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February 2014 issue - No 32

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#32 EDITOR

There are some big numbers in this issue of wiredInUSA – not least Southwire's $786m purchase of Coleman Cable (page 9), and Time Warner Cable's $600m outlay for DukeNet Communications (page 12).

While those two stories are, rightly, the lead ones, another number that deserves special mention is that of $18,629.65. That is the money raised by the annual charity week at Allied Wire & Cable, the most successful of eight charity weeks yet.

That money has been split into two, with $9,214.83 going to the Human Society, which works on behalf of both domestic animals and wildlife through shelters, rehabilitation programs and legal advocacy.

The remaining $9,214.83, plus an additional $200 donation from Rowe Industries, goes to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Everyone at Allied, and its customers, should be applauded for the efforts in supporting these worthwhile causes. The full story is on page 16

David Bell
Editor

CONTENT

#32 February 2014 issue

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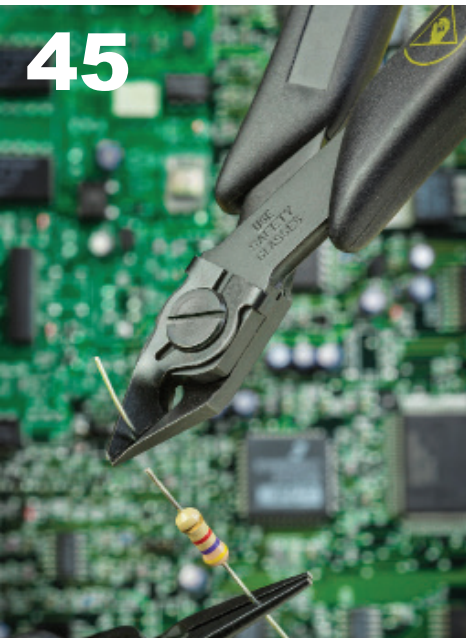

DIARY SHOW EVENTS

2014

APRIL
7-11 April: **wire Düsseldorf 2014**
Düsseldorf, Germany
Exhibition
www.wire.de

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
TBA: **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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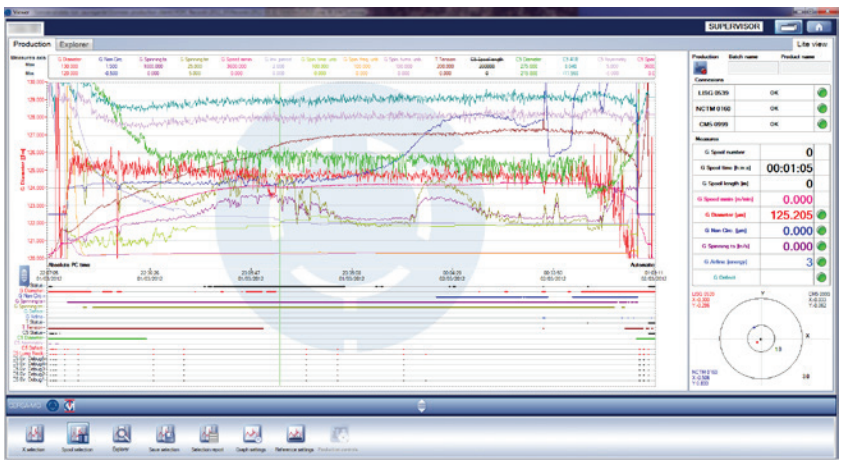

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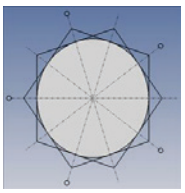
(Drawing force Birefringence principle)

- **0-400 grams ±1gram, 1kHz**
- Measurement field: **4mm Ø**

± 1 gr within **10-40°C** ambient

CM5: **Coating Monitor 5 axes**



- Absolute diameter: **±0.2µm, 400Hz**
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LDS-T (Laser Diffraction Sensor for transparent product)

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MAKING THE NEWS

Southwire buys Coleman for $786m

Following approval by the Coleman board of directors, Southwire Company will acquire Coleman Cable for $26.25 per share in cash –valuing the company at $786m, with the assumption of $294m in debt. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2014.

"The combination of Southwire and Coleman will create one of the wire and cable industry's preeminent companies with the ability to provide world-class service to its customers through a more robust and higher-quality offering of products and services, operational excellence and a stronger platform for enhanced product innovation," said Stuart Thorn, president and chief executive officer of Southwire.

Gary Yetman, president and chief executive officer of Coleman, said: "By partnering with Southwire, Coleman will benefit from Southwire's extraordinary track record of operational success as we continue to execute on our mission of expanding product offerings and sales and exceeding the expectations of our diverse and growing customer base."

Southwire and Coleman will continue to operate as separate companies until the merger is completed, at which point Coleman's management team will join the Southwire organization.

WAI's new hand at the helm

The Wire Association International has appointed William (Bill) Avise as president of the association for a one-year term, beginning 1st January 2014. He will serve as chairman of the board of directors and is the 60th president of the 84-year-old association.

A WAI member since 1993, Mr Avise has been actively involved in the organization's leadership through his participation on the executive committee; as a member, and later co-chairman, of the conference programming committee; and as executive committee liaison to both the paper awards and member relations committees.

He has also contributed to the American Wire Producers Association (AWPA) since 1994, serving as the organization's operations committee chairman between 1999 and 2004.

Mr Avise is president of the Wire Group and vice president of Leggett & Platt. His career in the wire industry began in August 1970 at Union Wire Rope (Armco) in Kansas City. From 1970 to 1975, while attending college at Central Missouri State University, he worked as a wire drawer. After graduating with a degree in business he became a shift supervisor, progressing in time to operations manager. In 1988 he accepted the position of plant manager with Leggett & Platt at the Merit Steel facility in Kouts, Indiana. Following a promotion to vice president of operations, he relocated to Carthage, Missouri, and became president of the Wire Group in 2009.

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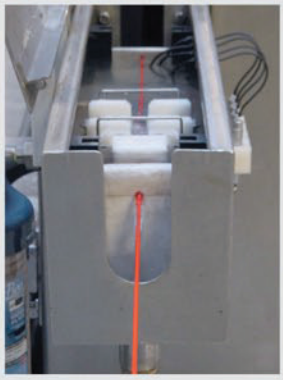

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Time Warner's $600m deal

Time Warner Cable Inc has completed its acquisition of DukeNet Communications, LLC. The $600 million purchase adds over 8,700 route miles to a fiber optic network that serves business customers in the southeast, including North and South Carolina.

Phil Meeks, executive vice president and chief operating officer for business services at Time Warner Cable, welcomed the company's new customers, adding: "We're also very excited for our existing customers, as this additional fiber capacity will enable us to extend our fiber reach and help them connect to our network from more business locations."

Time Warner Cable Business Class (TWCBC) anticipates utilizing the additional fiber to connect and serve business customers who need services such as voice, high-speed Internet and cloud-enabled hosting. In addition, TWCBC anticipates utilizing the additional fiber capacity to further grow its carrier business, providing network access to wireless providers. During summer 2013, TWCBC announced it was providing services for over 10,000 cell towers around the country.

FTTH board changes

The Fiber to the Home (FTTH) Council Americas has elected three industry executives to its board of directors for 2014.

The council elected Dave Kiel, director of Americas and APAC carrier marketing for Corning; John George, director of technical marketing and professional services for OFS; and George O'Neal, vice president'network services of GVTC Communications, to three-year terms on the nine-member board. Elected to one-year terms were Kevin Bourg, senior director of market development for Aurora Networks; Mike Hill, CEO and president of On Trac Inc; and Ben Lovins, senior vice president, telecommunications division of the Jackson Energy Authority.

Continuing on the board will be Kevin Morgan, director of product marketing for ADTRAN Inc; Walt Donovan, vice president for business development at Dycom Industries Inc; and Scott Jackson, business development manager - smart grid for Graybar.

Dave Kiel will serve as chair of the board of directors for 2014, along with fellow officers Kevin Morgan as vice chair, George O'Neal as treasurer and John George as secretary.

Georgia has power on its mind

Georgia's power company, Georgia Power, will complete its smart grid improvement project during 2014. The project is part of a $109 million investment grant project with the Department of Energy, about half of which the company itself is funding.

A highlight of the Georgia Power project will be the self-healing network. To date the company has created 73 of these networks, made up of 174 feeders (three-phase power distribution channels that fan out from a substation).

The self-healing network allows for problem areas to be isolated to prevent the blackout of an entire region. Power is consequently routed in an optimal manner that avoids going through the areas that lack the ability to carry electricity.

"These enhancements to our grid and processes are allowing us to work smarter across our system and better serve all of our customers throughout the state," said Leslie Sibert, VP of distribution at Georgia Power. "Although our customers are already seeing a positive impact on reliability and service, this project will continue to provide economic and environmental benefits for the growing state of Georgia for years to come."

Donnellan memorial award

Chemetall's Dane Armendariz, industry manager, cold forming, has been announced as this year's recipient of the Donnellan memorial award, presented to an individual in recognition of outstanding contributions in the wire and cable industry.

He has been a member of Wire Association International since 1993, serving as president in 2010 and with two terms on the board of directors. He has served on the executive committee, the oversight committee, co-chaired the conference programming committee and was chairman of the suppliers management committee from 1996 until the committee was recognized. He also served on the exhibition planning committee and was a member of the Interwire site evaluation task force in 2004.

In addition to serving as the 2005 Interwire committee chairman, he was on the organizing committees for Interwire in 1999 and Wire Expo in 1998 and 2004. He participated in the 2003 establishment of WAI's Ohio chapter, where he served both as a board member and secretary for the chapter, and was a long-term advisor for the Wire Journal International.

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Best week yet!

Allied Wire & Cable continues its holiday Charity Week tradition, raising $18,629.65 for the Humane Society and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Each year, a percentage of all sales during the designated Charity Week are donated to worthy causes and 2013, its eighth charity week, was the most successful so far.

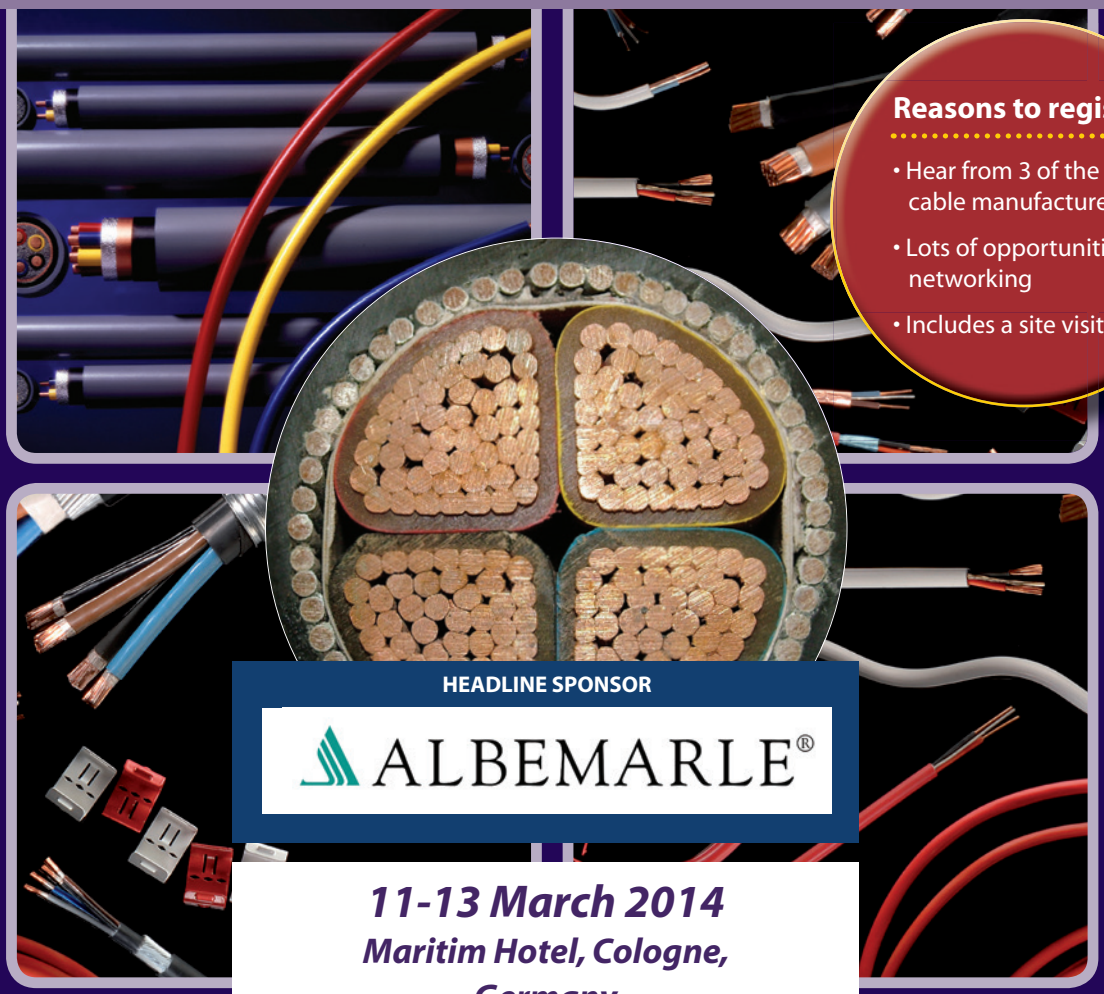
Allied Wire & Cable owner Tim Flynn considers the week to be one of the highlights of the company's year, and a wonderful opportunity to work with customers on giving back to the community. According to Flynn: "There is no greater joy than helping those that are less fortunate. The Allied family is proud to be part of raising close to $20,000 to help assist two great causes. A big thank you also goes out to our amazing customer base. Without them none of this would have been possible."

This year, the Humane Society received $9,214.83 to support its work on behalf of both domestic animals and wildlife through shelters, rehabilitation programs and legal advocacy.

In addition to furthering its work with animal welfare organizations, Allied continued to build its relationship with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Allied Wire & Cable presented a final check of $9,414.83, thanks to a special $200 donation from vendor Rowe Industries. Allied has a long history with Make-A-Wish, which has been the main beneficiary of many Charity Weeks over the years.

Cables 2014

The international conference and exhibition for the plastic cable industry



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- Includes a site visit

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Call for papers

The IEEE Photonics Society has announced a call for papers for its 2014 Summer Topicals meeting series, a technical gathering for photonics science, technology and research, providing an opportunity to interact with leading researchers in an intimate conference environment. The Summer Topical series is proposed and organized by volunteers of the IEEE Photonics Society. The conference will be held 14th to 16th July 2014 at the Delta Montreal Hotel in Montreal, Canada.

The 2014 Summer Topicals meeting series is seeking original research in five topic areas: functional meta- and two-dimensional materials, including the latest advances in photonics metamaterials as well as two-dimensional materials such as graphene; nanowire materials and integrated photonics, covering materials, devices and heterogeneous integration of photonics with nanowire technology; midwave infrared integrated photonics, including emerging applications in midwave-IR photonics; nonlinear optical signal processing, both traditional and emerging materials; and space division multiplexing technologies for high capacity transmission – technologies with the potential to increase the efficiency of fiber transport infrastructures.

Papers will be accepted from 9th February until 10th March 2014.

Educational partnership

A partnership of optical training providers Light Brigade and Dover Telecommunication Services (DTS) will supply new instructor-led and online training programs that cover both fiber-optic and wireless applications.

The agreement will see Light Brigade market and sell technical and safety training courses for the wireless industry, while DTS, a technical and safety training organization for the telecommunications sector, will market and sell fiber optic training programs from Light Brigade.

"Many companies require associates to keep up-to-date on the latest technology and follow certain safety procedures," said Dario De Paolis, vice president and general manager of Light Brigade. "By offering extended services to our respective customers, our customers will receive industry-leading, hands-on training for fiber optic and wireless applications and our wireless customers will gain required and highly sought after skills."

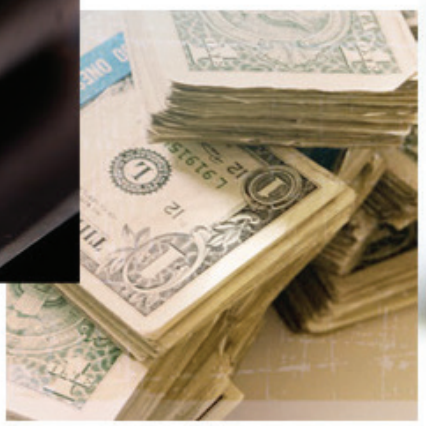
The courses will be designed to provide best practice techniques and hands-on skills training for those involved in the design, planning, installation, maintenance, or troubleshooting of fiber optic and wireless communication networks.

Plastics expansion

Plastics manufacturer Saco Polymers is to expand its facilities in Sheboygan with a 20,000ft^2 office building adjacent to its factory in the Sheboygan Southside Industrial Park. The extension, funded in part by a loan from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp, will provide research and development space and provide offices for sales and administrative personnel. Saco also owns and operates a plant in Michigan, as well as the specialty compounder Macromeric in Aurora, Ohio.

In expansion moves elsewhere, Saco has entered into an agreement to buy two plants in China from Singapore-based materials firm Dynamic Colours Ltd for a reported $15 million. The businesses, operating as Suzhou Huiye Chemical & Light Industry Co Ltd, and Suzhou Huiye Plastic Industry Co Ltd, are in Jiangsu province and are believed to make color compounds for the electrical and electronic appliance market. The acquisition is being made through AEI Compounds Ltd, a British compounding firm that Saco bought for almost $14 million in 2011.

Saco will post annual sales of over $100 million in 2013, primarily making compounds for the wire, cable and tube markets.



New CCCA member

Leviton is the latest cable manufacturer to join the Communications Cable and Connectivity Association (CCCA) and Ross Goldman, executive vice president and general manager, network solutions at Leviton, has joined the board of directors.

Bill Kloss, of OFS and CCCA chairman, said: "We at CCCA are thrilled that Leviton has chosen to add its voice to ours by joining the association. Leviton's brand recognition, and well-established reputation for quality, fits perfectly with our membership goals and mission."

Ross Goldman added: "Leviton has followed the CCCA and has been impressed with its initiatives and focus on education and creating awareness. We view the CCCA as a strong industry association and an excellent platform for Leviton to address issues important to the structured cabling industry and to advance quality."

Iowa move

Metro Wire and Cable, of Iowa City, has announced the appointment of Nathan Lovich as sales consultant.

Mr Lovich joins Metro Wire and Cable from the Aspen Valley, Colorado area where he was a sales specialist with Ensignal Wireless. A former resident of the greater Iowa City area, Mr Lovich is excited to be back near his roots and to work in the geographic and industry areas with which he is familiar.

He will work with electrical contractors, fire and security companies, utilities, OEMs and other customer bases in the greater midwest.

70 years of lifting

Indiana-based rigging manufacturer Tway Lifting Products is celebrating 70 years in the business, but continues to look for new products and to move forward within the sector.

Tway's 24,000ft^2 Indianapolis plant manufactures lifting equipment using raw materials from Crosby Group, Wireco, Loos & Co, Bridon and Bethlehem Wire Rope. The company recently achieved ISO9001-2008 certification, placing Tway as the only ISO certified rigging equipment manufacturer in the region, and in September 2013 produced its first 2-inch diameter wire rope sling with an ultimate strength of 370,000 pounds.

"Building a wire rope products plant in Indiana strengthened our position with the industrial sector in the midwest and brings another manufactured product to the state," said Peter Hansen, president and CEO. "There are few plants in the country capable of producing lifting gear this heavy, the same day, and we are excited to be among the best."

Sumitomo expansion

Work has begun on a new building in Scottsville, increasing Sumitomo Electrical Wiring Systems' facilities in the area. Sumitomo currently employs 194 people in Scottsville.

Sumitomo will lease and occupy the $2.5 million warehouse, which will be owned by the Allen County–Scottsville Industrial Development Authority.

Matt Adams, general manager of general affairs at Sumitomo, said the facility will allow the company to move warehousing from two other facilities, releasing floor space for much-needed manufacturing expansion. The company is benefitting from the continued rise in the automotive industry.

The new building will be used to receive raw materials and house finished goods pending shipping, Adams said.

New solar farm in Hawaii

Pacific Business News reports that North American wind and solar energy producer NextEra Energy is planning to develop a large-scale solar farm on Dole Food Co's land as part of a public-private partnership with the state of Hawaii.

NextEra is among south Florida's largest public companies, owning Florida Power & Light Co and NextEra Energy Resources.

Hawaii governor Neil Abercrombie confirmed that he is "requesting general obligation funds to enable the state to work with a renewable energy company to purchase agricultural and conservation lands [nearly 20,000 acres] currently owned by the Dole Co." He added: "We need to make this investment to secure these lands so that they do not become a temptation for development and urbanization."

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

EUROPE NEWS

Wake up call

Nexans was among those who welcomed the European Space Agency (ESA) news that the Rosetta comet chaser satellite had been successfully "woken" in deep space after over two-and-a-half years in hibernation.

Launched ten years ago, Rosetta is now 800,000,000km away and poised for the next phase of the mission – a scheduled attempt to land a probe on a comet surface in November. The researchers hope to gather information which will help explain the formation of the solar system.

Nexans provided the electrical harnesses for the probe. The harnesses were built in Brussels and took over three years to manufacture, requiring over 12,000 electrical connections.

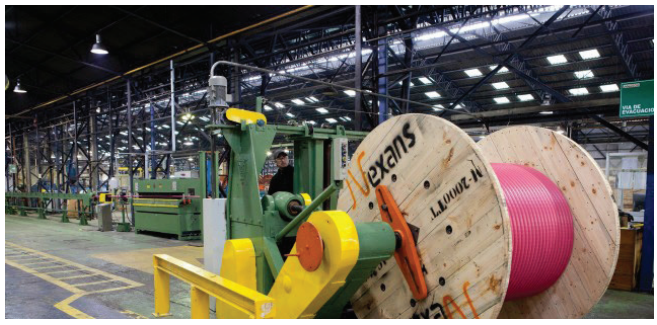
Record transmission over fiber

BT and Alcatel-Lucent have demonstrated data transmission speeds of 1.4Tbps over a fiber optic link, claiming it to be the fastest ever achieved in commercial grade hardware in a real world environment.

The trial was conducted during October and November 2013, over an existing 410km fiber optic link between two BT sites – the BT Tower in London and its Adastral Park research campus in Ipswich – using Alcatel equipment.

BT and Alcatel-Lucent said that the speed of 1.4Tbps was made possible by combining seven 200Gbps channels bundled together to transmit data along the fiber. This was accomplished by reducing the spacing between channels on the fiber from 50GHz to 35GHz delivering, what the companies described as "record breaking spectral efficiency" of 5.7 bits per second per hertz.

The successful trial, performed using software reconfigurable production equipment, could point the way for high-speed wide area networks (WANs), using existing Alcatel-Lucent equipment to create what has been called a 'flexible grid' (Flexgrid) infrastructure.



Harnessing new jobs

InvestBulgaria Agency revealed that Nexans autoelectric is to establish an assembly facility in Pleven, where Elektrokabel Bulgaria, a supplier for Nexans autoelectric group, will produce cable harnesses for European automobile manufacturers.

A modern assembly facility of 5,000m^2 will be completed within the year, and manufacturing will begin at the end of 2014. At full capacity, the plant will accommodate around 600 employees in production, administration, logistics, quality assurance and process engineering.

Nexans autoelectric, based in southern Germany, selected Pleven after an extensive analysis of the location factors. The good infrastructure, the excellent labor market and the accession of Bulgaria to the European Union were specifically decisive.

Nexans autoelectric develops and produces cabling systems and electro-mechanical components for conventionally powered vehicles as well as for E and hybrid vehicles.

Emerald lands at Killala Bay

Emerald Networks Holdings has chosen Killala Bay in County Mayo as the landing site for its Emerald Express high-capacity fiber optic cable system. The new-build cable will connect North America to Europe and Iceland, making Killala Bay the ideal landing location on the Mayo coastline, but with minimal environmental impact.

Emerald Networks selected Killala Bay after a thorough analysis of various factors such as any potential impact on the local fishing activity, minimal disturbance to the local environment, security to the cable systems and the landing facility, and increased ease of interconnecting with international terrestrial network for connecting with Dublin to London to other parts of the European continent.

Emerald Networks' new cable system is expected to provide 100G connectivity through a unique route connecting Shirley in New York to the west coast on Ireland, with a branch connection to Grindavik in Iceland and further planned connectivity to southern Europe. The system is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2014.

Delfingen wiring acquisition

At the end of 2013 Delfingen Industry announced its acquisition of the wiring protection manufacturing unit of Tianhai Hengbang Hebi Rubber & Plastic (Hengbang) of China.

Hengbang has a manufacturing plant in Hebi, Henan province, with service plants in the cities of Changchun, Chongquin, Jilin and Harbin. Delfingen reports that the company generates annual sales revenue of around $2million.

Delfingen has been in Wuhan, Hubei province, since 2010, and it is hoped that this acquisition will enable Delfingen to gain new markets with Sino-Chinese wiring manufacturers and OEMs, and also to complete its industrial and logistics presence.

Fire safety to the fore for Prysmian

Prysmian Group will supply environment-friendly fire safety cables to the Milan Universal Exposition, site of Expo 2015. The site, adjacent to the new Milan Trade Fair complex in Rho-Pero, will house exhibition space and themed pavilions.

The contract was awarded by German multinational Billfinger Sielv Facility Management and includes the supply of 300km of low voltage Afumex cables, and 50km of medium voltage P-Laser cables manufactured from recyclable raw materials. The cables will be produced at the group's plants in Pignataro and Giovinazzo, Italy, and will be delivered by the end of 2014.

Similar recent contracts include fire safety power distribution cables for the Isozaki Tower, under construction in Milan's new Citylife district, and contracts to supply low and medium voltage Afumex cables for installation along new stretches of motorway in Italy.


Russian prime minister Dmitry Medvedev

Wind finds approval in Russia

Under a program approved by the country's prime minister, up to 16 wind farms will be built in Russia by 2030. Five large wind power projects are planned for the Southern Federal District, but the wind farms will be distributed across all regions of the country. Included in the scheme are the 100MW Astrakhan wind farm and the 999MW Volgograd Lower Volga project, both of which are expected to be commissioned by 2030.

Two wind farms, with capacities of 150MW and 300MW, are planned in the Kalmykia Republic of Russia, and will be launched by 2025. Two further wind energy projects, known as Lodeyny and Kolsky, will be built in the Murmansk region and will have a capacity of 300MW and 500MW, respectively.

A 300MW project is planned for Ust-Luga, in the St Petersburg region, and a 200MW wind farm is to be built in the Kaliningrad region.

Epoch Wires wins Smart award

Epoch Wires, a company specializing in the design and manufacture of superconducting wires, has won a Smart program award of £250,000 from the UK's innovation agency, Technology Strategy Board.

With the award, Epoch Wires will continue its research and development efforts to expand its wire design capabilities for the MRI market, in conjunction with building new prototypes. Previously the company has successfully completed manufacturing experiments to produce an infinitely-long magnesium diboride (MgB_2) wire with excellent physical properties. The new wire is produced at the lowest market price at high production capacities enabling medical, and large-scale energy applications to meet mass market demand. The company will begin commercial production in early 2014.

With a core research team of Prof Bartek A Glowacki, director of Epoch Wires and professor at Cambridge University, and Dr Michael Cheadle, an expert in cryo-cooling systems, Epoch Wires is well positioned to design and manufacture magnesium diboride wires along with its proprietary cryo-cooling systems.

Fishermen get cable update

SHEFA Faroes, a member of Subsea Cables UK and a subsidiary of the Faroese telecoms industry, distributed the latest information on the locations of submarine telecoms cables by handing out free discs and memory sticks to skippers and vessel agents during a five-day tour of Scotland.

The visit was in conjunction with the distribution of KIS-ORCA discs which are available free from the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, Kingfisher/Seafish, or available for download from the KIS-ORCA website.

The information distribution was decided by SHEFA after its subsea cable, running from Orkney to Banff, was damaged on three occasions in 2013 after exposed sections were inadvertently snagged by trawlers. Following these incidents, SHEFA commissioned Kingfisher/Seafish to produce new information in the form of discs and pen drives displaying the cable and highlighting areas where it is not buried and liable to damage.

Subsea Cables UK is the consultative body for the UK subsea cable industry, representing major stakeholders such as BT, Virgin Media, Centrica, Vodafone, Dong, SSE, and many more. SCUK has a membership of around 40 cable owners and developers.

www.iwma.org

IWMA
INTERNATIONAL
WIRE & MACHINERY
ASSOCIATION

IWMA standing proud at wire 2014

The IWMA is again proud to be a main international industry partner of the wire 2014 exhibition in Düsseldorf from 7th to 11th April, and will have its usual stand number **11D26 in hall 11**, ready to provide members an extensive range of services, for those exhibiting and visiting the event.

Members are welcome to visit the stand for some welcome refreshments and a discussion with board members and staff about how membership can assist their business in the global market.

The IWMA stand will also offer members a comprehensive office service, with Internet, telephone, printing and photocopying facilities available, as well as a meeting room for those requiring a quieter environment for business discussions.

Members attending the exhibition are also invited to the prestigious reception and dinner, which will take place in the Süd Room 2 at the Messe Düsseldorf Congress Centre on Tuesday, 8th April 2014 from 6.15pm, enabling guests to come directly from the exhibition floor. Business attire will therefore be the dress code for the evening.

This event will be marked by a pre-dinner cocktail reception followed by a four-course dinner with wines. Every IWMA member organization can order up to two free tickets for the dinner and purchase additional tickets, subject to availability.

However, ticket applications will be on a first-come, first-served basis and members are invited to book by contacting the IWMA at info@iwma.org for a form.

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ASIA & AFRICA NEWS

Picture : Alessandro Paiva

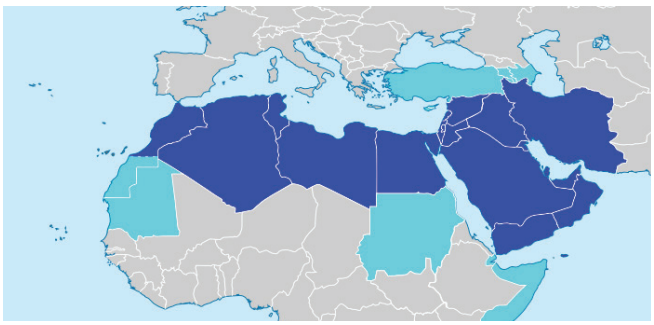
Pacific link

Interchange Ltd, a Vanuatu-based company, is expanding its undersea infrastructure with a new 3,000km cable system to link the Pacific islands of Vanuatu, the Solomons and Papua New Guinea. The new system will deliver ultra-broadband access capability.

The new system will connect Port Vila, Vanuatu, to Port Moresby, PNG, with branches to Luganville, Vanuatu, and Honiara in the Solomon Islands. Initially operating at 40Gbit/s but with an ultimate design capacity of 1.2Tbit/s, the system will increase Internet speeds for new and existing service providers to support the deployment of applications for healthcare, education, government communications and tourism while further strengthening Vanuatu's competitive position as an e-business hub.

Simon Fletcher, CEO of Interchange, said: "Fast and easy connections to everything and all the time is a critical demand whether it comes from video entertainment, cloud-based business applications or access to more basic health care applications from remote areas. With the help of Alcatel-Lucent's submarine technology, this new undersea cable system further helps remove the current dependence on satellite and further encourage the introduction of new services and applications affordably available to everyone. Interchange is committed to a better future for Melanesia by offering nation-building telecommunications technologies and infrastructure to communities throughout the entire region."

The new system will complement the 1,259km Vanuatu to Fiji undersea cable system, which was due to become available during January 2014.



MENA gets Egypt permits

In a move towards launching a submarine cable network, a subsidiary of Egypt's Orascom Telecom Media and Technology Holding (OTMT) has purchased the rights to parts of Telecom Egypt's infrastructure.

Once completed, the Middle East and North Africa submarine cable system (MENA) fiber optic network will span three continents (Europe, Africa and Asia), two seas (Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea) and one ocean (Indian Ocean), initially landing in five countries (Italy, Egypt, KSA, Oman and India) with potential expansion phases to land in Greece, the east of the Mediterranean and Djibouti.

MENA, which the company had previously hoped would be fully operational in June 2013, was delayed by a lack of regulatory approvals for the terrestrial section through Egypt, OTMT official Marwan Hussein revealed.

After signing the IRU (indefeasible right of use) agreement with Telecom Egypt for diversified dark fiber pairs between Zaafarana and Abu-Talat, and acquiring the mandatory permits, OTMT expects to launch MENA within a year, as the marine construction is already completed.

It is to pay $30 million "within the year" as part of the agreement, Hussein told Reuters.

Trans-Pacific upgrade

Ciena® Corporation and Pacnet have announced the completion of an upgrade to Pacnet's trans-Pacific link connecting the US west coast to Japan. Faced with increasing demand for bandwidth-intensive applications and data center services, Pacnet expanded its network to offer high-capacity OTN and ethernet services to meet customer demand while reducing cost.

In addition, the enhanced programmable 100G network solution allows for bandwidth agility to deliver scalable capacity that is configurable by both enterprise and carrier customers for a high-performance and cloud-ready network.


George Samisoni,
Acting CEO, Fintel

Direct links

Fiji businesses and institutions will connect directly with business partners and counterparts in Tonga and Vanuatu following the successful laying and commissioning of a submarine optical fiber cable between Fintel, Fiji's international telecommunications provider, and Vanuatu.

Fintel's acting chief executive officer, George Samisoni, announced that the Fiji to Vanuatu telecommunications cable system would be ready for commercial operation from mid-January 2014.

"The 1,250 kilometer submarine cable system, at a cost of $30 million, will link directly into the high capacity Southern Cross cable, enabling Vanuatu businesses to connect to the global telecommunications highway via US, Australia, Asia and Europe," he said.

"The high speed Internet should be a life-changing event for the people of Vanuatu and opens the door for e-commerce, e-education, e-health and e-government to name a few."

"This is the second Pacific island cable system to be landed at Fintel's Vatuwaqa communications gateway, positioning Fiji as the telecommunications hub of the Pacific," he continued.

Nepal's fiber launch

Nepal Telecom (NT) will demonstrate new fiber-to-the-home services at its annual celebration day on 5th February. In its first phase, Nepal Telecom is installing fiber networks in ten locations across the country and plans to launch services in mid-April.

The company plans to replace existing copper wires with fiber, and to expand the service across Nepal once the major cities are covered. As part of the project, Nepal Telecom has already completed the installation of fiber links to the exchanges.

Anti-dumping duties imposed

The Malaysian ministry of international trade and industry (Miti) has imposed five years of anti-dumping duties on imports of Chinese 7-wire pre-stressed concrete strand.

Miti said in a statement that duties between 5.93 percent and 8.71 percent will be imposed on imports from Chongqing Longtai Rare Earth & New Materials Co, Hunan Xianghui Metal Products Co Ltd, Silvery Dragon Pre-stressed Materials Co Ltd and others.

The investigation into the alleged practices began in April 2013, following a petition filed by Southern PC Steel Sdn Bhd on behalf of the domestic industry producing 7-wire PC strand.

The petitioner alleged that imports of 7-wire PC strand originating in or exported from China were being imported into Malaysia at a price much lower than that in the domestic market.

The scope of product under investigation covered 7-stranded wire and, specifically, excluded polyethylene grease-coated PC strand, galvanized steel wire, galvanized PC strand, indented PC strand, PC strand with spiral ribs, and ropes and cables.

Palawan undersea fiber project

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) has completed the rollout of nearly 300km of submarine fiber optic cables to link Palawan province in western Philippines to the rest of the PLDT network.

The cable extends from Taytay in Palawan to San Jose de Buenavista in Iloilo, one of PLDT's major hubs within the domestic fiber optic network (DFON).

PLDT president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno said the new fiber optic facilities will enable PLDT to provide FTTH facilities and also support the operations of its wireless subsidiaries, Smart Communications and Sun Cellular, particularly the deployment of Smart's ultra-fast LTE service for its mobile subscribers in Palawan.

PLDT Technology group head Rolando Pena said the PLDT Group has expanded its fiber optic network in the last three years to reach over 78,000km nationwide.

PLDT earlier completed the installation of over 150km of submarine fiber optic cables to link the island of Bohol with the major network centers in Visayas and Mindanao.

Dispute halts fiber connection

A disagreement between DalCom Somalia and Hormud Telecom concerning distribution has brought the connection process in Mogadishu to a standstill. DalCom has been working on the fiber optic connection process for a year, and work was expected to be completed by mid-2014.

The Somalian government has made efforts to mediate between the two companies but, to date, no progress has been made and work has ceased. The cause of the disagreement has not been revealed.

Analysts believe, however, that having spent up to $7 million on the project, DalCom Somalia, a joint venture involving several Somali telecommunication companies, will be unlikely to allow the project to fail. Since its introduction, DalCom Somalia has been described as the backbone of Internet operations in Somalia. The company provides a wide range of products and solutions for Internet service providers including corporate and learning institutions, media operators and cyber cafes.

Somalia was among the last African countries to have Internet access; its first ISP was established in 1999.

South Koreans move into Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan state-owned power company Empresa Nacional de Transmision Electrica (Enatrel) has awarded a joint contract to Daewoo International and Hyundai Engineering to build 138kV electricity transmission lines and five substations.

Under the terms of the contract, believed to be worth around $28m, the South Korean companies will design, construct and commission the power substations and 80km of transmission lines in the El Sauce region in the northwest of the country.

An undisclosed Daewoo International official said the Nicaraguan deal will provide the company with a foothold to further advance into the central American market, adding: "We will do our best to find more business opportunities in power transmission and renewable energy projects in Latin America and other developing world markets."

PRODUCTS - MACHINES & TECHNOLOGY

Fully automated fiber inspection

EXFO Inc, a supplier of test and service assurance solutions for wireline and wireless network operators and equipment manufacturers, has released the FIP-430B fully automated fiber inspection probe to its range.

The new portable FIP-430B USB inspection probe, which is compatible with any PC or laptop, all of EXFO's FTB Ecosystem platforms and the newly launched MaxTester 700B OTDR series, has been designed to simplify connector certification.

Officials at EXFO explained that the FIP-430B integrates advanced automated features, such as a high performance, fiber image-centering system and onboard connector-end face pass/fail analysis based on IEC or custom standards to deliver accurate and consistent connector certification in seconds.

The company claims that the probe's image-centering function alone is capable of achieving time savings of up to 57 percent, and the automatic focus adjustment feature provides the critical "missing link" that enables the process to be 100 percent automated.

"EXFO is the first to introduce an autofocus feature of this kind in a field inspection device. By automating the full test process, this innovation eliminates all complex and time-consuming operations, as well as the risk of human misinterpretation, making it easier for the end user to follow best practices," said Étienne Gagnon, vice-president of EXFO's physical-layer and wireless division.

Gagnon said that the autofocus facilitates identification of defects, and focus protection prevents reporting of false-positive results, leading to more accurate and consistent test results.

Femtosecond laser writing

TeraXion, a supplier of optoelectronic components and modules for the telecom, fiber laser and optical sensing markets, has announced the commercial introduction of femtosecond laser fiber Bragg grating (FBG) writing capabilities.

High-performance femtosecond laser sources, through non-linear interaction with materials of ultrafast intense laser pulses, make possible the inscription of fiber Bragg gratings in a variety of glasses for differing wavelength range applications.

TeraXion has demonstrated through-coating writing of FBG using the femtosecond laser writing technique in acrylate and polyimide-coated optical fibers. With the addition of this latest capability, TeraXion will develop new products such as very high-power fiber laser reflectors and optical sensors for extreme environments. These new products could be realized in new glass materials such as pure silica and chalcogenide (2 to 5um) optical fibers or planar waveguides.

"This addition to our technology portfolio will allow us to extend our product offering for the high-power fiber laser and fiber optic sensing markets," said Ghislain Lafrance, vice president business development.

Patented spool products

Canadian spool manufacturer Tug-Wise has announced the availability of patented products designed especially for electricians and other professionals who need heavyweight bearing cable reel holders.

Tug-Wise currently offers a standard and deluxe model of cable reel holder, both of which are patented by the company. The standard model has a maximum weight of 500lb, and the deluxe model has a maximum weight of 1,500lb. A 1,000lb model has just been launched, and a 10,000lb model is under development. This will be the biggest and heaviest weight-bearing model. Invented and designed by an electrician, Tug-Wise cable reel stands are said to have the needs of the electrician in mind.

Enhanced service

Pacnet has announced that its wavelength premium international private line (wave premium) service has been enhanced with the completion of the 100G Asia-Pacific network upgrade. The expanded network capacity provides carriers and service providers with higher availability and priority restoration capabilities through route diversity.

The enhanced wave premium service offers customers service level agreements (SLAs) with service credits up to 100 percent of monthly service charges, and will significantly decrease restoration time when a subsea outage occurs. With multiple subsea cables connecting major markets in the region, Pacnet has the ability to provide carriers and service providers multiple route options and assurances for restoration.

"The vast majority of subsea outages are caused by external aggression, not technical defaults or other operational issues, and the time required to make repairs results in significant business impact for customers," said John Garrett, president of carrier services, Pacnet. "With the 100G upgrade, our capacity enables us to offer a resilient, meshed network that provides customers redundancy with multiple routes to the same destinations."

Pacnet owns and operates a trans-Pacific and intra-Asia subsea fiber optic cable network with up to 10.24Tbps of combined design capacity, spanning 36,800km and connecting to cable landing stations and points of presence in key Asian markets including Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo.

Linking longer lengths

Firecomms has launched its 530nm DC-1 Mb RedLink transmitter for applications requiring extended link lengths over plastic optical fiber (POF).

Operating in the green spectrum at 530nm, the new transmitter exploits a lower attenuation window of POF. At 0.1dB/m,

the attenuation of the FT01MHNG is said to be considerably lower than that of traditional POF transmitters operating in the red spectrum. The lower attenuation characteristics of the FT01MHNG transmitter make it possible to implement POF links up to 150m or even 200m. Traditionally, link lengths have been limited to 50m.

Suitable for sensing, CANbus/RS485/RS232 links, gaming, Smart Meter and industrial command and control applications, the FT01MHNG transmitter can replace more expensive silica-based solutions with POF, and remove the need for repeaters.

Firecomms has completed a full qualification of the devices, confirming that wavelength and output power remain extremely stable over the industrial temperature range of -40°C to +85°C. Link tests performed using the new transmitter with the Firecomms FR01MHIR receiver have shown transmission distances of up to 200m, depending on actual throughput.

Spun Faraday fibers

Photograph courtesy of Fibercore

UK-based Fibercore has developed new optical fibers for Faraday effect current sensors as part of its spun fiber range.

Fibercore offers two ranges of spun fiber, SHB spun high birefringence (HiBi) fibers and SLB spun low birefringence (LoBi) fibers. Both products are optimized for use in polarimetric sensors, including the AC and DC fiber optic current transformers that are replacing conventional current transformers in some electrical power generation and distribution applications.

SHB fibers are primarily designed for fiber optic current transformers where stability under vibration and temperature change is critical for high accuracy current sensing. They are fabricated by spinning a 'Bow-Tie' polarization-maintaining preform during the fiber drawing process. They preserve circular polarization by design and are therefore insensitive to the thermal and/or vibration-induced signal fade/drift caused by externally induced stress. This gives the SHB fibers superior performance over SLB fibers when used in long or small diameter sensor coils.

Spun LoBi fibers are designed for short length, large coil diameter Faraday effect current sensors, where cost is more critical than performance. The fiber gives higher sensitivity to the Faraday effect than SHB fiber but does not resist the optical effects induced by coiling-induced stress, thermal fluctuations or vibration.

Reducing cable use at sea

Cobham SATCOM has released a fiber optic solution suitable for use with several of its leading Sea Tel VSAT antennas. The complete fiber kits are designed to improve installation possibilities by replacing the standard multiple coax cables from the below deck equipment (BDE) to the above deck equipment (ADE – the antenna), with a single, ultra-low IF loss fiber optic cable.

Cobham SATCOM has developed Sea Tel fiber solutions kits for the Sea Tel 4012GX,

XX12, XX09G2/XX10 and 97XX antenna systems. Each kit contains a simple 1U rack mountable BDE interface, which receives the coax cables and is linked by fiber cable of any length to an ADE interface, typically installed in the radome base. All necessary interface cabling is included.

Status LEDs on the front panel of the BDE enclosure and on the top of the ADE interface box provide visual status of the fiber optic link, enabling engineers to make a quick diagnosis on the health of the connection between the BDE and ADE should an issue with the vessel's communication service arise.

"Using a single fiber optic cable is a much smarter, more efficient solution than running multiple cables over very long distances, which can be a huge challenge when developing communication networks for large ships, offshore vessels and platforms," said Darren Manning, senior product manager, Cobham SATCOM.

New electrical steels

Cogent Power, a subsidiary of Tata Steel, has launched a range of new electrical steels said to reduce electricity losses by up to 30 percent, compared with conventional grain-oriented grades.

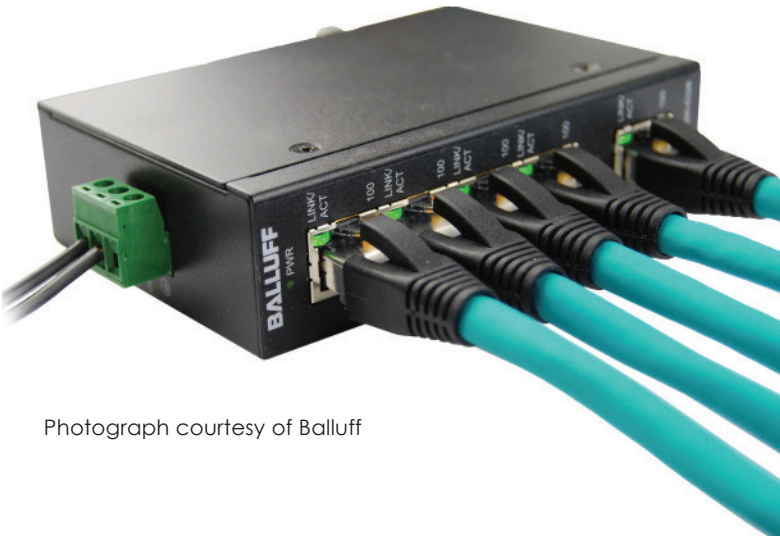
The new steels are produced at Cogent Power's Orb works in Newport, South Wales, where Orb also produces cold rolled grain-oriented electrical steel for the manufacture of electricity transformers.

As global demand for electricity continues to grow, so does the requirement from the power industry for products that enable electricity to be generated and transmitted more reliably and efficiently. Stuart Wilkie, managing director of Cogent Power, said: "These new high-grade products will make a significant contribution to the preservation of natural resources by reducing the energy lost in the generation and transmission of electricity. They benefit our customers and the whole of society."

The new grades – M080-23DR, M085-23DR, M090-27DR and M095-27DR – facilitate the production of highly efficient steel cores housed within the transformers used in energy transmission networks.

In addition, Cogent Power has invested in a one-meter wide core-cutting line at its manufacturing facility in Burlington, Ontario, Canada, to meet the needs of power transformer manufacturers in North America.

New industrial Ethernet cables



Photograph courtesy of Balluff

Industrial Ethernet is growing as the accepted network in the industrial environment due to its speed and data visibility. While Cat5E is the base requirement for industrial Ethernet, when

working with a specific network such as EtherNet/IP or PROFINET, there are higher requirements for the components in the network, especially the cables.

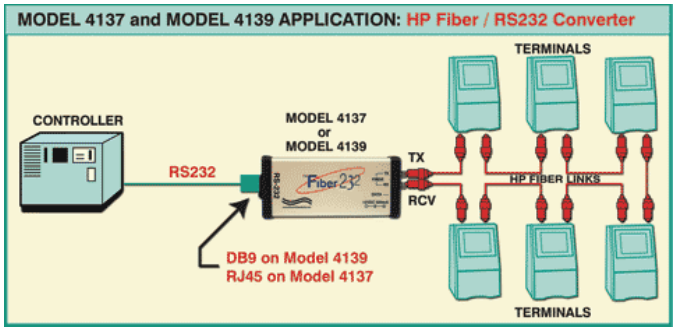
Balluff's new Ethernet cables are suited to almost any industrial Ethernet application and are available in a variety of options, including M12 D-coded and/or RJ45 connectors, PUR, TPE, or PVC shielded jackets. The 4-conductor cables are high flex-resistant; oil, chemical and UV resistant; and 600V insulated for use close to industrial devices. Shielded versions are available for environmental noise immunity.

Fiber converter

Electro Standards Laboratories has launched the model 4139 HP fiber to RS232 converter, used to connect fiber optic linked terminals to a controller with an RS232 interface port. The 4139 offers electrical-to-optical and optical-to-electrical conversion via a DB9 connector. The unit converts RS-232 serial communication interface to HP Versatile Link plastic core cable. This system provides full galvanic isolation (no metallic connection) between connected devices, and supports full duplex connection between two devices with RS232 ports.

The model 4139 allows interference-free fiber optical transfer of data, at up to 120Kbps, to be utilized by a device with an RS232 interface. Fiber connections are via two standard VersaLink connectors.

The maximum link distance is over 500m (1,640 feet) with 2mm hard clad silicon fiber cable; the fiber transmission distance is 75m (250 feet) using TC1000 W plastic fiber cable. The RS232 transmission distance is greater than 15m (50 feet). The optical fiber connectors are HP/Agilent Versatile Link, and the optical cable type is 1mm plastic optical film. The optical wavelength is 660nm (red).



Photograph courtesy of Electro Standards Laboratories

Defense funding for nanomanufacturing

Nanocomp Technologies Inc, a developer of performance materials and products using CNTs (carbon nanotubes), has been awarded $18.5 million in additional funding under the Defense Production Act Title III program to supply CNT yarn, sheet and tape materials for the program needs of the Department of Defense, as well as for commercial industrial markets.

The mission of the DPA Title III Program is to create assured and affordable production of products that have been identified as essential for national defense, but where US industry has not demonstrated an ability to deliver due to market conditions or other fiscal barriers.

Nanocomp's CNT-based products are currently featured within the advanced design programs of several important DoD and NASA applications including: lightweight body and vehicle armor; improved structural components for

satellites and aircraft; and lightweight cable and wiring. The company's CTex™ CNT conductors and EMshield™ tapes replace copper in cables, reducing the weight of aerospace wiring by as much as 70 percent, resulting in considerable fuel savings and other immediate operational cost savings. Commercial aircraft manufacturers will also benefit from Nanocomp's lightweight CNT-based wires in saving millions of gallons of fuel while also reducing carbon dioxide emissions by hundreds of millions of pounds per year, per aircraft.

Adjustable jacket stripper

Platinum Tools has launched its new Cyclops 2 cable jacket stripper for data, voice, video, audio, security, and other applications.

"The Cyclops 2 takes the guesswork out of removing the cable jackets from many types of twisted pair UTP/STP, multicore (shielded and unshielded), and fiber optic cables," explained John Phillips, product manager at Platinum Tools. "The tool self-adjusts to automatically cut PVC, plenum, and others without damaging the braids, foils, or conductors. The one-piece design is ready-to-use right out of the package."

The Cyclops 2 accepts cable diameters up to 0.43 inches (1.09cm) diameter.

Laser micrometer interface

LaserLinc has developed the NetLinc™ laser micrometer interface to streamline the setup process by enabling transmission of measurement data via a standard Ethernet cable.

One end of the cable plugs into any PC, laptop, or all-in-one box running Total Vu™ software, and the other into the NetLinc micrometer's ethernet port. The NetLinc interface can also connect a micrometer to plant networks, streaming the data to a Total Vu PC via standard Ethernet TCP/IP.

Connectivity of the NetLinc interface is incorporated directly into most LaserLinc micrometers.

Safer wire cutting

A new electrostatic discharge-safe ergonomic wire cutter, featuring a tapered head for access into densely populated PCBs and with a lead retainer for assembly and repair applications, has been developed by Xuron Corp of Saco, Maine.

The Xuron® model 9200ASF Micro-Shear® flush cutter is equipped with static dissipative hand grips and employs by-pass shear action cutting to produce clean, square cuts without spikes.

Easier to squeeze than compression-style cutters, the Xuron model 9200ASF cutter conforms to ANSI/ESD.S20.20 and DOD-HDBK-263 specifications. The highly alloyed steel cutting edges are hardened to Rc 56-58 and the static safe hand grips exhibit 106-109 ohms surface resistivity.

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

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