

wiredIn  
**USA**

**America's online magazine  
for wire and cable**

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# EDITOR



The Lapa Solar Park in the north-eastern state of Bahia in Brazil has begun operation – two months ahead of schedule.

Enel, through its Brazilian renewable subsidiary Enel Green Power Brasil Participações, invested \$175m in the project which is designed to generate some 340GWh per year, and is the first of four contracts awarded to the company to go live this year. The full story can be found on page 9.

Southwire has launched a new multi-strand aluminum cable, said to offer installation, cost and safety advantages that make it particularly suitable for down tower wind turbine applications.

Multi-strand aluminum cable is more flexible than similar aluminum cables and, because of its flexibility, the cable can be connected to the electrical access boxes inside a tower without needing an extra splice and connector. Costs are reduced by the use of aluminum, which is generally cheaper than copper. The cable has been tested with the standard oils used in wind turbines. You can read the full story on page 12.

**David Bell**  
Editor

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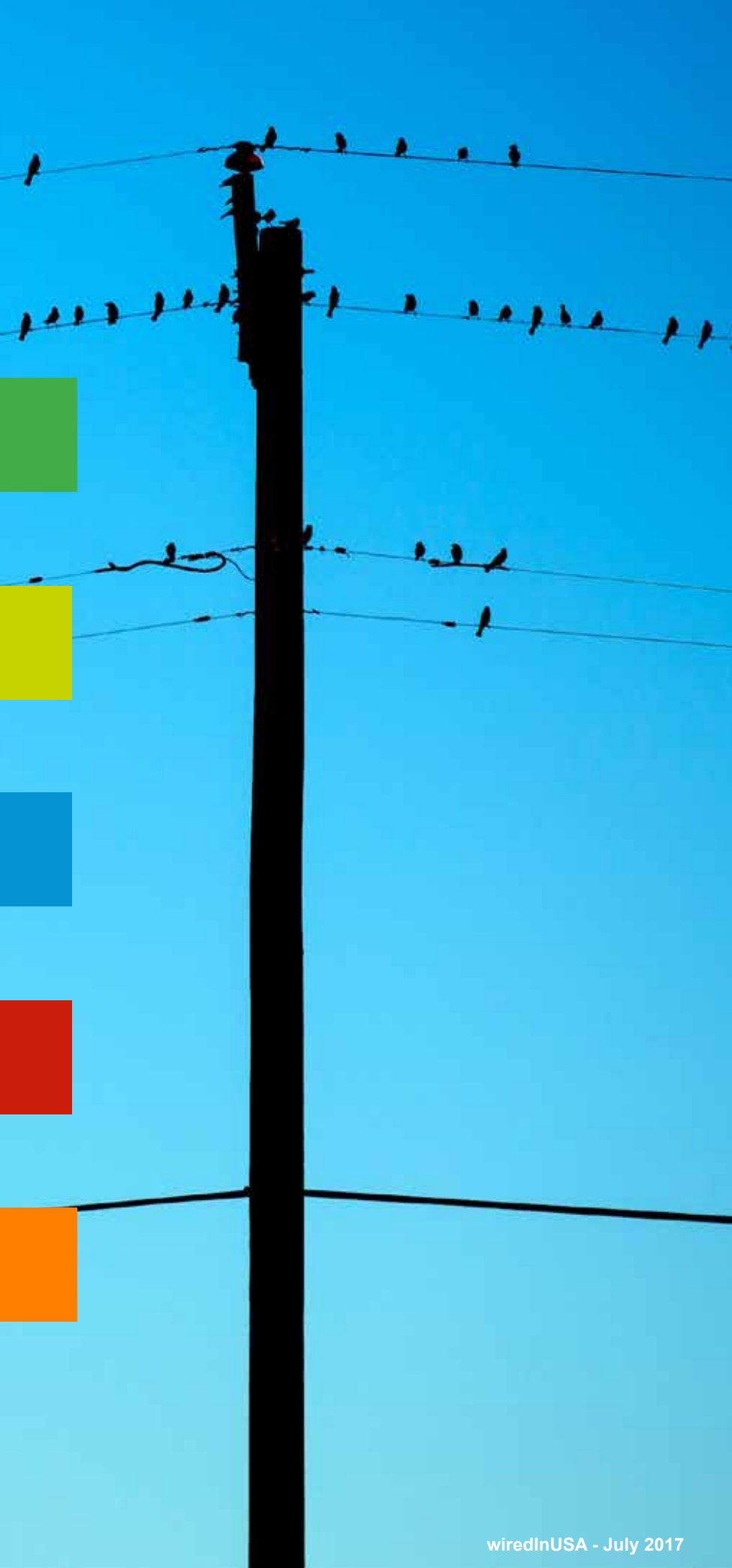
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# wiredIn USA



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## INTRAS OFFICES

### Europe:

46 Holly Walk, Leamington Spa  
Warwickshire CV32 4HY, UK  
Tel: +44 1926 334137  
Fax: +44 1926 314755  
Email: [read@wiredinusa.com](mailto:read@wiredinusa.com)  
Website: [www.wiredinusa.com](http://www.wiredinusa.com)

### USA:

Danbury Corporate Center,  
107 Mill Plain Road,  
Danbury, CT 06811, USA  
Tel: +1 203 794 0444  
Email: [doug@intras.co.uk](mailto:doug@intras.co.uk)

## NEWS

### Editor

David Bell  
[david@wiredinusa.com](mailto:david@wiredinusa.com)

### Features Editor (USA)

Dorothy Fabian

### Features Editor (Europe)

Gill Watson

### Publisher

Caroline Sullens

## SALES & MARKETING (INTERNATIONAL)

### Sales Manager

Jason Smith  
[jason@wiredinusa.com](mailto:jason@wiredinusa.com)  
+44 1926 834 684

### Accounts Manager

Julie Case  
[juliecase@intras.co.uk](mailto:juliecase@intras.co.uk)

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## Shows & Events 2017

### JULY

17-19 July 2017

#### **CRU Wire & Cable Conference 2017**

Munich,  
Germany

[www.wireandcableconference.com](http://www.wireandcableconference.com)

### SEPTEMBER

19-21 September 2017

#### **wire Southeast Asia**

Bangkok,  
Thailand

[www.wire-southeastasia.com](http://www.wire-southeastasia.com)

### OCTOBER

3-5 October 2017

#### **wire South America**

São Paulo,  
Brazil

[www.wire-south-america.com](http://www.wire-south-america.com)

### OCTOBER

8-11 October 2017

#### **IWCS 2017 - The International Cable & Connectivity Symposium**

Florida, USA

[www.iwcs.org](http://www.iwcs.org)

### NOVEMBER

7 November 2017

#### **CabWire World Conference**

Düsseldorf,  
Germany

[www.cabwire.com](http://www.cabwire.com)

### DECEMBER

5-8 December 2017

#### **Iran Wire 2017**

Tehran,  
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Messe Düsseldorf  
North America  
150 North Michigan Avenue  
Suite 2920  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Tel. (312) 781-5180  
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# MAKING THE NEWS

## Solar for Brazil

Enel, through its Brazilian renewable subsidiary Enel Green Power Brasil Participações (EGPB), has begun operation of its Lapa solar park.

Lapa, located in Bom Jesus da Lapa in the north-eastern state of Bahia, comprises two plants for a total installed capacity of 158MW.

“The entry into service of Lapa is an important milestone for Enel in Brazil since it is the first solar PV project to become operational this year out of the four PV projects currently under construction by the group in the country,” stated Carlo Zorzoli, Enel’s country manager in Brazil.

“We were able to complete and commission Lapa more than two months ahead of the deadline set

by the rules of the 2015 public tender which awarded us the project, therefore confirming our commitment to contribute to Brazil’s growth in the renewable sector and our leadership in the country’s photovoltaic market.”

Enel invested approximately \$175 million in the construction of the Lapa project, which is designed to generate around 340GWh per year.

The project was awarded to the Enel Group in August 2015, following the Leilão de Reserva public tender, together with the 103MW Horizonte and the 292MW Nova Olinda solar projects that are currently under construction.

# Low-tech solution for high-tech cable



The main spool on the *Skagerrak*. From here, the cable will be transferred to the ocean floor. Photograph courtesy of Nic Meloney/CBC

The installation of two subsea cables to carry electricity between Newfoundland and Nova Scotia has faced unusually low spring temperatures, making the cable difficult to handle. The company behind the Maritime Link project, Emera, anchored the first cable in Newfoundland in May before the cold spring caused a delay.

Rory Cashin, an Emera employee working on the installation, explained how they are combating the problem: “We’ve been intensively pouring hot water and heating the cable from underneath,” he said. “I guess it’s a problem we’re used to in Atlantic Canada. But it’s pretty bad when even the Norwegians are complaining about how cold it is for May.”

The first cable was manufactured in Norway and transported to Canada aboard the Norwegian ship, the *Skagerrak*.

The crew is currently unspooling the second cable from a barge to the *Skagerrak*. The 170km cable weighs almost 5,500 tonnes: “About half the weight of the Eiffel Tower,” added Mr Cashin.

“All these operators are working in tandem. They have to match speeds between the turntable and the pulling devices, and also the ship’s captain and the vessel crew. Any mismatch at all could be disastrous and could cause delays.”

Once installed, the cable is designed to have a 50-year lifespan.



# Increasing the range

Die Quip can now supply the Kamax range of hydraulic steel cutters and straighteners. Available with a maximum cutting capacity of 1.97" with 63 tonnes of force, the hydraulic cutting heads feature a square piston, unlike the usual round pistons that can twist or bend under cutting stress.

The Kamax wire straighteners are available with a maximum straightening capacity of 1.658" with 41 tonnes of force.

Die Quip also supplies heavy duty hydraulic pumps, designed specifically to get optimal performance from the Kamax hydraulic cutting and straightening heads.

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## Wind turbine cable

Southwire has launched a new multi-strand aluminum cable, said to offer installation, cost and safety advantages that make it particularly suitable for down tower wind turbine applications.

“The wind industry is expected to continue its robust growth as a top source of renewable energy generating capacity in the country,” said Brad Pollard, OEM sales manager. “The addition of this new down tower cable expands our product line in a key area.”

The new aluminum down tower cable comprises three layers: an 8000 series aluminum conductor per ASTM B800, class C compact strand per ASTM B801, or single input wire stranding per ASTM B836; Mylar

binder tape; and two-layer composite wall insulation, with an EPDM (ethylene propylene diene monomer) inner layer and a CPE (chlorinated polyethylene) outer layer. The CPE outer layer will allow clamps to grip, making installation easier.

Multi-strand aluminum cable is more flexible than similar aluminum cables and, because of its flexibility, the cable can be connected to the electrical access boxes inside a tower without needing an extra splice and connector. Costs are reduced by the use of aluminum, which is generally cheaper than copper.

The cable has been tested with the standard oils used in wind turbines.



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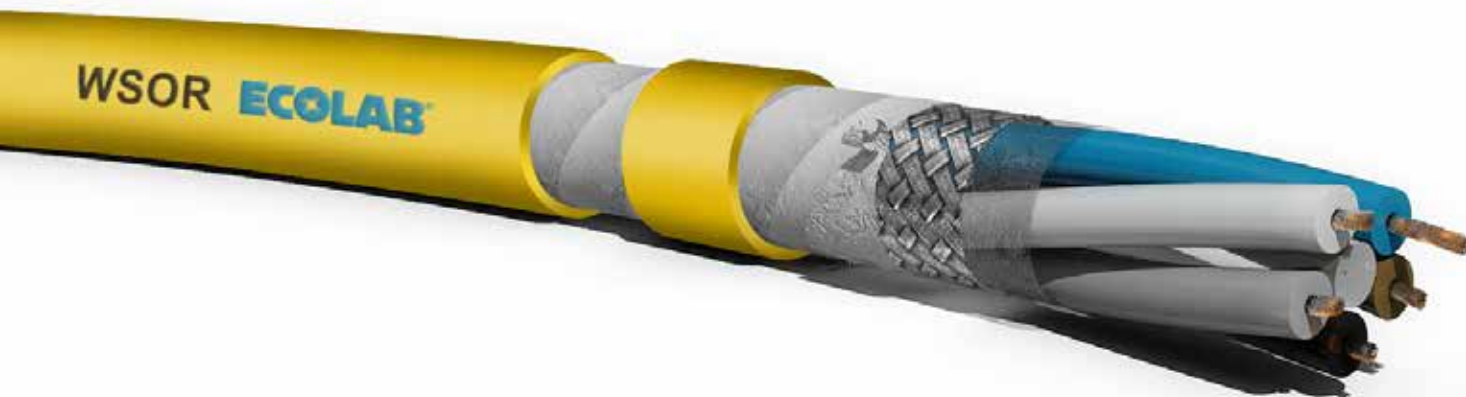


Image: <http://www.molex.com>

## Cables meet approval

Flamar, a Molex company, has achieved new approvals for two of its cable ranges.

Weld-slag and oil-resistant (WSOR) cables from Flamar are now compatible with Ecolab products. The cables underwent thorough tests at Ecolab laboratories, including multiple weeks of exposure and immersion in detergents and disinfectants with no detrimental effects.

Elio Bonetti, business development manager, Molex, said: "In the Ecolab testing, our WSOR cables were also exposed to operating pressure of water jets, typically used for the surface cleaning treatment in food and beverage industries. The cables proved to be compatible with wash down at 25 bars and 45°C." This new feature is available on all Flamar WSOR cables which are also UL AWM/

CSA recognized: signal and control (series 155220, 155221), servo motor (155321), and network (155421).

UL has also approved Flamar power-limited tray cables (PLTC) for drag chain installation as 'oil resistant II'. The oil resistant II mark means the cables are suitable for a wider range of applications than before, while giving users the ability to consolidate the amount of cables needed to fulfill their necessary tasks.

To earn the UL oil resistant II mark, the Flamar PLTC cables were immersed in oil for 60 days at 75°C, and their physical properties at the end of the test period still fulfilled the UL specifications. This range of PLTC cables is resistant up to 20 million cycles in drag chain.





# Marine maintenance

TE SubCom, a TE Connectivity company, has been awarded the South Pacific Marine Maintenance Agreement (SPMMA), a five-year service agreement between SubCom and 14 cable operators in the region.

Under the terms of the agreement, SubCom will maintain over 51,000km

of cable used by 19 individual telecommunications and power cable systems.

The SPMMA area covers the South Pacific region from Singapore, in the west, to Tahiti in the east, and from the southernmost point of New Zealand to Hawaii in the north.

## Information sharing

A presentation by the Fiber Broadband Association and RVA LLC, made at the Fiber Connect 2017 conference, commented on the state of the fiber broadband industry in North America. The presentation highlighted the record growth in FTTH deployment with over 13.7 million homes connected to high speed networks.

Rapid growth in North American fiber networks is fueled by a combination of tier 1 and smaller fiber providers. The US alone has over 1,000 providers, with growth on track to surpass previous growth records set in 2008.

The presentation also highlighted consumer survey data from North American residents describing how they use broadband and how broadband fits into their daily lives. Consumer insights provide a valuable look into the industries that stand to benefit from fiber and the technological breakthroughs driving the acceleration of fiber deployment.

“It’s undeniable, fiber is critical to meeting the consumer and commercial bandwidth needs necessary to deliver a connected future,” said Heather Burnett Gold, president and CEO of the Fiber Broadband Association. “The exclusive research and data analysis provided by the association is key to keeping our finger on the pulse of the industry.”



# Antidumping review

The US Department of Commerce has released its final results in the administrative review of an antidumping order on carbon and certain alloy steel wire rod from Mexico. The review covered two Mexican producers, ArcelorMittal Las Truchas SA de CV and Deacero SAPI de CV, during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

The department assigned a final dumping margin of 40.52 percent to Deacero, based on adverse facts available that Deacero allegedly made significant and unsubstantiated changes to its cost database and mischaracterized the changes as minor. The department of commerce concluded that it had no confidence in Deacero's original and revised cost information and, without reliable information, the department was unable to calculate a margin for Deacero. Consequently the highest dumping margin in the petition was assigned to Deacero.

The review determined that ArcelorMittal Las Truchas had made no shipments of subject wire rod to the United States during the review period. Accordingly, the dumping duty deposit rate is 40.52 percent for Deacero and remains at 2.59 percent for ArcelorMittal Las Truchas.



Jessica Rosenworcel

## Re-commissioned?

The Fiber Broadband Association has welcomed the news that Jessica Rosenworcel, previously Federal Communications Commission (FCC) commissioner from 2012 to 2016, has been renominated for the position by President Trump.

During Rosenworcel's tenure at the FCC, the commission took strides to accelerate fiber network deployment across the country. Rosenworcel is a strong advocate of fiber solutions, writing in a blog post that: "New deployment should be judged, not through the prism of old,

detailed regulations but, instead, through the four essential values that have always informed communications policy — public safety, universal access, competition and consumer protection."

"We are thrilled at the prospect of having Commissioner Rosenworcel back at the FCC," said Heather Burnett Gold, president and CEO of the Fiber Broadband Association. "If she is confirmed, we look forward to her continued support of fiber networks and the benefits that fiber brings to American families, businesses and communities."



# Fiber laser launch



The new 10kW fiber laser from Coherent

A new 10kW fiber laser from Coherent was revealed at June's Laser World of Photonics in Munich, Germany. Part of the HighLight™ portfolio, HighLight products are high power fiber, direct diode and fiber-coupled diode lasers for industrial materials processing applications.

The new HighLight FL10000 combines the output of four individual 2.5kW laser modules into a single output fiber, reaching 10kW total output. Detachable output fiber diameters for the 10kW laser range from 150µm (BPP ≤4.5mm x mrad) to 1mm. Operation is CW or pulsed, at repetition rates up to 5kHz. These output characteristics make the HighLight FL10000 suitable for metal sheet and tube processing in machine tool, automotive, energy and other heavy industrial applications. The HighLight FL10000 delivers the correct power and

beam to cut, weld, and surface treat a variety of thick metallic materials with high throughput.

HighLight FL-series modularity enables OEMs to tailor a laser for their specific needs. At the full system level, the FL-series features the option of up to four separate fiber outputs, thus enabling time or energy sharing, and simplifying integration into machining workstations and robotic systems.

The HighLight FL-series are designed to be immune to back reflections, enabling processing of highly reflective materials such as brass and copper, and closed-loop power control delivers long-term stability and high process consistency. HighLight FL-series products offer power levels of 1kW to 10kW and a range of fiber core diameters.



# EUROPE

NEWS



## Turkish link

Following installation and testing of the Çanakkale II submarine cable link, Prysmian Group commissioned and energized the system at a ceremony attended by the customer TEİAŞ, the Turkish electricity transmission corporation.

TEİAŞ awarded the contract to Prysmian in December 2014 for the design, supply, installation and commissioning of the HV submarine cables interconnection with a double circuit 380kV from S/S Lapseki 2 to S/S Sütlüce 2 between Europe and Asia across the Dardanelles strait in Turkey. This second double circuit link across the Dardanelles strait complements the existing double circuit interconnection that Prysmian Group executed under the first contract awarded by TEİAŞ, commissioned in August 2015.

Prysmian Group Turkey contracts group director Faik Kürkçü explained that in

common with the Çanakkale I project, the link has a double 400kV AC power transmission circuit with a rating of 1,000MW for each circuit.

For the 4.1km subsea route, six XLPE power cables and two submarine fiber optic cables were laid at a maximum sea depth of 90m. Circuits were completed by 1.5km of underground XLPE power cables.

“The submarine power cables and underground power cables used in the project were interconnected at water level landfalls with special sea/land transition joints produced by Prysmian,” he concluded.

Installation was performed by Cable Enterprise, under the management of Prysmian Powerlink, with land activities supported by Türk Prysmian Kablo.



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## Software strategy



Southwire Company is implementing Cimteq's CableBuilder in all its North American plants. The integrated software will help Southwire to realize its goal of a fully streamlined system to link all plants together through common data and specifications.

Following the successful introduction of CableBuilder to over a quarter of its plants, Southwire has scheduled CableBuilder to be rolled out to its remaining plants by the end of 2018.

Mr Dwayne Johnson, director, specifications and standards, Southwire, commented: "CableBuilder software is a strategic investment for us at Southwire. Its use as a product data management system is essential for our ERP's operation. CableBuilder software also offers us the flexibility to continuously improve our designs and our business processes."

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## First run success



Image: <http://www.nkt.com>

The purpose-built cable-laying vessel *NKT Victoria* has successfully completed its first project — laying HVDC cables in the Moray Firth, Scotland for Caithness-Moray transmission project.

The vessel completed its first campaign, from Noss Head in Caithness to the midpoint of the cable route, and then returned to Sweden to reload the remaining cable to be laid from Portgordon in Moray to the end of the first cable. The Caithness-Moray project is on schedule for completion in 2018.

SSEN lead project manager Brian Mitchell said: "This is a major milestone for the Caithness-Moray project and I am delighted that the first cable laying campaign was completed on schedule. The vessel has now returned to Karlskrona in Sweden to load the remaining 56km of HVDC cable. A subsea joint will then be constructed to connect both sections of cable to complete the circuit."

The Caithness-Moray project will transport renewable electricity from the north of Scotland to areas of demand across Scotland and beyond.

## Going underground



Abengoa has been chosen by the National Copper Corporation of Chile (Codelco) to undertake the electromechanical assembly at El Teniente Mine, believed to be the largest underground copper mine in the world.

Abengoa will carry out civil, mechanical and electrical works for the assembly of the main ventilation fan and all the instrumentation and control systems associated with the fan's assembly.

The project will entail the assembly of the fan's five ventilation doors and the replacement access points. Further work will include the laying of cables and the power supply, the connection of boards and transformers, and the assembly of safety connectors and lighting equipment.

## New challenge



With the establishment of its latest subsidiary, Niehoff Stranding Technology (NST), Maschinenfabrik Niehoff is expanding its activities into the field of stranding. Based in Barcelona, Spain, NST has a workforce of thirteen people, most of them focused on design engineering and all with a thorough knowledge of stranding machinery technology.

The Niehoff Group has nearly 800 employees; five manufacturing subsidiaries in Brazil, the US, the Czech Republic, India and China; and sales and service centers in Japan, Singapore, Russia and, now, Spain.

## Adding wind to the power mix



Irish energy provider Energia will use power from Meenadreen to supply green electricity to homes and SMEs across Ireland. Energia was already established as an electricity and gas provider, but is now also a provider of sustainable green energy: 25 percent of all wind-generated electricity in Ireland is provided through Energia.

The company has invested over €500 million in wind farms since 2008. Its new Meenadreen wind farm has 38 turbines producing 95MW of electricity.

Energia has successfully completed a pilot project for autonomous drone inspections through predetermined flight paths around the turbines. The new drone capability has the potential to identify snags or defects and will help to enhance overall efficiency and safety on site.

## Export cable contract



VBMS, a subsidiary of Royal Boskalis Westminster NV (Boskalis), has a contract to assist DEME's subsidiary Tideway with the installation of three nearshore and shallow water sections of export cables for DONG Energy's Hornsea Project One offshore wind farm.

The scope of work for VBMS consists of the shore landing, installation and burial of three 33km sections of export cable, forming part of total cable lengths of approximately 134km, 140km and 152km to be installed by Tideway. The project will be executed during the first half of 2018.

Hornsea Project One, located approximately 120km off the Yorkshire, England, coast, will generate a total capacity of 1.2GW. It will be the first offshore wind farm to exceed 1GW in capacity and will be the world's largest offshore wind farm.



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## First generation



Image: DONG Energy

Electricity has been generated for the first time at DONG Energy's Race Bank offshore wind farm, located off the UK's north Norfolk coast. The Race Bank farm, approximately 16.8 miles off Norfolk's Blakeney Point and 17.4 miles off the Lincolnshire coast at Chapel St Leonards, will consist of 91 Siemens 6MW turbines. Once all 91 turbines are installed, the plant will be capable of generating 573MW of electricity.

In 2016, DONG Energy announced plans to create the UK's largest offshore wind operations and maintenance hub, which will serve Race Bank once it becomes operational.

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## Power sharing



Belgian system operator Elia has begun work on the Mercator-Horta high voltage line in east Flanders. The line has become an important link in the European electricity system, ensuring energy exchange between neighboring countries and guaranteeing security of supply.

Mercator-Horta is a 49km, 380kV high voltage line running from Kruikeke to Zomergem, crossing 12 municipalities. The masts and foundations will be upgraded during the first phase of the works, expected to be completed by the end of 2017. In 2018, the conventional conductors for the Mercator-Horta line will be replaced by more efficient conductors.

The upgrade is needed to ensure that electricity can be more efficiently transmitted from, and to, neighboring countries. Europe has asked member states to invest in sufficient transmission capacity to improve international market operation, and to make the energy price more competitive.



# ASIA & AFRICA

NEWS



# Strengthening Sharjah's network

Ducab HV has provided a full turnkey solution to Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority (SEWA) for its longest ever high voltage power circuit. The project, running between Muwaileh and Sajaa, strengthens SEWA's existing network while allowing for future power supply development to Rahmanyah, Sharjah Airport Free Zone, and University City. Ducab supplied and installed over 160km of its HV 132kV cables.

Abdulla Ali, installations manager, Ducab HV, said: "This was our largest project to date, and we are exceptionally proud of

our work with SEWA. Being a local company enabled us to be agile enough to deliver to their requirements in a short time, thereby providing SEWA with the opportunity to complete this landmark project in a quick and efficient manner. Ducab HV would like to congratulate SEWA on the successful conclusion of this project."

May Al Leem, PPD director, SEWA, said: "With the new cabling in place we are now able to better meet the growing energy demands of Sharjah city with the potential to expand as needed."



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## Regional cooperation secures link



African country heads along with officials at the ground breaking ceremony of the CLSG interconnector project. Photograph courtesy of European Investment Bank

Liberia, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone have broken ground for a new 1,303km electricity interconnector project. The CLSG interconnector, under development by Transco CLSG, will be the region's first cross-border energy supply through a new transmission line and substations.

Transco CLSG's director general, Mohammed M Sherif, said: "Once operational the CLSG interconnector will ensure that communities across Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea can access affordable electricity."

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## Subsea achievement award



Mr M Ogasawara, president of ITU-AJ (left) presents the accomplishment award to Mr M Saitoh of NEC Corporation (right)

NEC Corporation's international submarine cable project team has received an accomplishment award from the International Telecommunication Union — Association of Japan (ITU-AJ) for its leading role in constructing subsea telecom cables to connect continents and communities.

The ITU-AJ presented the award in recognition of NEC's "contribution to building of indispensable social infrastructure" on the 49<sup>th</sup> World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. The ITU-AJ also highlighted that nearly 100 percent of international telecommunication networks now comprise, and operate on, optical submarine cables.

NEC has been involved in the submarine cable system business for over 40 years. Including the current construction of the SEA-US cable, NEC has laid a total of over 250,000km of cable — the equivalent of more than six trips around the earth's equator.

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## Stainless steel development



Delong Holdings Ltd of China is planning to invest around \$950 million to develop stainless steel manufacturing in the Morowali Industrial Park in central Sulawesi, Indonesia. The industrial park already has a nickel smelter to supply raw materials for steel factories.

“The firm plans to develop a stainless steel factory with a production capacity of 3.5 million tons. The factory will help suffice demand in eastern Indonesia,” said I Gusti Putu Suryawirawan, the industry ministry’s director general for metals, machinery, transportation and electronic equipment. If realized, Putu said, Morowali would be Indonesia’s second steel factory complex after Cilegon in Banten.

Delong plans to form a joint venture named PT Dexin Steel Indonesia for the project. Shares will be 45 percent owned by Delong’s subsidiary, Delong Steel Singapore Projects Pte Ltd, with 43 percent owned by Shanghai Decent and 12 percent by PT Indonesia Morowali Industrial Park.

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## China takes another stake



The State Grid Corporation of China, the country’s biggest utility, has completed the purchase of a 24 percent stake in Greece’s power grid operator, ADMIE. The State Grid won the tender in October 2016 and, upon completion of the stake transfer, will send its own management team to the Greek company.

ADMIE is owned by Greece’s Public Power Corporation (PPC), which owns, runs and maintains the power transmission network across the country. The network, which is integrated with grids in many other European countries, is a key power transmission corridor in southern Europe.

State Grid owns stakes in backbone power grids in seven countries and regions including Italy, Portugal and Australia.

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## Cable investigation



China's state council has vowed to punish those responsible for the installation of substandard subway cables in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi province.

An official statement revealed that an investigation team has found that the company involved has severely violated the law by producing and selling substandard products. Other individuals and institutions are said to have colluded in the purchase and use of those cables.

Related local government departments have been found to be at fault for a lack of supervision and negligence of duty, and some officials have violated the discipline of integrity, the statement said.

Eight suspects from the cable manufacturer will be arrested, while 122 responsible government officials will be held accountable, and the cable manufacturer's authentication certificates will be revoked. The company's business license and production permit will also be withdrawn.

The statement went on to say that officials should learn from the case, and strengthen supervision on product quality.

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## Offshore first



Image: [www.offshoreenergy.com.au](http://www.offshoreenergy.com.au)

The government of Victoria, Australia, has welcomed plans for the development of the country's first offshore wind farm.

The Star of the South development, proposed by Offshore Energy, would involve the installation of up to 250 wind turbines in waters up to 25km off the coast of Gippsland, Victoria. The wind farm will be designed to generate around 8,000GWh of energy per year, roughly 18 percent of Victoria's consumption.

According to the government, the feasibility phase of the project will last for three years. Offshore Energy has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Commonwealth and Victorian governments to progress the permitting process. If the project goes ahead, Star of the South could be generating power in time to contribute to the Victorian government's renewable energy target of 40 percent renewable electricity by 2025.



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## Cable finance completed



The Development Bank of Angola (BDA) has agreed a loan of \$130 million to Angola Cables, for the implementation of a submarine cable between Brazil and the USA.

The loan represents the final step of the finance process for the implementation of key regional telecommunications projects. Linking Angola to Brazil with the SACS, and now the MONET cable between Brazil and USA, Angola will make a significant contribution to the improvement of connectivity between Africa and the rest of the world, adding to the capability of the West Africa cable system (WACS). WACS is a fiber optic submarine cable linking 11 countries in Africa and three countries in Europe.

Angola Cables was established by the five main national telecommunications operators in Angola, which make up the current shareholder structure. Angola Telecom is the majority shareholder and it is a fully state-owned enterprise.

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## Kenya's network boost



Kenya Power has launched an investment project to lay underground cables in Nairobi, Kisumu and Mombasa to stabilize electricity supply in the three cities. The cables will provide a supply alternative to the existing power substations. To date, 22km of the planned 25.71km of 66kV transmission lines is complete.

Kenya Power acting CEO Ken Tarus said fiber network cables will also run along the underground cables to boost the communication network.

A new 220/66kV substation in the city center and a 16.5km 220kV underground cable will run from the Embakasi substation to the proposed city center substation in the first phase of the project, planned for completion in 2021.

The move is part of a network modernization plan which also involves network reinforcement measures, including upgrading faulty or overloaded transformers and adding new ones.

A world map is shown in a light gray color, centered on the Atlantic Ocean. A horizontal orange band is overlaid across the middle of the map, containing the main title text.

# Products, Machines & Technology

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## Reel drive first

Sparrows Group, with the engineering and manufacturing firm Innovo, has deployed Innovo's new electric drive 700 Te multi-reel drive system for the first time.

Sparrows was hired by a global energy services provider to deliver the system and personnel for an umbilical laying operation off the coast of Trinidad.

The 700 Te reel drive system is believed to have the largest capacity in the rental market and the electric drive provides better control for offshore operations. For this project the umbilical was laid directly from the system, therefore reducing the deck space required.

The work saw the collaborative team commission and test the 700 Te reel drive system at Sparrows' facility in Aberdeen, UK, before the modular unit was shipped to Trinidad.

Mike Morrison, head of cable and pipe lay solutions at Sparrows Group, said: "The power and efficiency of the reel drive system, combined with its small footprint, made it the ideal solution for our client to successfully lay multiple products from a smaller vessel deck.

"In addition to providing the 700 Te reel drive system, Sparrows and Innovo engineered a customized track system to allow one tower to be moved forward to facilitate swapping of the reels offshore from a barge. By working together with

Innovo, we have been able to deliver a tailored solution for our client which addressed the challenges of the work scope."

## Data cable series

UK-based manufacturer igus has introduced a new data cable series into its chainflex product range, specifically designed for confined spaces.

CF298 (unshielded) and the CF299 (shielded), both with a small bend radius down to 4xd (from 15mm), can be used for short, fast-moving applications, such as those found in pick-and-place machines.

The new data cables feature a high performance alloy conductor and halogen-free TPE outer jacket.

They are tested for up to 40 million double strokes in energy chains. Certified according to ISO class 1, the cables are suitable for use in clean rooms and for both indoor and outdoor applications due to their resistance to UV, low temperature and oil.

CF298 and CF299 are available with various core numbers and conductor nominal cross-sections.

## Basic cable

Huber+Suhner has expanded its range of halogen-free RF cables with the launch of

Enviroflex basic, a cost-effective alternative for less demanding applications. Guaranteeing an environmentally friendly alternative to radio guide (RG) cables, the Enviroflex cable series enables users to quickly switch from fluorine-containing cables to halogen-free alternatives.

The materials used in the cable design, both for the dielectric and for the jacket, do not include any fluorine/chlorine-consisting plastics, and the dimensions of the individual cable types are entirely compatible with international RG standards.

Enviroflex basic reduces costs by using common polyethylene (PE) dielectrics and low-smoke-free-of-halogen (LSFH) jackets, reducing the maximum operating temperature to 85°C, which is still sufficient in many of the less demanding applications.

“For many years now there has been an ongoing customer trend of increased environmental awareness, and since its launch 20 years ago, Enviroflex has been hugely popular in meeting these needs,” said Mathias Vetter, product manager, RF cables and assemblies at Huber+Suhner.

“We have set a new market standard for eco-friendly coaxial cables and we are excited to show how the Enviroflex basic answers further industry demands for a wider selection of halogen-free RF cables.”

By replacing silver with tin-plated braids, Enviroflex basic prices can be reduced

while still maintaining a high quality standard.

## Handheld measurement

Proton Products introduced its new IntelliTherm HTG400 handheld wire temperature gauge at this year's Interwire.

The instrument is designed for use on all bare wire types, and comprises a bimetallic wheel construction with integrated electronics for precise, responsive measurement performance of better than  $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  up to  $400^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $752^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).



▲ The IntelliTherm HTG400 handheld wire temperature gauge

The bare wire measurement diameter range covers from 0.3 to 10mm (0.018" to 0.393") and can measure line speeds up to 2,000m/min. The new gauge simply requires the user to touch the wire on exit from the preheater to give an accurate reading.

The temperature can be shown in either Celsius or Fahrenheit and the results are viewed on an LED backlit LCD display.

The HTG400 is fully portable and is supplied with an integrated battery that provides



over 1,000 measurements from a full charge.

Preheating the bare conductor is essential to eliminate thermal shock between a cold (ambient temperature) wire and a relatively hot material flowing from the extruder.

If the conductor is preheated to the same temperature as the extruded insulation it eliminates the voids that cause pinholes and spark faults, helping to ensure the correct adhesion and electrical properties of the finished product.

## Drag chain cable

Hradil Spezialkabel GmbH has launched its new High-Endurance cable, believed to be the world's first drag chain cable with four layers.



▲ The new High-Endurance cable from Hradil Spezialkabel

The cable has 61 cores, and is rated for a nominal voltage of up to 500 volts. Replacing up to five individual drag chain cables, in the event of a malfunction of one cable in the energy chain only one

individual cable will need to be replaced, rather than all five.

Downtime caused by replacing cables can be significantly reduced.

The UL/cUL certified Hradil High-Endurance drag chain cable has an outer diameter of only 18.8mm.

In a six-week endurance stress test that included 600,000 cycles, with a movement distance of slightly less than 2.5m and an acceleration of 5m per second, the drag chain cable showed no weaknesses.

It also passed the 360° torsion test conducted at ten revolutions per minute and 200,000 cycles.

The maximum bending radius during mobile usage exceeds 190mm.

All mechanical, thermal and environmental tests were carried out in accordance with the DIN EN 60811 standard.

The High-Endurance drag chain cable is resistant to oil and diesel, cooling agents and lubricants, ozone and UV, and has a temperature range for mobile applications of between -40°C and +80°C.

# EDITORIAL

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### Marketing:

Contact Jason Smith, wiredInUSA,  
Tel: +44 (0) 1926 834684  
Email: [jason@wiredinusa.com](mailto:jason@wiredinusa.com)

### News:

Contact David Bell, Editor, wiredInUSA,  
Tel: +44 (0) 1926 334137  
Email: [david@wiredinusa.com](mailto:david@wiredinusa.com)



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The collage features three main magazine covers: **eurowire** (blue cover with a globe), **Wire & Cable ASIA** (red cover with Chinese characters), and **wiredIn USA** (grey cover with a red and white abstract design). Below the covers are two world maps. The left map, titled "SEE US AT ...", shows exhibition locations in Europe and North America. The right map, titled "SEE US AT ...", shows exhibition locations in Europe.

**SEE US AT ...**

- eurowire: The international magazine for the wire & cable industry
- Wire & Cable ASIA: Published in English and Chinese languages
- wiredIn USA: Digital Networking Monthly. America's online magazine for the wire and cable industry

**SEE US AT ...**

- WIRE DÜSSELDORF, METAV, CABWIRE: Düsseldorf, Germany
- STAINLESS STEEL WORLD: Maastricht, The Netherlands
- AMI CABLES: Cologne, Germany
- WIRE EXPO: Nashville, TN, USA
- INTERWIRE: Atlanta, GA, USA