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**USA**

January 2014 issue - No 31

# 2014

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

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### \$1.4bn transmission projects



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## Indiana Convention Center Indianapolis, Indiana | | May 6-7, 2014

**Artifact:** Mechanical speedometers rely on a connection with the drive cable—in which tightly wound helical coil springs wrap around a center wire mandrel—that connects to a set of transmission gears. When the vehicle moves, the gears turn this flexible drive cable. The mandrel communicates the rotational speed of the transmission down the cable to the speedometer where both linear distance and speed are calculated. As many as 1,000 revolutions of the drive cable are needed to register one mile on the odometer.



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# #31 EDITOR

Happy New Year! We're hoping you have all recovered from the excesses of the festive season and are ready to face 2014.

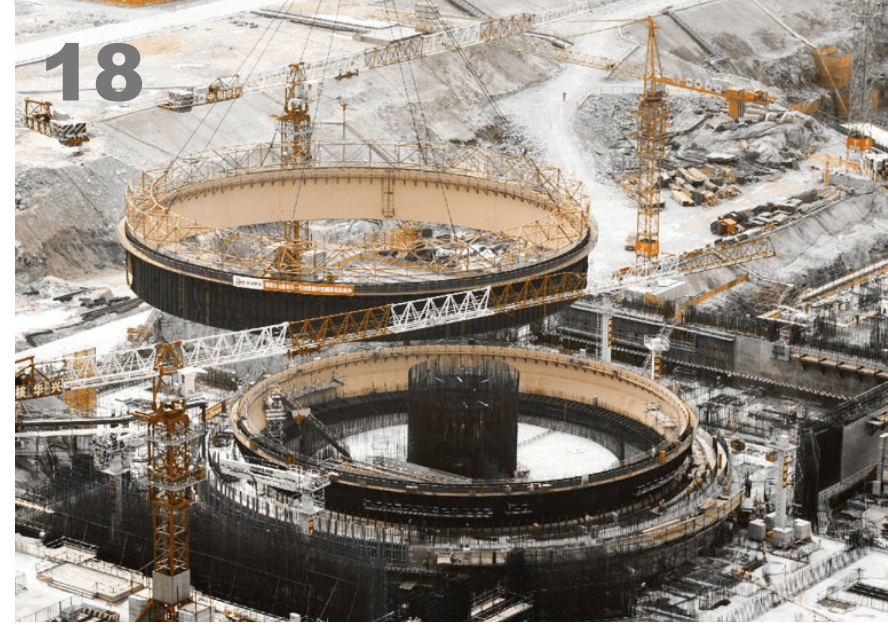
And what better way to start the year than with a massive \$1.4bn investment in more than 300 projects for transmission plans across the USA. The US Midcontinent Independent System Operator has rubber-stamped the cash, in addition to the \$17.9bn it has already spent since 2003. You can read the full story on page 9.

The new undersea network provider Emerald Networks, and TE SubCom, a TE Connectivity company, have begun their survey of USA and Ireland territorial waters – an important step towards the construction of the Emerald Express trans-Atlantic cable system. The system is planned to provide low-latency and ultra-high bandwidth capacity between New York, Dublin and London. Full story on page 27.

Attention will obviously be switching fairly quickly this year to the world's largest wire and cable exhibition in Düsseldorf, Germany, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April. wire 2014 was already sold out in December. You can catch all the details about the show, organized by Messe Düsseldorf, in the March issues of sister publications Wire & Cable ASIA and EuroWire. Catch the latest issues on line at [www.read-wca.com](http://www.read-wca.com) and [www.read-eurowire.com](http://www.read-eurowire.com)

David Bell  
Editor

# 2014



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2014 and 2015

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Industry news from the USA

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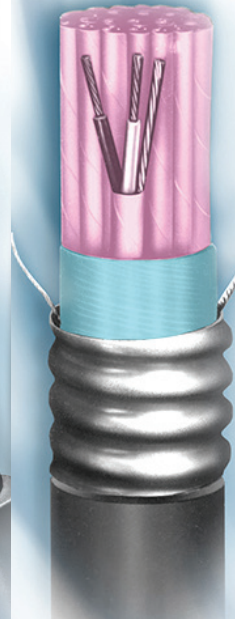
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# DIARY SHOW EVENTS

## 2014

### APRIL

7-11 April: **wire Düsseldorf 2014**  
 Düsseldorf, Germany  
 Exhibition  
[www.wire.de](http://www.wire.de)

### MAY

6-7 May: **Wire Expo 2014**  
 Indianapolis, Indiana, USA  
 Exhibition  
[www.wirenet.org](http://www.wirenet.org)

14-15 May: **National Electric Wire Processing Expo**  
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA  
 Exhibition  
[www.epishows.com](http://www.epishows.com)

14-17 May: **Lamiera**  
 Bologna, Italy  
 Exhibition  
[www.lamiera.net](http://www.lamiera.net)

### JUNE

16-18 June: **Guangzhou International**  
 Guangzhou, China  
 Exhibition  
[www.metalchina-gz.com](http://www.metalchina-gz.com)

17-18 June: **Polymers in Cables**  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA  
 Conference  
[www.amiplastics-na.com](http://www.amiplastics-na.com)

### SEPTEMBER

24-27 September: **wire China 2014**  
 Shanghai, China  
 Exhibition  
[www.wirechina.net](http://www.wirechina.net)

### OCTOBER

28-30 October: **wire India**  
 Mumbai, India  
 Exhibition  
[www.wire-india.com](http://www.wire-india.com)

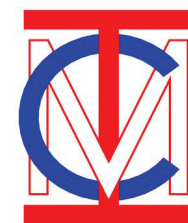
### NOVEMBER

TBA: **IWCS**  
 Rhode Island, USA  
 Conference and table top exhibition  
[www.iwcs.org](http://www.iwcs.org)

## 2015

### April

28-30 April: **Interwire 2015**  
 Atlanta, Georgia, USA  
 Exhibition  
[www.wirenet.org](http://www.wirenet.org)



Measure & Control Instruments

# OPTICAL FIBRES

## Measurement Instruments

In line data collection,  
 display, record and report

CIM PC software:



### LIS-Glass:

#### Laser Interferometric Sensor

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

### NCTM:

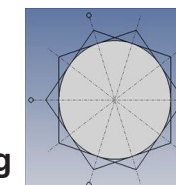
#### Non Contact Tension Measurement (Drawing force Birefringence principle)

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

### CM5:

#### Coating Monitor 5 axes

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



### Others:

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

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# MAKING THE NEWS

## Rubber stamp for \$1.48bn investment

The board of directors of the US Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc (MISO) has unanimously approved the MISO's 2013 transmission expansion plan, which includes \$1.48 billion of investment in 317 new projects.

MISO has compiled annual transmission expansion plans, known as MTEPs, since 2003. The MTEP has led to completed projects worth around \$6.2 billion, and about \$17.9 billion in total investment since 2003, according to the 2013 MTEP report.

The \$1.48 billion of new transmission investment approved by MISO's board is in line with the roughly \$1.47 billion recommended in last year's MTEP, but below 2011's MTEP, which saw around \$6.51 billion in recommended new transmission investment.

The new projects recommended in the 2013 MTEP include 79 baseline reliability projects needed to meet North American Electric Reliability Corporation reliability standards. The total cost for these projects is about \$372 million. Three of the new projects concern generator interconnection, with a total estimated cost of about \$15 million.

The remaining 235 projects, totaling \$1.1 billion of investment, do not qualify as market efficiency projects but could provide advantages, such as supporting lower-voltage transmission or providing local economic benefits, according to MISO's MTEP report.

## Copperweld buys BiMetals assets



Copperweld Bimetallics LLC, a manufacturer of copper-clad bimetallic wire used in a variety of telecommunication, utility, transportation and other electrical applications, has purchased certain assets of the CommScope BiMetals® business of CommScope Holding Company Inc.

The transaction involves the purchase of equipment associated with the manufacture of all copper-clad aluminum and copper-clad steel products. CommScope will retain the processing equipment needed for the production of its GroundSmart® grounding products

and will continue to manufacture and sell GroundSmart for use in grounding utility and communications networks.

A long-term supply arrangement between the two companies was also agreed upon, with Copperweld providing bimetallic wire as needed to CommScope for the manufacture of cables and other products.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Fushi Copperweld Inc, Copperweld operates three facilities in the United States and Europe.

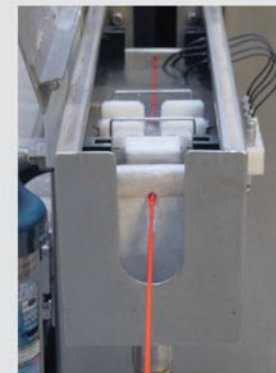
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## Alps anniversary



Alps Wire Rope Corporation is celebrating 45 years in the business. Established in 1968 as Tokyo Ropes' US distribution branch, the company has seen changes in ownership, management and employees, but maintained its commitment to providing

the highest quality products and service to its customers.

The company markets a diverse inventory of wire rope with diameters from 0.027" up to 3" in bright finish (self-colored), galvanized, and stainless steel. Products include general purpose ropes, rotation resistant ropes, compacted ropes, drilling ropes, alternate lays, cable-laid, GAC, SSAC, and galvanized or stainless steel strands.



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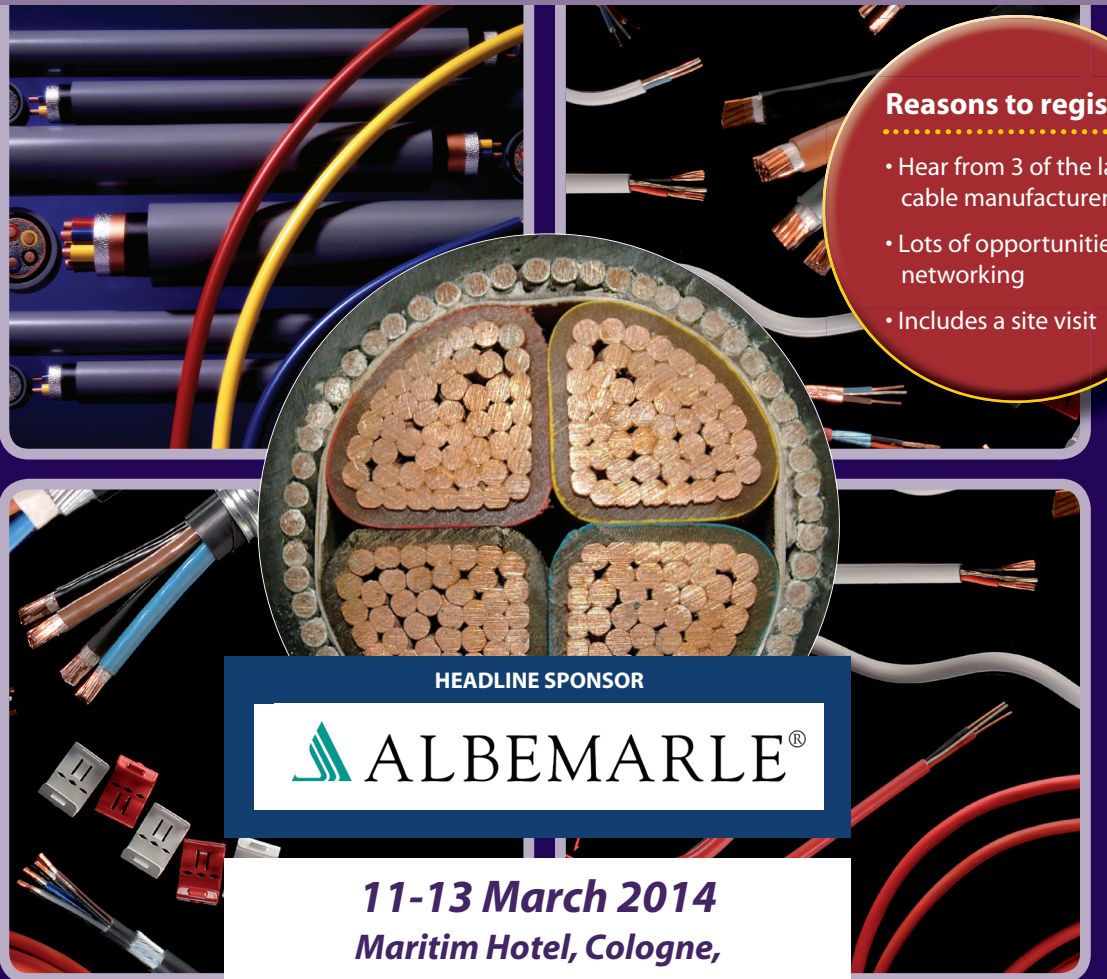

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# Cables

## 2014


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# Association adds new members

The Association for passive Optical LAN (APOLAN) is welcoming new members, including Qypsys, Vision Technologies, Communications Supply Corporation (CSC), The Siemon Company and Fiber Optic Association.

Corning, IBM, Leidos, TE Connectivity, Tellabs, Zhong and 3M initially formed the association early in 2013, with a mission for education and global adoption of passive optical networks in the local area network (LAN) industry. The association is now adding manufacturers, distributors,

integrators, and consulting companies to the cause.

"Passive optical LAN is one of the fastest-growing applications in fiber optics today and our association membership is growing to match," said Dave Cunningham, president and chairman of APOLAN. "I welcome, and I am impressed, that our new members represent [the] education, logistics and integration core competency that are important to growing this association."

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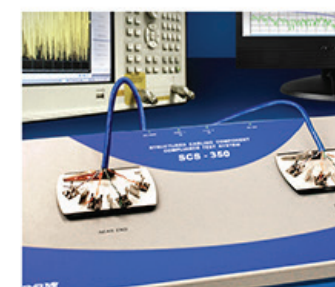
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- Suitable for testing upcoming 40 Gigabit Ethernet applications including Cat 8 cable
- Simple, easy-to-use software for automated testing



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- Automatic 4-pair switching system
- Simple, easy-to-use software for automated testing
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- Automatic internal calibration routine completed in seconds



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## Canadian Solar to supply Chinese projects

Canadian Solar Inc has agreed to supply Zhenfa New Energy Science & Technology Co Ltd with 100MW of solar photovoltaic modules for four PV projects in northwestern China.

CanadianSolarwill supply approximately 400,000 of its 245–255w CS6P PV modules, delivering from mid-December 2013 through to January 2014. The modules will be part of three PV projects in Jiangyuguan, Guliang and Minqin in Gansu province, totaling 200MW, and one 50MW PV project at Sanxin in Inner Mongolia.

“We are honored to be awarded this large module supply agreement by Zhenfa New Energy,” stated Canadian Solar chairman and CEO Dr Shawn Qu. “It is another milestone for Canadian Solar's achievements in the Chinese market, where we see the market improving with better pricing and payment terms.”

“Clearly, Chinese demand for solar modules going into the first quarter of 2014 remains strong, and based on our planning sessions with major developers and project off takers, we currently expect demand for solar modules in China to exceed 10GW in 2014.”

Canadian Solar has signed a number of significant PV module deals in recent months, including a deal to supply a further 100MW of modules to China Three Gorges New Energy Co Ltd for a PV project in Gansu province.

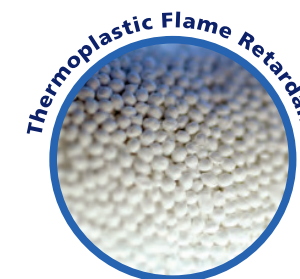


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# Smart scale system selection

The semiconductor test equipment supplier Advantest Corporation has sold a V93000 Smart Scale™ platform to Avago Technologies' fiber optic products division, for use in testing optical transceiver devices. This is a new market sector for Advantest.

"Winning this business shows that Advantest can provide highly productive and cost-effective test solutions for applications beyond mainstream semiconductor production," said Makoto Nakahara, senior vice president of sales for Advantest Corporation.

"With the V93000 Smart Scale solution, we get all the features of a fully integrated SoC (system-on-chip) tester along with scalability at a price that is comparable with our previous solution," said Faouzi Chaahoub, senior director of FOPD for Avago. "Additionally, we have been able to achieve four times the level of

multi-site testing. We plan to move most of our high-volume production to the V93000 Smart Scale platform."

The V93000 Smart Scale platform meets Avago's requirements for a system that provides a compact footprint, flexible performance and advanced features including digital channel pins for DC testing. The scalable tester is equipped with an A-class test head, two pin scale 1600 digital channel cards and a VI32 card, for a highly parallel, 16-site wafer-sort solution for the 28nm technology node and beyond. The system's universal per-pin architecture offers advanced capabilities for customized solutions.



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# Grid-tie for Hawaii

The head of Hawaii's state energy office believes that a proposed undersea power grid connection between the islands of Oahu and Maui could result in savings for ratepayers. "It's up to the HPUC (Hawaii Public Utilities Commission) to make sure that savings are passed on to ratepayers," said Mark Glick.



The grid tie is considered essential for Hawaii to pursue its renewable energy goal.

Glick also said that the inter-island link will be an important initial step toward the ultimate goal of utilizing geothermal energy from Hawaii Island, which would involve connecting the island to Maui. "We see renewable energy as a driving force in the state's economy," he said. "It's the third leg of our economy [and] our goal is to deploy clean energy infrastructure to stimulate energy transformation that will lead to growth."

In 2008 the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative set goals for the state to derive 70 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030 — 40 percent from locally generated sources and 30 percent from energy conservation. Glick says that, unofficially, the state is currently beyond 15 percent renewable and 15 percent in efficiency and will be in excess of its 2015 goals.

## HVDC report

Growth in electricity demand is only one factor in the growth of HVDC transmission. HVDC allows the interconnection of regional systems operating asynchronously, avoiding many instability issues that could cause outages in AC transmission. While AC transmission still dominates the transmission industry, doubts concerning the limited capability of classic HVDC transmission have been removed by the development of voltage-source converters (VSCs).

A new report from Navigant Research forecasts a growth in demand for HVDC technology. The market is growing steadily, and following discussions with vendors and project developers, Navigant Research forecasts that global cumulative HVDC converter revenue will amount to \$56.6 billion between 2013 and 2020.

This report offers an analysis of HVDC market issues, including trends, drivers, challenges, opportunities, and regulatory factors. An inventory of HVDC lines in construction or planned is used as a basis for the global capacity and revenue forecasts, which are segmented by converter type and region and extend through 2020.

The report also examines key issues such as how HVDC transmission systems perform in comparison to HVAC equivalents; what is the average HVDC transmission capacity at various voltage levels for announced projects; how much do voltage- and current-source converters and cables cost; and what is the potential converter market worldwide.

The report is addressed to government agencies and regulators, the investor community, manufacturers and channel partners of transmission equipment, HVDC converter and cable equipment suppliers, renewable energy companies and equipment and service providers.



## Wire rod price rise

Gerdau Long Steel North America has announced price increases for merchant bars and beams of \$10 per ton, and wire rods by \$30 per ton. The price rise for wire rod became effective with all new orders, while for merchant bars and beams the increase was effective for new orders placed on and after 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Some orders were price-protected if due for shipping before 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## Wire company plans expansion

Ulbrich Precision Flat Wire Inc is planning to invest \$5 million to expand its South Carolina manufacturing center. The expansion plan, expected to begin in early 2014, will include additional manufacturing space and precision rolling equipment to meet increasing demand.

The wire rolling facility produces precision flat and fine wire products and photovoltaic ribbon, and operates a focus factory dedicated to research and development of new products and processes.

"The state's attractive tax incentive and ongoing commitment to business and manufacturing, was a key factor in the decision to expand our wire operations in Westminster," said Dan Day, financial manager of Ulbrich Precision Flat Wire LLC and Ulbrich Solar Technologies Inc. "These incentives are critical in our ability to grow and remain competitive in a global economy."

## US fastener decline

US fastener imports and exports declined during September 2013. Imports decreased three percent to \$373,421,398 and exports dropped 6 percent to \$298,966,912, compared with August figures.

The top five exporters to the US during September were China Taiwan (up 2.66 percent), mainland China (down 8.31 percent), Japan (down 17.57 percent), Germany (down 8.21 percent) and Canada (down 0.60 percent).

The top five consumers of US fasteners during the month were Canada (down 5.9 percent month-on-month to \$90.72 million), Mexico (down 7.97 percent to \$90.20 million), mainland China (increased 6.01 percent to \$15.53 million), UK (down 8.49 percent to \$11.85 million) and Brazil (up 16.93 percent to 8.84 million).

## Nebraska power project

Nebraska Public Power District has plans for a \$39 million upgrade to its substations and power lines from Scottsbluff to Stegall and will be inviting the public to a series of open meetings. NPPD will begin its public involvement process for the Stegall transmission project in January 2014. The meetings will provide an opportunity for landowners to learn more about the project and gather details about their property as part of the routing process.

The NPPD's board of directors has authorized NPPD management to begin the initial planning and engineering work for approximately 23 miles of 115kv transmission lines in western Nebraska.

The new line is scheduled to be in service in 2017.

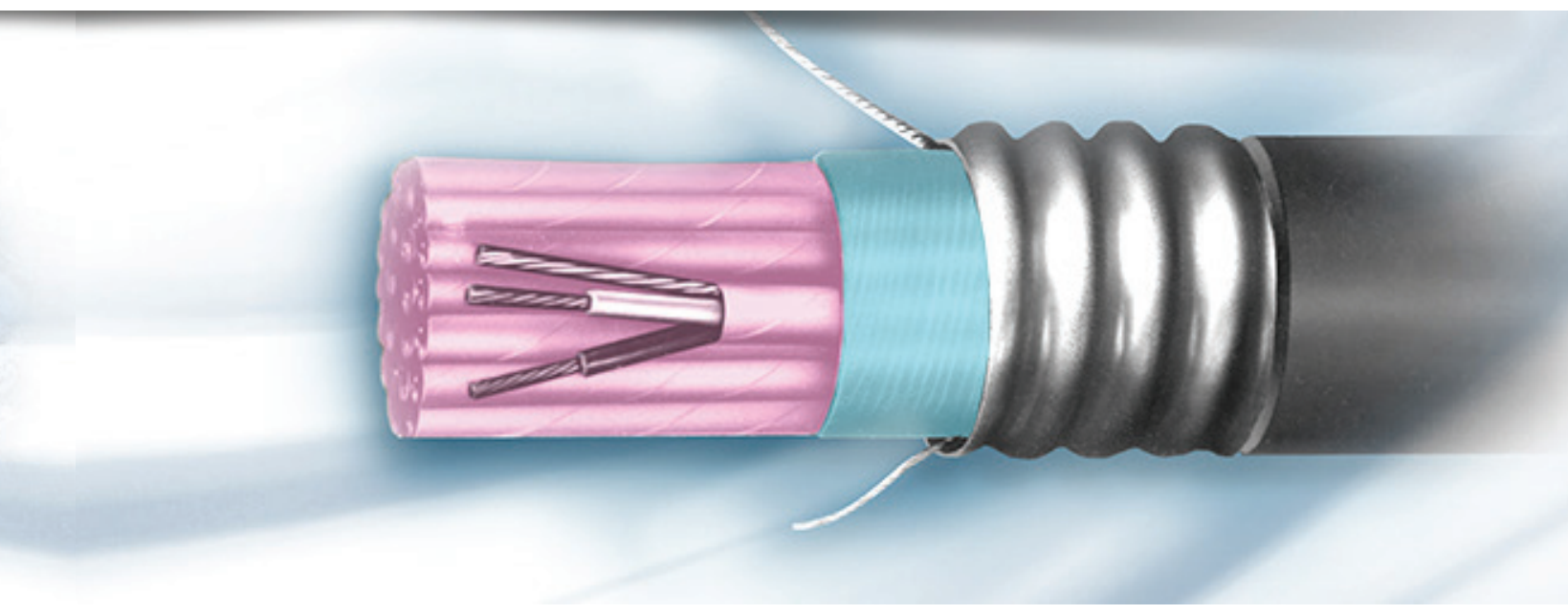
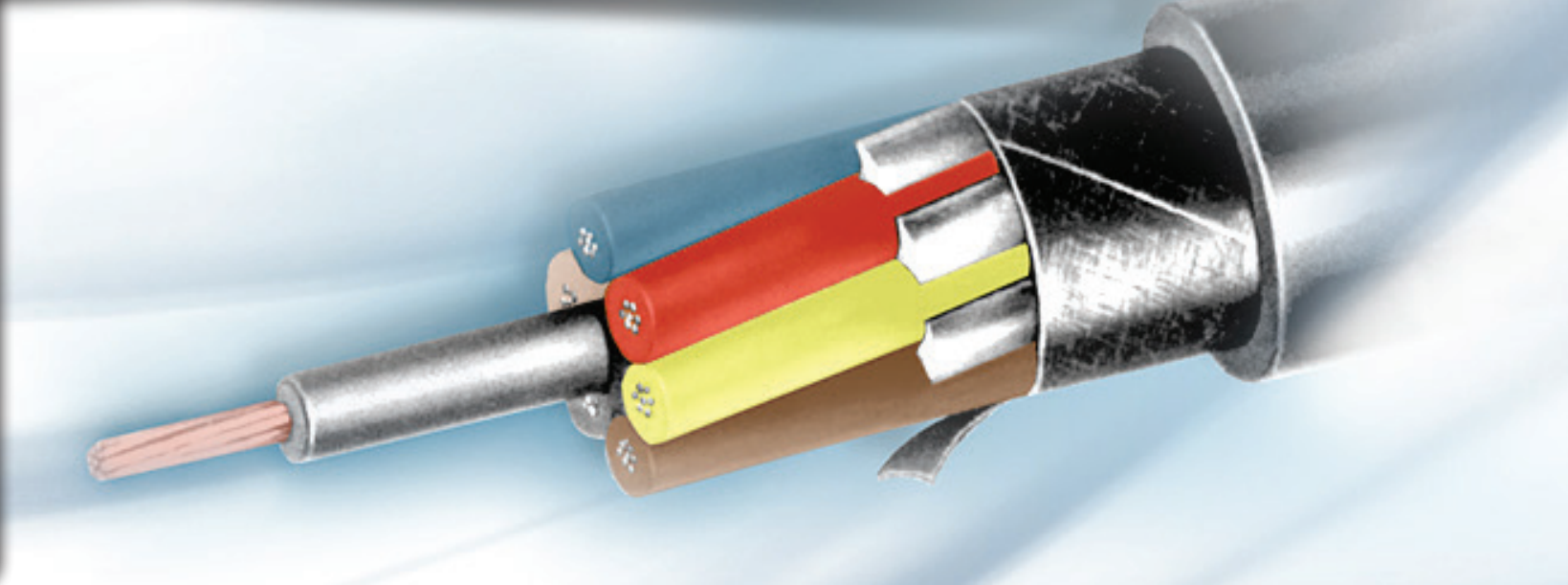
## Colorado Wire & Cable gaining market share

Colorado Wire & Cable Inc is now the exclusive stocking distributor for Okonite CLX cable, used in the construction and renovation of hospitals, electric utilities, railroads, stadiums, oil refineries and many other industries.

CW&C has supplied tray cable, instrumentation and control cable, VFD and thermocouple cable and wire used for all electrical applications for 30 years. The company has a history of performance in wire and cable, from material storage, custom project material releases and specific reel tagging/labeling to specific length cutting, paralleling, bundling, twisting and striping. As it continues to serve the commercial, industrial, power and utility and infrastructure markets, its list of stocked manufacturers is expected to grow.

The cable and wire company carries dozens of industry brands, including Okonite CLX, Shawflex, General Cable, and Belden, and prides itself on a constantly expanding selection of cable and wire brands for any and every type of project.

CW&C's latest news is the contract to supply the electrical wire and control cable to be used in the construction of a new Vegas attraction. High Roller will be a 550ft high, multi-million dollar Ferris wheel and the world's largest observation wheel.



# EUROPE NEWS



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



## Making trans-Atlantic progress

The new undersea network provider Emerald Networks, and TE SubCom, a TE Connectivity company, have begun their survey of USA and Ireland territorial waters. The survey is an important step towards the construction of the Emerald Express trans-Atlantic cable system, planned to provide low-latency and ultra-high bandwidth capacity between New York, Dublin, and London.

Emerald Express has been designed to support 100x100Gbps on all four of its trans-Atlantic fiber pairs. The final splice of the cable system, which is expected to be among the

most advanced next generation undersea telecommunications systems constructed to date, should be completed by the end of 2014.

Dr William C Marra, chief executive at Emerald Networks, said of the survey: "This information is needed so that SubCom can start manufacturing our cable over the winter months. This puts us one step closer to on-time delivery of our pre-sales contracts and our goal to offer the industry leading 100 x 100 Gbps undersea trans-Atlantic network."



## Georgia firm opts for Eldan

Eldan Recycling A/S has commissioned a model E2500C cable recycling plant for Marietta Recycling's scrap metal facility in Georgia.

Eldan Recycling says the new plant can produce either copper or aluminum particles with up to 99.9 percent purity from a variety of mixed wire and cable in-feed sources.

The cable recycling process at Marietta begins with Eldan's Super Chopper SC2118. Shredded material is transported to Eldan's Rasper MPR160 granulator for further processing. The plant can produce up to three tons of copper per hour or up to 1.5 tons of aluminum per production hour.

A statement from Eldan added that, with the installation of the new recycling plant, Marietta Recycling is extending its processing capabilities to include obsolete electronics. The company will be commissioning an Eldan S1000 ring shredder later in 2013.



## Power line technical conference

The key message from a technical conference, organized by Nexans, was that overhead power lines are undergoing a 'new start' following recent developments in design and materials technology. The purpose of the conference was to assess how new technologies can address the global challenge of delivering more electrical power to support economic growth, particularly in large urban areas.

Over 120 key stakeholders in electrical infrastructure systems, including utility companies, equipment manufacturers, consultants, academics and administrators, gathered at the Paris Musée des Arts et Métiers to learn about recent advances in overhead line technology and those currently under development.

Presentations by independent speakers and technical experts from Nexans highlighted the importance of new conductor designs such as Nexans' own Lo-Sag™ ACCC construction that enables overhead lines to operate reliably at higher temperatures.



## Leoni enlarging its management board

Leoni is to strengthen its management board from three to four members in the future, to take account of the growth projected for the years ahead.

Dr Klaus Probst has chaired the board and assumed responsibility for the wire and cable solutions (WCS) division on the board. In future, in view of the group's anticipated growth, he will concentrate on his duties as CEO and deal mainly with implementing the newly adopted group strategy, mergers and acquisitions.

Dr Probst will hand over operational responsibility for the WCS division to Dr Frank Hiller on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014.

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, Leoni will engage Dr Frank Hiller to the board. He has many years of experience in the car and commercial vehicle industry and was most recently a member of the management board at MAN Truck & Bus AG. Previously he held executive positions at Meiller and ThyssenKrupp Group. Born in 1966 in Stuttgart, he studied mechanical engineering in Kaiserslautern, where, in 1997, he earned a doctorate in the field of production engineering.



## Prysmian signs Russian grid agreement

The Italian cable maker, Prysmian, and Russia's largest power grid company, Rosseti, have signed a technical cooperation agreement to develop power transmission and distribution technology in Russia.

The agreement, signed during an Italy-Russia business forum in Trieste, commits the companies to jointly develop high voltage cables, joints, terminations and grid monitoring equipment for power transmission systems with voltages up to 500kV. The companies also plan to collaborate on post-installation support systems that could prevent grid failures.

Prysmian said the decision to expand its Russian presence was due to the recent revival in grid investment in the nation, and on expected high medium-term market growth. Among other plans, the Federal Grid's \$23.48 billion program aims to add 66,870MVA of transformer capacity and 16,985km of transmission lines in the country by 2017.

Prysmian has invested \$55m in a cable factory in Rybinsk in the Yaroslavl region, and owns a factory in St Petersburg.



## Laboratory for super grids

DNV KEMA has begun the construction of an extension to the High-Power Laboratory in Arnhem. The expansion will create the world's first laboratory in the extreme testing segment for the emerging market for super grids capable of bulk energy transport at 800 kV+ (800,000 volts and above). DNV GL expects to perform the first tests at the extended laboratory in 2016.

Under the expansion program, DNV GL will increase the number of short-circuit generators from four to six, extending the available testing power to 15GW – about two-thirds of the current installed electricity generating capacity of the Netherlands.

Global demand for electricity is growing rapidly, and the development of super grids will be vital, enabling transnational and transcontinental transmission networks that facilitate the high-volume transport of electricity across great distances.

With renewable energy sources typically located away from population centers, super grids also facilitate the integration of large-scale renewable energy.



## Reels, drums and handling website

GMP Slovakia's website has been redesigned to provide more information about its steel reels, drums and handling equipment.

On entering the website a choice directs the user to the appropriate area - reels and drums, or take apart reels and handling equipment. Each type of reel, drum and equipment has its own detailed specification file, with downloadable documentation and the means to contact the company for further information. News, events and relevant articles are also accessible.

GMP Slovakia's manufacturing department is located in Slovakia, close to European customers but also to customers across the world via the main international seaports.



## Wireless roaming agreement

GOWEX has reached a roaming agreement with SunWireless, an important wireless operator in Macedonia, that will allow GOWEX to extend WiFi coverage in the country's public spaces and areas, focusing on the country's service sector. With this strategic partnership, GOWEX will extend its connection services in Eastern Europe and continue to strengthen its roaming and offloading platform, which already hosts some of the most important operators and WiFi worldwide aggregators, including AT&T, Deutsche Telekom, PCCW, Oi Brazil, and Boingo.

"This agreement with SunWireless, a leading internet operator in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, increases our global offering and therefore enhances the attractiveness of our Advertising and Roaming platforms. It also intensifies the presence of GOWEX WiFi services in areas with large numbers of users and tourists, such as airports and restaurants," said Jenaro García, CEO at GOWEX.

Similarly, SunWireless users visiting Spain will have the opportunity to access wireless Internet through the GOWEX network. This agreement is focused on student populations, businessmen, tourists and any other smartphone users.



## The shape of data to come

Scientists at the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland, are improving the performance of existing fiber optic networks by shortening the distance between pulses of laser light. The method is described as highly flexible, and easily integrated into existing communication systems.

Reducing the space between the pulses of light that transport the data has previously been difficult to achieve because if the pulses get too close then they interfere and the information becomes corrupted. The Swiss solution involves changing the shape of the spectrum to be more rectangular (Nyquist sinc pulse). This means that the pulses will still interfere with one another but the point at which the data is read remains clear. The result is that the distance between each pulse can be significantly reduced and transport up to ten times more data.

The Nyquist sinc pulse method can suffer from slight deviations from the ideal sinc shape because of practical limitations, such as the "laser line width or the chirp induced by the modulators". However, the pulses are usually "more than 99 percent" accurate and can be produced using only a simple laser and modulator.





### Training for the Future



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

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

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

Applications from educational and training establishments can also be considered.

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

This is an ideal opportunity to recommend a suitable applicant. For more information visit [www.iwma.org](http://www.iwma.org) or contact the IWMA office.

### IWMA AGM and meet the industry luncheon

The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual general meeting of the International Wire & Machinery Association will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 10.45am in the George Duncan Suite at The Mere Resort in Knutsford, Cheshire, UK.

This will be an opportunity for members to hear the financial reports for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 as well as the nomination of any new individuals to the association's executive board.

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

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

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

Deadline for submitting bookings is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The event is for IWMA members only.



### Follow us . . .

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



Picture: Alessandro Paiva

# ASIA & AFRICA NEWS



## China gets a first

The Asian Development Bank is helping China to build a large-scale concentrated solar thermal power plant, believed to be the first of its kind.

"This pioneering project will demonstrate how the PRC could leverage its indigenous solar resources to diversify its energy mix in a sustainable manner. With this comprehensive assistance package of low-cost financing, policy advice, and capacity development, we expect successful demonstration will lead to wider uptake of CSP plants in the PRC in the medium term," said Shigeru Yamamura, a senior energy specialist at ADB's East Asia department.

The loan will help build a 50MW power plant capable of generating 197 gigawatt-hours of electricity using a renewable energy technology that converts direct normal

irradiation into usable heat, generating medium- to high-temperature saturated steam that runs the steam turbine for power generation.

Qinghai province, where the plant will be situated, is located in a high plateau and is currently ranked first in solar power capacity concentration throughout the PRC. It has over 2GW of solar photovoltaic installed capacity, which is more than 60 percent of the national capacity. The project site is located in an area where minimum overnight temperatures can fall to -27°C. This is the first application of a concentrated solar power plant in such low winter temperatures.

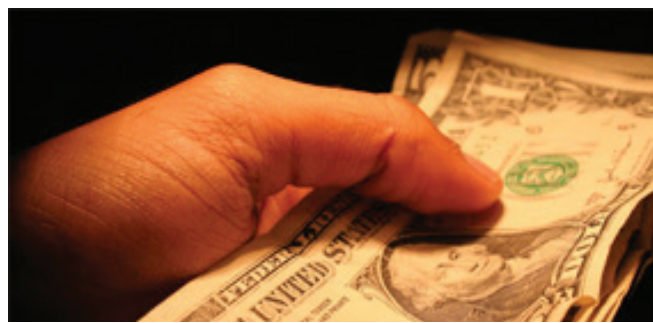
The government of the PRC has since announced a target of 1GW of concentrated solar thermal power capacity by 2015 and 3GW by 2020.



## Copper rod operating rate down

A Shanghai Metals Market (SMM) survey indicates that the average operating rate at China's major copper wire rod producers dropped 0.59 percent year-on-year to 73.7 percent in November, with the initiation of fewer construction projects as compared to the same period a year ago.

The rate for November shows the first year-on-year decline for 2013, although February production was affected by the Chinese New Year holiday. According to an SMM survey of 22 Chinese copper wire rod makers the rate was also down 1.06 percent, month-on-month. Weaker demand is believed to be a major contributor to the decline. A large number of projects began in the second half of 2012, which elevated wire and cable demand for the year.



## Tenders to be launched in 2014

Tenders for a \$1.6 billion power grid that will enable Egypt and Saudi Arabia to share electricity will be launched in early 2014, Egypt's electricity and energy ministry has stated, continuing: "Actual implementation on the ground will not start before 2015." Ministry spokesman, Latham Khalil, said, adding that construction will take two years to complete.

The project aims to allow power trading between two countries. Peak-time summer power consumption in Saudi Arabia falls between noon and mid-afternoon, when air conditioners are used most intensively, while in Egypt the peak is after sunset.

The project will allow the countries to share up to 3,000MW. Egypt will cover around 40 percent of the cost, with Saudi Arabia covering the remaining 60 percent.



## PNG power consultation

Papua New Guinea's government and development partners supporting the PNG energy sector held a two-day consultative workshop to examine the country's national electrification roll out plan (NEROP), which aims to increase electricity access to 70 percent of households by 2030. Current estimates suggest that between 10 and 12.4 percent of PNG households have access to electricity.

The objective of the "Implementing PNG's Electricity Policy" national stakeholders consultation workshop was to facilitate informed discussion among government, development partners, the private sector, and civil society organizations on the principles upon which the NEROP can be prepared and implemented. Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Peter O'Neill, opened the workshop highlighting the importance of having a reliable, affordable and adequate energy supply as essential for laying the foundations for modernization, improved economic growth and service delivery.

The government's effort to improve electricity access and identify the viability of sustainable energy sources is supported by both the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank.



## China Steel price cut

China Steel Corp, Taiwan's biggest steel maker, has cut its domestic steel prices by 0.75 percent for January and February 2014 shipments as the outlook for demand remains cautious.

"Steel demand this quarter is lower than expected," the company said in a statement, adding that the fourth quarter is a traditional peak season for the industry as more construction projects are implemented. However, China Steel's vice president for sales, Liu Jih-gang, said the company is likely to raise steel prices for March shipments if the confidence of downstream companies increases.

Prices of low carbon steel bars and rods are to decline by NT\$500 per tonne, while prices for other steel rods and bars are to remain unchanged. Liu said the company lowered the prices of carbon steel bars and rods because downstream screw manufacturers are facing difficulty.

The company will maintain the prices of steel plates and electrical sheets, mainly used to manufacture home appliances, as prices for these products are more stable, Liu added.



## Wire rod price rise in Taiwanese market

Transaction prices of electric furnace (EF) killed wire rods have increased to \$625 ton in the Taiwanese market, driven by higher scrap prices. The US heavy melting scrap 1 and 2 (80:20) quotes to Taiwan have risen to \$375 per ton, CFR, an increase of \$20 per ton over the past two months.

Although Taiwanese steel mills have cut list prices for certain wire rods recently, some have increased list prices for EF killed wire rods by \$11 per ton, and have pushed up transaction prices of EF killed wire rods.

Meanwhile, industry sources said that the transaction prices of EF killed wire rods could rise further in the near future if international scrap prices continue to increase.



## Tajikistan plant to get upgrade

The Asian Development Bank has awarded Tajikistan a \$136 million grant for a project to increase the supply of renewable energy to national and regional power systems. The government of Tajikistan will provide \$34 million.

The project will refurbish electric and mechanical equipment for power generation and transmission at the Golovnaya hydropower plant, 80km south of the capital Dushanbe. Installed generation capacity is 240MW, making it the fourth largest hydropower plant in the country. The construction of the Golovnaya HPP started in 1956, and the first unit was commissioned in 1962.

After completion of the upgrade, expected to be in 2020, the generation capacity of the Golovnaya HPP will increase from 240MW to 252MW.



## Fastener Fair will return to Istanbul

The first edition of Fastener Fair Turkey, held at Istanbul Expo Center on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November, welcomed 1,700 visitors to see a comprehensive range of manufacturing technology, industrial fasteners, fixings, and assembly and installation systems.

Of the 135 exhibitors at the fair, half were foreign companies representing 15 countries, including Germany, Italy, France, Taiwan, China and the USA. The majority of exhibitors reported positive business enquiries at their stands and over half of the total stand space available for the next exhibition was booked on-site during the show.

The next event for Turkey's fastener and fixings industry, Fastener Fair Turkey 2014, will take place from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014 at the same venue, thereafter adopting a two-year cycle.

The visitor analysis of Fastener Fair Turkey 2013 shows that 70 percent of visitors were local, while the remaining 30 percent of visitors came from 54 different countries, mainly from the EU.



## JV for solar farms in Ghana

Chinese solar manufacturer Solargiga Energy Holdings Ltd is part of a joint venture to develop 200MW of photovoltaic plants in Ghana. Solargiga said in a statement that the company will own 90 percent of the venture with Savannah Accelerated Development Authority, which promotes green projects in the north of Ghana.

Ghana is following nations such as Nigeria and South Africa in seeking to develop large solar plants. It introduced long-term incentives to help meet a 10 percent target for generation from clean sources by 2020. The UK developer, Blue Energy Co, has plans for a 155MW solar park in the country.

"In recent years, using solar power [has been] actively promoted in Africa," Hsu You Yuan, chief executive officer at Hong Kong-based Solargiga, said in a statement. "Thanks to growing market demand, coupled with the government's supportive policy, we believe that the African market enjoys huge potential."

Solargiga will initially develop projects with 40MW of capacity.

PRODUCTS - MACHINES & TECHNOLOGY

**Steel wire rod is advanced international standard**

Chinese steelmaker Wuhan Iron and Steel (Group) Co (WISCO), based in Hubei province, has announced that it has overcome several technical challenges in the further development of its DL05 steel wire rod for cable applications. The product now demonstrates improved electrical conductivity and a reduction in non-metallic inclusions, thereby reaching advanced international standards for the product.

The DL05 steel wire rod for cables is chiefly used in telecommunication lines, trolley bus systems, and in the subway and railway sectors. It is also said to perform well in corrosive environments.

Since WISCO's initial development, in 2010, of DL05 the company has produced over 50,000 metric tonnes.

**Seeing the way to inspection**

Ching Chan Optical Technology Co Ltd, a manufacturer of fastener sorting machines for fasteners that recently celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, has launched an improved design for its wheel crack inspection system.

The CCM wheel crack (also known as head open crack) inspection system is patented in Germany, China and Taiwan, and is capable of inspecting screw head open cracks caused by the wiring process or during the molding process. Ching Chan says that these types of cracks are not 100 percent detectable by common top-view or side-view CCD.

Ching Chan explains that by applying the wheel crack inspection system, indications or cracks at head side or flange rim will be reflected on the cone mirror, and identified as non-conforming by the software. Defects on zinc plating surfaces can also be detected using this CCM system.



Ching Chan is headquartered in Kaosiung City, Taiwan, with sister companies and factories in Taoyuan, Taiwan, as well as Suzhou, Dongguan, Wenzhou and Ningbo in China. CCM has also recently completed the building of a new factory.

**New steel development**

Jiexiu Xintai Steel Limited (Xintai Steel) has developed and launched a new cold forging steel, ML20MnTiB.

Xintai Steel has worked hard on developing new products since the successful launch of its Q345E steel, now producing Q195LD stabilizing steel for grade 4.8 bolts; SWRCH35K steel for grade 8.8 high-strength

bolts; SWRCH22A for self-tapping screws; ML15AL steel for welding nails; and ML08AL steel for non-standard fasteners.

### New machine from Italy

PS Construzioni has launched a new model of payoff cantilever and dancer. The new payoff can be used for both insulated and non-insulated (copper) cables, while the sensitive dancer can process cables with a small cross-section (0.15mm<sup>2</sup>). The unit is designed to provide controlled and consistent tension throughout the unwinding process of acceleration, maximum speed and deceleration.



Reel loading and unloading is fast and automatic; the operator needs only to place the reel and select the reel diameter. The reel loading and unloading is by means of a steel platform activated by a pneumatic cylinder. This platform has two movements: vertical for reel loading/unloading, and horizontal for removing the reel.

### New electrical steels

Tata Steel subsidiary Cogent Power has unveiled a range of new electrical steel

products designed to reduce electricity losses by 20 to 30 percent, compared with conventional grain-oriented grades.

The new products are being made at Cogent Power's Orb works in South Wales. Orb produces cold rolled grain-oriented electrical steel for electricity transformers. As global demand for electricity continues to grow, so does the requirement from the industry for products that enable electricity to be generated and transmitted more efficiently. The new grades – M080-23DR, M085-23DR, M090-27DR and M095-27DR – enable the production of highly efficient steel cores housed within the transformers used in energy transmission networks.

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 launch of the new grades follows the integration in 2011 of Tata Steel's electrical steels production route. The Orb plant receives hot rolled coil from the company's steelworks at IJmuiden in the Netherlands.

### Flexible shielded signal cables

Cicoil has introduced flexible shielded flame retardant signal cables, designed to provide uninterrupted data transmission reliability, space efficiency and consistent electrical characteristics.

Cicoil's patented computer-controlled extrusion process allows each individually shielded pair to be placed in a flat parallel profile, precisely controlling the spacing

of each individual component, insulation thickness and the overall cable shape.

The tear resistant Flexx-Sil™ jacket is self-healing from small punctures and will not wear, crack or deform with long term exposure to continuous flexing, severe impact, vibration, water, abrasion, ice, steam, sunlight, humidity, ozone, UV light, autoclave, expanded temperatures (-65°C to +165°C) and many chemicals.

In addition, Cicoil offers anti-friction coatings, impact resistant Super Tuff™ jacketing and custom shape designs on request.

Cicoil's Flexx-Sil™ jacketed shielded signal cables are UL and CSA recognized, CE conforming, RoHS 2 and REACH compliant, and class 1 clean room rated.

### New compound lines



S&E Specialty Polymers LLC has developed two new SEBS product lines, the TufPrene™ 2200 series and the TufPrene™ 2000 series, as alternative solutions for manufacturers

seeking a non-PVC alternative. The TufPrene series is a standard filled SEBS product line in a range of hardnesses from 30 Shore A to 90 Shore A. The TufPrene series is the unfilled SEBS product line. Both compounds can be color-matched to specific customer requirements.

"S&E has been producing customized SEBS compounds for many years," said Duane Shooltz, president of S&E Specialty Compounds. "Increased customer demand has led us to develop and add these new TufPrene compounds to our standard product line."

The new lines are TPE compounds that can be molded or extruded, and they bond naturally to PE, PP, nylon, and ABS.

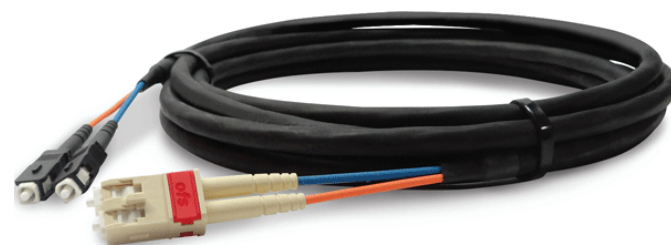
Mr Shooltz explained: "We saw a shift away from PVC and have responded with two new alternative product lines. These new compounds are versatile, durable, and, most importantly, a solution our customers were looking for."

### Easy-peel plenum and riser ribbon cables

Sumitomo Electric Lightwave has introduced new, flexible, all-dielectric indoor-outdoor riser, indoor riser, and indoor plenum ribbon cables for faster installation, easier connectivity, and space saving, as required by high-density networks in the migration from 10Gb/s to 40 and 100Gb/s. The new cables expand the 4<sup>th</sup> level data center and network solutions product line for its integrated, end-to-end optical fiber infrastructure product offerings.

Prompted by the growing need to upgrade an existing data center or network infrastructure quickly, efficiently, and cost

effectively with immediate scalability, Sumitomo Electric Lightwave designed the cables to allow for fast 12 fiber mass fusion splicing, quicker and easier cable entry, and faster fiber access through easy-peel ribbon technology. The patented Easy Split and Peel ribbon design, a key differentiating factor, eliminates the needs for special tools, allowing the installer to peel back the ribbon quickly and easily by hand to expose the underlying color-coded fibers.



adopted. OFS is offering graded index HCS® (GiHCS) optical fiber in LSZH cable construction and crimp and cleave SC connectors. Using the SC crimp and cleave hand tools, technicians can quickly install fiber connectors in industrial spaces, and rapidly repair damaged optical fiber cables without messy adhesives or tedious polishing procedures.

The advantages of the new SC connectors are said to include a wide operating temperature range (-20°C to +105°C); abrasion, vibration and chemical resistance; high tensile strength; and compatibility with most common GBIC transceivers.

The exclusive ribbon design increases the speed with which the number of fibers can be either fusion spliced or terminated with MPO splice-on connectors for real-time and on-site cable builds. The ribbon cables test equally well with all splice-on connector types and all conventional industry standard connectors.

### Crimp and cleave

OFS has launched its new SC crimp and cleave connectivity solution for industrial networks. The rapid adoption of industrial ethernet has led to new demands in factory automation and industrial networking applications that require the introduction of industrialized communications systems.

Fast (100Mb/sec) and Gigabit (1,000Mb/sec) ethernet data rates demand higher bandwidth and real-time, low-latency communications. The increasing use of intelligent electronic devices, utility-grade rugged IP routers, and ethernet switches is driving a move to IP-based communications on the production floor.

A high bandwidth, rugged and reliable cabling solution is essential for industrial networking as increased data rates are

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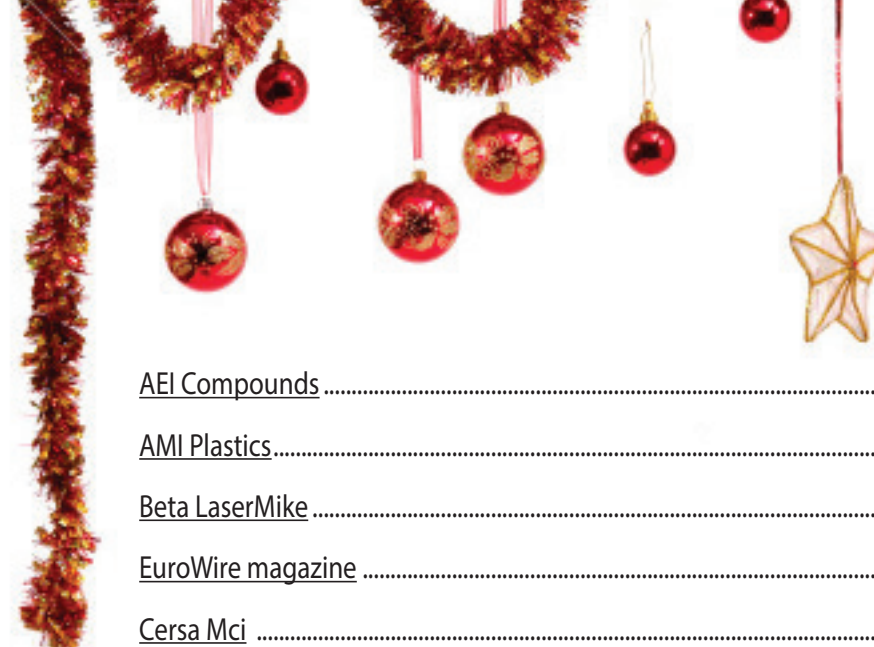
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