserMike is a supplier of process control and inspection equipment for measurement of diameter, capacitance, eccentricity, wall thickness and non-contact length and speed. It also supplies pre-heaters, SRL/FFT, lay length and excess fibre length (EFL) systems.

AW Machinery supplies complete extrusion lines as well as discrete components from control panels, pay-offs, take-ups, flyers, cooling troughs, cablers and accumulators – virtually any piece of equipment used in the production of electrical, communication and fibre optic cables.

Joe Snee Associates – USA

Website: www.jsnee.com

Ultimate Automation

Booth 141



The UMW-65 model

Ultimat personnel will be available to discuss the two axis wire forming and welding machines, suitable for the manufacture of supermarket shelving, and point-of-purchase displays, as well as its range of ring forming and welding machines.

All models feature a 'closed die' forming and cutting system, giving high quality square, burr-free cut and butt weld. Options include secondary bend head for high speed production of complex wire forms and automatic part unloading systems. With models available for a wire range from 2 to 16mm, Ultimate has a machine to suit all requirements.

Ultimate Automation Ltd – UK
Website: www.ultimat.com

Windak Group
Booth 406

Windak will launch its new website – www.windakgroup.com – at Wire Expo, with a whole new company look and new Windak Group logo.

With the introduction of its website, Windak has made it easier to communicate with its customers, and added a service page where customers can send warranty or service requests.

Each registered customer can use the user portal to track orders, see order history and check new offers. The pace of business today requires efficient communication and servicing its customers promptly is vital for Windak to remain a competitor in

automatic packaging equipment for the cable industry.

Windak also celebrates 20 years since being founded in Stockholm, Sweden.



The Quickpack QP3-H from Windak

A new high speed coiling line Quickpack QP3-H will be on display at Expo. Faster, with more servo control and fewer settings, this machine will give customers a quicker return. The QP3-H targets products from 2mm to 12mm in diameter, and coil lengths from 5m to 100m per package.

The output is up to eight coils per minute, depending on the type of cable and winding length. Almost all movements in this fast single-head machine are controlled by servos with very few mechanical setting changes for different packages.

Coils can be bound, shrink-filmed or put in boxes, all in one complete solution.

Windak Inc – USA
Website: www.windakgroup.com

Wire & Plastic Machinery

Booth 415

Wire & Plastic Machinery Corporation sells second-hand wire, cable and optical fibre manufacturing equipment.

Featuring the most comprehensive range of machinery with over 30,000 items in stock, equipment is offered 'as is', checked for operability or completely reconditioned to customer specifications.

Machinery is available for rod breakdown to fine wire drawing machines, stranders, bunchers, extrusion and jacketing lines, braiders, planetary and single twist cablers, drum twisters, pay offs, take-ups, caterpullers, rewind lines and more.

Wire & Plastic Machinery has eight North American locations, with complete rebuilding facilities in Bristol, Connecticut, and Bonham, Texas.

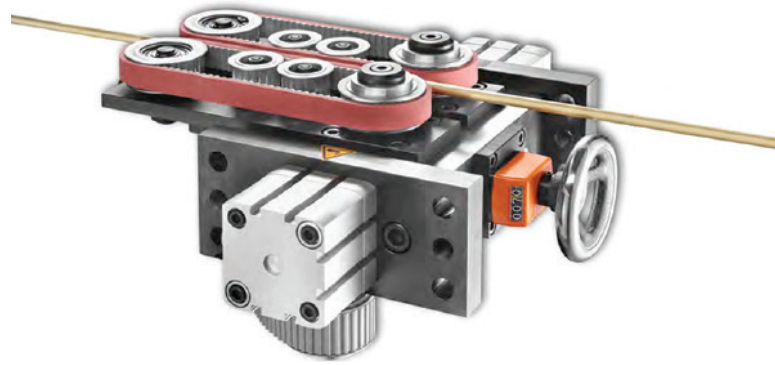
Wire & Plastic Machinery Corp – USA

Website: www.wireandplastic.com

Witels Albert

Booth 203

Witels Albert USA will be presenting both new and field-proven solutions from its range of straightener, roll, guide, feed and pre-former products. The company will turn the spotlight onto engineering solutions for straightening applications and the feeding of process materials.



Feeding unit NAK 60 Z with centric material clamping

Visitors to the stand can see the new products in action. The show also gives visitors the opportunity to learn more about the latest ideas from the world of wire, tube, rope and cable production and to familiarise themselves with the services and what Witels Albert can offer.

Witels Albert USA – USA

Website: www.witels-albert-usa.com

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PRODUCTS - MACHINES

& TECHNOLOGY

HRFR compounds

Solvay Specialty Polymers has introduced a new polyolefin grade, Cogegum® GFR 380, to its Cogegum range of cross-linkable, halogen-free flame retardant compounds for cable jacketing for the railway, shipping, oil and gas industries.

According to Luigi Dalpasso, senior vice president, and head of cross-linkable compounds for Solvay Specialty Polymers, the new grade represents a major breakthrough in silane-grafted HFFR. “Cogegum GFR 380 is based on a new technology platform that elevates performance capabilities to an unprecedented level,” he said.

GFR 380 has been developed to overcome the inherent stiffness of silane-grafted HFFR materials. With a 38 Shore D hardness, the new grade is softer and more flexible than typical silane-grafted HFFRs with a 45 to 50 Shore D hardness. This is especially valuable in railway and shipboard applications where cable space is narrow and bending ability is a key advantage. Cogegum GFR 380 is also said to provide superior flame retardant properties as, during burning, the char is compact and protects the cable.

The new grade offers the same chemical resistance as previous grades to such substances as oil, fuels, alkalines, acids, and service fluids.

Cogegum GFR 380 incorporates a masterbatch featuring additives to improve cross-linking action, weatherability and aging. The material is rated for use up to 90°C (194°F) and, for certain applications, can be adapted up to 105°C (221°F).

LPCB approvals

Doncaster Cables' mineral insulated cable has obtained LPCB approval. The insulated copper cables are approved to BSEN60702-1 and IEC60332-21, ensuring fire survival times of over three hours at temperatures up to 950°C. The cables are suitable for indoor and outdoor applications and for fire protection appliances in critical circuits such as alarms, sprinklers, emergency power and lighting and smoke control systems.

Mineral insulated cables are especially valuable in industries where flammable gases or liquids are present, ensuring circuit integrity for both control and power circuits.

Low power transmission modules

At the beginning of April, Toshiba Corporation began production of new additions to its line-up of Toslink™ fiber optic transmission modules. The new modules use all plastic fiber.

A high-power, high-reliability red LED allows the modules to be driven at a lower current than existing products. Transmission distance of 40m to 100m can be achieved with a 6mA drive current, and distances of 0.2m to 50m with a 1.5mA drive current. This is believed to be 90 percent lower than for existing products. The optic receiving module uses a single-chip light sensor IC containing a photodiode, an amplifier and a waveform-shaping circuit, and operates at 20mA. Four new products will be available. The TOTX1350 (F) and TORX1350 (F) are horizontal type optical transmitting and receiving modules; and TOTX1350 (V,F)

and TORX1350 (V,F) are vertical type. The devices have an operating temperature range of -40°C to 85°C and support a power supply voltage of 5V.

Toslink is a data transmission system that utilizes optical signals in place of electrical signals, so avoiding any electromagnetic noise, and performing more reliably than electrical data transmission. The optical cable is not susceptible to electromagnetic interference. The new models enable high speed, long distance and low consumption current optical communications, making them well-suited for transmission of control signals in energy sensitive applications including wind and photovoltaic power generation systems, control devices, battery controllers and various industrial devices.

Crane cable

TPC Wire & Cable Corp's Super-Trex® cable family has a new addition, especially developed for use on lifting equipment and crane systems.

Super-Trex basket-crane cable, sometimes referred to as bologna cable, is constructed



using a heavy-duty polyurethane jacket that provides protection against abrasion, chemicals and UV light, while maintaining

all-weather flexibility to -40°C. Additional strength and support is provided by an aramid fiber braid.

Lead-chain weights on the Super-Trex basket-crane cable give it added mass and stability, allowing it to coil easily within the basket and lending stability, especially in windy environments. The cable is said to be suitable for applications in steel mills, wood and paper product manufacturing plants, as well as in shipping and container ports.

Elastomers for autos

Teknor Apex has launched a new jacket compound with a low temperature brittleness value of <-60°C. The compound is the latest addition to a suite of rugged Flexalloy® PVC elastomer products for jacketing and insulation of electric vehicle charger cables.

Flexalloy 9612-75 is a 75 Shore A jacket compound that complies with the -40°C Cold Impact test requirement specified in CSA standards. It exhibits tensile strength of 2,645 psi (18.2 MPa) and elongation of 390 percent, and complies with the UL-62 oil resistance requirement.

“All of the Flexalloy compounds for EV charger cable are abrasion resistant, resilient, and tough even at very low temperatures, yet cost effective for large-volume production,” said Michael Roberts, wire and cable industry manager. “The durability and elasticity of Flexalloy PVC elastomers make them high performance alternatives to standard PVC compounds,

while being less expensive than premium materials like thermoplastic polyurethane."

Unlike standard flexible PVC, Flexalloy compounds are based on ultra high molecular weight PVC resin. They are designed for improved abrasion resistance and low temperature properties, and provide elastomeric resilience and resistance to compression set. The compounds can be processed on standard PVC equipment, and all materials in the Flexalloy family meet requirements for a maximum continuous operating temperature of 105°C.

Cable conduit solution

Cable and conduit manufacturer, Southwire has combined both products in a Southwire SIMpull® solution for utility customers, replacing Sentry CIC® cable in its product lineup. "Southwire SIMpull Solutions products are specifically designed to increase jobsite productivity, safety and profitability. SIMpull Cable-in-Conduit meets several important needs for our energy industry customers," said Michael Tribble, North American sales vice president, Cable-in-Conduit.

"SIMpull Cable-in-Conduit can be custom ordered so that nearly any cable we manufacture can be delivered already inside the conduit. This step reduces the chances of the cable being damaged during transportation or installation, while eliminating exposure to harsh environmental conditions."

SIMPull Cable-in-Conduit provides easy one-step installation, cutting equipment

costs and reducing the amount of time workers spend on installation. Safety is also improved, with less time spent in open trenches, close to traffic and pulling heavy cables. SIMpull Cable-in-Conduit is available in aluminum and copper conductors and low and medium voltage constructions, in a variety of conduit sizes and continuous lengths. The high-density polyethylene conduit meets ASTM and UL standards.

Oil-resistant cable for industry

Molex Incorporated has launched a line of weld-slag and oil-resistant (WSOR) cable designed for use in harsh environments. Offered in a wide range of standard and custom termination styles, Molex WSOR cable reduces inventory costs by offering a single-cable solution for automotive, material handling and other industrial factory automation applications.

Riky Comini, business development director for Molex industrial automation, explained: "WSOR cable improves operational efficiencies by offering industry's widest cross-section of styles for multiple applications, from welding to cutting oil environments."

Rated for a wide temperature range (static -40°C to +90°C), WSOR cable meets UL 758/1581 and VDE 472-803/B specifications. Suitable for machine sensors, valves and network connections, WSOR cable is available in cross sections of 0.25, 0.34, 0.50, and 0.75 to 1.50mm².

These flexible cables feature a bend radius of 5x outside diameter for static and 7.5x outside diameter for dynamic and drag chain conditions, all with an outer jacket available in four colors.

“Tool and line builders in automotive factories, machining centers and conveyor system manufacturers now have a rugged and more versatile alternative for their most demanding cable requirements,” Comini added.

Overhead cable cutting

Manual operation loppers and cutters are known to distort ACSR cable, or leave it with dangerous burrs and sharp edges. A solution to the problem is the Ideal Merlin™ PowerBlade cable cutter, contoured to provide clean, rounded cutting of ACSR cable.

The cutter fits onto a standard corded or cordless drill and, once installed, is held securely in place with an adjustable torque arm, while the user grips an ergonomic, textured Santoprene handle for added stability. The user simply pulls the drill's trigger to cut through thick ACSR cables in around 20 seconds. Manual cutters typically require 2 to 3 minutes to cut through ACSR.

“Merlin is a natural extension of our highly successful PowerBlade concept. It brings all the advantages of PowerBlade to utility linemen who, until now, have had to tolerate the drudgery of manually cutting thick ACSR,” said Bruce Hartranft, senior product manager for Ideal.

“PowerBlade eliminates the poor quality, muscle strain and high labor costs associated with manual ACSR cutters with a safer, faster and more accurate cutting alternative that reduces expenses for utilities.”

Wire feed connectors

Electron Beam Technologies has launched three new wire feed connectors, expanding the Fast 'N Easy® products already on offer from the company for weld wire dispensing.



The connectors, with the use of a conduit system, provide rapid installation and delivery of the welding electrode to the wire feeder from a remotely located master pack of wire. The QCM OTC® connector, #A-2095, adapts most OTC Daihen wire feeders with a 14mm inlet. The QCM OTC “S” connector, #A-2099, adapts OTC Daihen wire feeders and OTC Daihen wire straighteners with a 7/16” -20 female threaded inlet. The QCM Panasonic connector, #A-2097, adapts most Panasonic wire feeders with an M14 female threaded inlet.

USB 3 Optical™ cables

Corning Incorporated has launched USB 3.Optical™ cables, capable of carrying up to 5GB of data per second at distances up to 30m. Designed to be compatible with most USB 3.0 and USB 2.0 devices, Corning's USB 3 cables can easily extend data transmission beyond the 3m limitation of comparable copper cable. Utilizing Corning's ClearCurve® VSDN® optical fiber, the cables are up to 50 percent thinner and up to 80 percent lighter than comparable copper cables.

With a “zero-bend” radius, they can withstand bending, squeezing and tangling without damage or loss of function, making them suitable for routing through a crowded workspace.

“With longer, thinner, and lighter cables, USB 3.Optical Cables by Corning give users the freedom to max out data connection speeds for a more enjoyable creative workflow,” said Bernhard Deutsch, vice president, product line management, optical connectivity solutions for Corning Optical Communications.

“Imagine having your computer at your workstation and the whirl of back-up hard drives, printers, and other noisy peripherals in an entirely different room – and still benefiting from unbelievable transmission speeds.”

Getting spliced

Developed and manufactured by AFL in conjunction with Fujikura Japan, AFL's

LZM-100 LAZERMaster™ is believed to be the first commercially available glass processing and splicing system that uses a CO₂ laser heat source to perform splicing, adiabatic tapering, ball lensing, and other glass-shaping operations. The LZM possesses large diameter capabilities up to 2.3mm and long tapering capabilities up to 150mm. With a clean, deposit-free fiber surface, the LZM-100 provides the consistent results that are necessary for biomedical and high power delivery systems.



Photograph courtesy of Fujikura Japan

AFL also offers the ARCMaster series of splicers. ARCMaster consists of a patent pending “split v-groove” fiber clamping system to accommodate optical fibers from

60 to 2,000µm without changing v-grooves or fiber clamps, whether for cladding or coating.

Secure splicing

The manufacturer 3M has launched its cold shrink QS4 integrated splice for the construction and industrial market. Originally introduced to the utility market in 2013, the QS4 splice will integrate all of the layers of a shielded power cable splice into one compact joint, making installation quick and easy.



Based on 3M's QS-III cold shrink splice body the QS4 splice is specifically designed to meet IEEE standards, and features an easy-pulling, smooth-edged yellow core and a re-jacketing tube that eliminates additional core and the need for grease. A customizable, factory-installed ground braid and fewer components further reduce installation time.

Once installed, a cold shrink splice creates a reliable electrical interface without sealants or adhesives.

Each splice is tested for partial discharge and 1 minute AC withstand before shipping. The complete QS4 portfolio includes splice kits for 15, 25/28, and 35kV tape shield, wire shield, UniShield®, longitudinally corrugated, jacketed concentric neutral and flat strap neutral power cables, and covers conductor ranges up to 500mm².

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