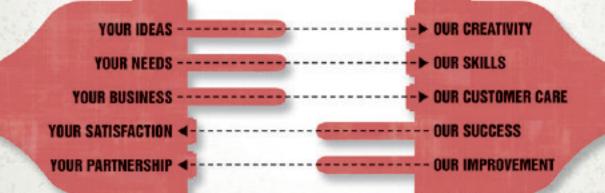
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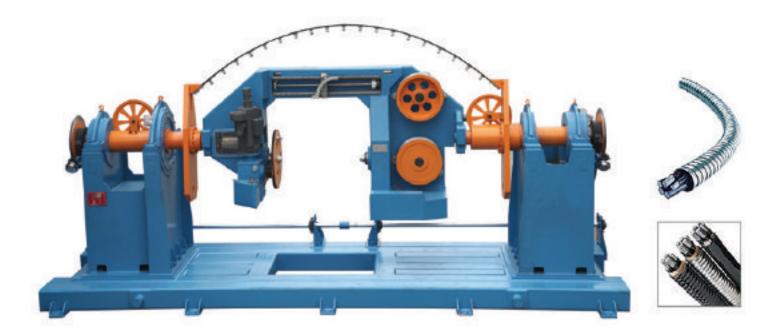


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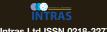
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# Joining forces to make the most of skills and expertise

It seems that wire 2014 in Düsseldorf has had a long-lasting effect on a number of companies, with many announcing joint ventures following the week-long exhibition.

Sikora and Maillefer (page 10) and Melos and Inhol (page 20) are just two of those deals which have emerged since the show.

I was also privileged to be part of the unveiling ceremony of a new rigid frame stranding machine from Shanghai HOSN on the first morning of the exhibition, and details of this can be found on page 24.

Solar energy also features heavily in this issue with a 10 per cent increase in solar investments in the first quarter of 2014, as noted in a report from Bloomberg New Energy Finance (page 13).

This in addition to a college in Kolkata, India, developing a system of generating electricity from anchored floating solar panels. The full story can be found in our India Insight section on page 44.

It would be remiss not to mention the latest technonogical advances heading into the market with Zumbach launching a new three-axis lump detector (page 35), and the launch of a new cable for the railway market from Belden (page 38).



David Bell Editor

# When and where

### September 2014

24–27 September: wire China – trade exhibition – Shanghai, China Organisers: SECRI and Messe Düsseldorf (Shanghai) Co Ltd Fax: +86 216 169 8301 Email: shanghai@mdc.com.cn Web: www.wirechina.net

### October 2014

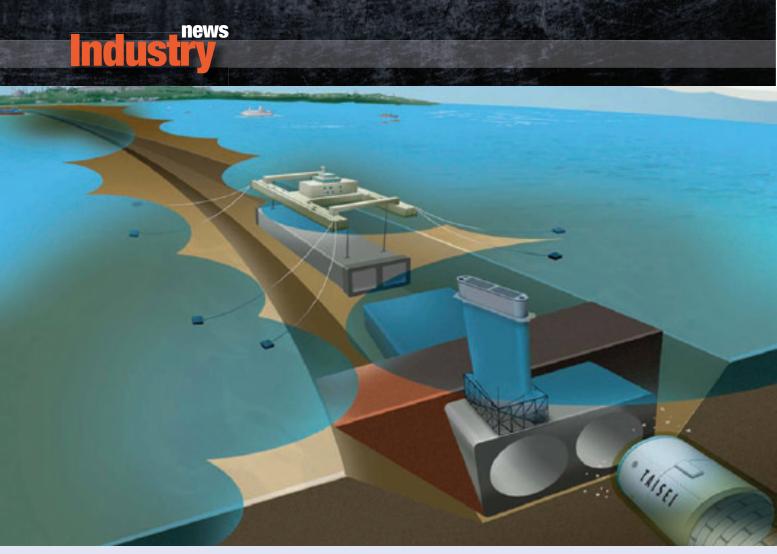
21-25 October: **EuroBLECH** – trade exhibition – Hanover, Germany **Organisers**: Mack Brooks Exhibitions Ltd **Fax**: +44 1727 814 401 **Email**: info@euroblech.com **Web**: www.euroblech.com

### October 2014

28-30 October: wire India – trade exhibition – Mumbai, India Organisers: Messe Düsseldorf India Fax: +91 112 697 1746 Email: info@md-india.com Web: www.md-india.com

#### November 2014

9-12 November: IWCS – technical symposium – Rhode Island, USA Organisers: IWCS Tel: +1 732 389 0991 Email: phudak@iwcs.org Web: www.iwcs.org



O An artist's impression of the tunnels underneath the Istanbul Strait

# Joining of the continents

LA FARGA is supplying the cables for the railway electrification of the Marmaray project, a new 76km rail link between Halkali and Gebze (Turkey). Part of the new rail link is above ground, while the other part consists of tunnels underneath the Istanbul Strait. This revolutionary railway project is already up and running.

The rail link between Halkali (European side) and Gebze (Asian side) is evidence of a firm commitment to providing the country with an improved rail network, making it more accessible through new, innovative, modern and fast rail infrastructures.

This is a large-scale project, perhaps one of the largest in terms of railway transport infrastructures. There is approximately 76km of new rail tracks, including a 1.4km long immersed tube tunnel at a depth of 56m.

The project also consists of three new underground stations and the improvement and refurbishment of 27

existing stations. The maximum operational speed of the train is 100km/hour, while the time between trains is estimated at 120-600 seconds, which requires a fleet of 440 new trains.

La Farga is one of the key suppliers in this huge railway project, unique in the world, entrusted with the task of carrying out the railway electrification of the 76km of rail tracks. Since 2013 it has been supplying the project with high-performance copper contact wire and bronze cables.

The notion of constructing a railway tunnel under the Istanbul Strait was first raised in 1860. At this time the idea was to construct a floating tunnel supported on pillars constructed on the seabed. As the years went by the project was perfected.

The technique used in the Marmaray Project to cross the Istanbul Strait (the immersed tube tunnel technique) was developed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The wish to construct a public rail link from west to east in Istanbul and under the Istanbul Strait was gathering momentum in the early 1980s. During this period various technical and demographic feasibility studies of the project were carried out.

In 1999 the project began to take shape from a financial perspective and the entire process is now up and running; the underwater tunnel has been inaugurated and is operational.

Currently, a journey from Halkali to Gebze takes approximately three hours, including the ferry crossing from Sirkeci to Haydarpasa. With the new Marmaray railway, the journey time will be one hour and forty-five minutes. The railway is currently used by 10,000 passengers and this number is expected to rise to 75,000 with the new project.

La Farga Lacambra and La Farga Rod – Spain Website: www.lafarga.es



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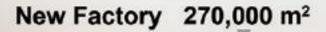


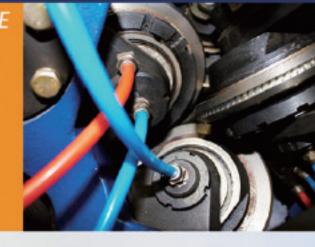




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### Silver Fox turns silver sponsor

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Among the sponsors of the recent McDermott Charity Golf Classic, held in Dubai, was Silver Fox, a UK manufacturer of labelling solutions.

The event, which raised many thousands of dollars for charity, was held over two days – at the Jebel Ali Golf Resort on 12<sup>th</sup> March, and The Els Club, Dubai Sports City the following day.

Appropriately, Silver Fox was a silver sponsor of the two-day event.

Commenting on the event, which is organised annually by the Dubai-based engineering company J Ray **McDermott** Middle East, Nick Michaelson, CEO of Silver Fox, said: "It was a great pleasure to be at this year's event and play our part in it as sponsors. Not only was there some great golf played, in fine settings, but we were able to help raise many thousands of dollars for a very worthy cause."

### **100 per cent quality control cooperation**

CUSTOMER demands significantly determine which new technologies are pushed by Sikora. Two years ago Maillefer raised urgent questions about the possibilities for the development of a system for the detection and sorting of contaminations in plastic pellets.

The reason for the need of such a system was – and is – the continuously increasing demand for renewable energies in the international energy market. "The worldwide installed capacity has already increased from 1,250 GW (2010) to 1,700 GW (2013)," states the International Energy Association (IEA).

A part of this is supplied by wind turbines in offshore wind farms. For the power transmission to the mainland, submarine cables are used, which have to fulfil sophisticated requirements due to the specific environmental conditions. Therefore, the cable structure and its production process must follow national and international standards.

In these regards, the purity of the XLPE compound plays a critical role, especially with regard to the insulation: the purer the compound, the lower the risk of a breakdown. It is for that reason that the Chinese Standard for high voltage cables, for example, demands the exclusion of contaminations from 75µm in the processed materials.

A very important aspect has always been the cable joint, specifically with high voltage cables for off-shore applications. The joints where the cables are welded together are always critical. Therefore, energy suppliers want cable manufacturers to deliver large cable lengths with a minimum amount of joints, as each joint contains a potential risk for breakdowns. Consequently, the aim is to produce energy cables with long lengths with only a few joints while using highly pure raw material.

In order to catch possible impurities in the XLPE compound before they get into the cable, cable manufacturers use screens which are positioned directly in the melt flow after the extruder, before the crosshead and, thus, prevent the contaminations from entering the product. But these screens can get clogged by degraded XLPE, ie scorches, or excessive amounts of contaminants after certain run time and then the melt pressure in the extruder may increase significantly. Finally, the production has to be stopped in order to change the screens, which in turn means that a joint is later required at that position.

A solution to this problem is a system which inspects the pellets for purity before the XLPE pellets get into the extrusion process. Currently installed devices use optical measuring



The Purity Scanner is the result of technological cooperation between Maillefer and Sikora. From left: Member of the board Dr Christian Frank, head of R&D Dr Siegmar Lampe (both Sikora AG), and MV/HV process specialist Timo Mäkelä, of Maillefer

principles that randomly inspect pellets for contaminations. Since this is a sample check, not all of the material is controlled. Furthermore, with optics, only the outside of the pellet can be inspected, while impurities inside the pellets remain undetected. Moreover, the inspection of the raw material with existing devices is not done under clean room conditions, so new impurities can emerge from the ambient air or as a result of the conveyor belt used.

In initial experiments, various sensors were tested in order to ensure a reliable detection of contaminations with a size of 50µm. It soon became clear that Sikora had the know-how to develop the appropriate technology to meet Maillefer's requirements.

With the newly developed Purity Scanner, metallic and organic contaminations not only on the surface but also inside the pellet can be detected. The system applies for XLPE compounds as they are used in the production of medium, high and extra-high voltage cables, as well as underground and submarine cables, including semi-conductive XLPE compound.

With the combination of X-ray and optical technologies, a system was developed which inspects 100 per cent of the pellets for purity before they enter the production process. Rejected XLPE pellets are reliably sorted out.

The transport of the pellets is carried out via a vibrating ramp. This transport system is hermetically sealed with the result that no external impurities get into the material flow.

#### Sikora AG – Germany

Website: www.sikora.com

#### Maillefer – Switzerland

Website: www.mailleferextrusion.com



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22F-3,NO.45 PAO CHUNG RD.,XINDIAN DISTRICT, NEW TAIPEI CITY,TAIWAN R.O.C. TEL : +886 2 29181558 FAX: +886 2 29188158 E-mail: info@unisons.com.tw WWW.UNISONS.COM.tw ANALYSTS at Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) have observed a 10 per cent increase in clean energy investment in the first quarter of 2014.

The increase is believed to be due to a sharp rise in household solar systems in the US and Japan. The falling cost of solar units is thought to have prompted a 42 per cent leap in Japanese and US households buying photovoltaic systems, representing investments of \$21.2 billion.

A total of \$47.7 billion was invested in clean energy projects during the first quarter, compared with \$43.6 billion in the first three months of 2013. The same period also saw the expansion of clean energy investments to emerging economies, with Indonesia and Kenya recording two of the top four asset finance deals.

Michael Liebreich, BNEF chairman, said: "It is too early to say definitively that 2013 was the low point for clean energy investment worldwide and that 2014 will show a rebound, but the first-quarter numbers are encouraging."

Elsewhere in the world, China's investment rose 18 per cent, and after a difficult 2013 Brazil's investment increased by 211 per cent. The Middle East and Africa managed an 82



news

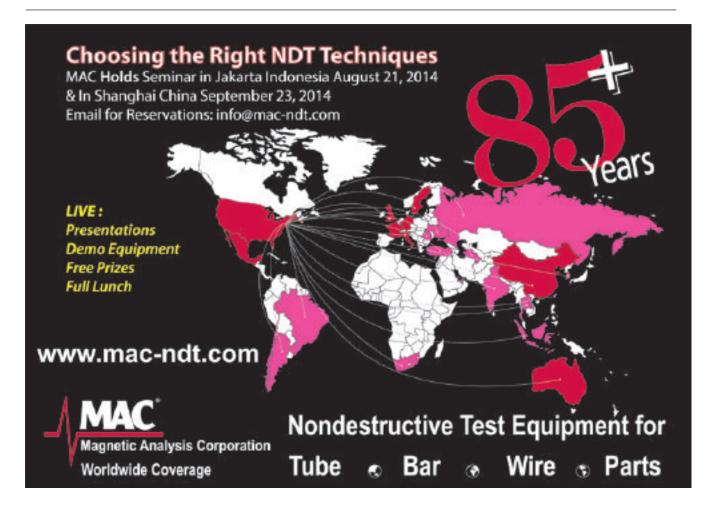
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 Solar Energy Systems installed this solar PV rooftop system in New York City. Photograph courtesy of Aeon

per cent increase, but investment in Europe fell 30 per cent compared to first quarter 2013.

Overall, the figures suggest a possible upturn for a market that has struggled since 2011. Investment in renewable energy technologies fell 11 per cent in 2013, after falling 10 per cent in 2012.

Bloomberg New Energy Finance – USA Website: http://about.bnef.com





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# **Industry**

### **Second Queen's Award for Metalube**

### Wire rod venture

Kobe Steel Ltd, trading affiliate Shinsho Corporation. Metal One Corporation, Osaka Seiko Ltd, and US company Republic Steel have signed an MoU to consider the establishment of a joint venture in Mexico to process steel wire rod into steel wire of cold heading quality.

The five companies will consider business plans for a venture that would begin operations in mid-2015. **Discussions will** include production equipment, location, number of employees, timing for the establishment of the venture and other issues.

Auto production in Mexico reached 2.93 million units in 2013, nearly double the 1.5 million cars made in 2009, and solid growth is expected to continue.

Demand for cold heading quality steel wire, to make automotive fasteners and other cold forged parts, is increasing. SPECIALIST Iubricant manufacturer Metalube has been awarded a highly prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise for Innovation 2014.

This is the second successive year that it has been honoured with this accolade. Exporting to over 86 countries worldwide, the company won in the International Trade category in 2013.

An Innovation Award was made for inventing a synthetic grease, OCG 6000, to protect overhead electrical conductors. The corrosion-preventing grease can operate at over 200°C with an operational life exceeding 20 years.

OCG 6000 extends the lives of conductors and ultimately saves capital investments by delaying future renewal of pylon infrastructure.

Chris Nettleship, technical director, said: "This is a great feather in our cap. To win the Queen's Award once is a major achievement, but to win two years in a row is a superb honour. I am so proud of all our



The laboratory team at Metalube, from left to right, Lesley Hallam, Chris Nettleship, Kevin Duncan, Ben Clarkson, Naomi Pells, Wayne Thornhill and Beverley Gallifant

chemists who innovate on a daily basis. It is fantastic that their hard work and technical expertise is now acknowledged by this esteemed recognition."

Metalube manufactures lubricants and greases mainly for the wire and cable industry.

#### The majority of households will own everyday appliances that use copper wire, lubricated by the company, and its greases protect the overhead power cables that conduct electricity to homes.

Metalube Ltd – UK Website: www.metalube.co.uk

### **Ormiston Wire are go!**

Ormiston Wire provided wire for a new documentary film about Gerry and Sylvia Anderson 50 years after providing innovative wire for the iconic children's television show 'Thunderbirds'. The company supplied the makers of the documentary, titled 'Filmed in Supermarionation', with wire for the filming of new 'Thunderbirds' sequences.

The company was initially approached by AP Films in the 1960s to help solve the technical issues in filming marionettes for the original 'Thunderbirds' show. The innovative solution was a very thin yet durable metal wire filament to manipulate the puppets, which was darkened so there was no reflection, therefore making it as invisible as possible. Ormiston Wire developed, manufactured and supplied a chemically darkened 0.125mm diameter wire, which was used throughout the series until the Andersons moved into live-action productions in the early 70s.

'Filmed in Supermarionation' uses unseen

archive footage, new interviews and clips from the shows to tell the story of Gerry and Sylvia Anderson's legendary TV productions in greater depth than ever before. Directed and produced by Stephen La Rivière, the definitive documentary presents the story of how series such as 'Thunderbirds', 'Stingray' and 'Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons' were brought to audiences around the world.

"'Thunderbirds' is an iconic British television series and is loved by different generations across the globe," said Mark Ormiston, managing director. "We were delighted to support the production of this documentary film 50 years after we first provided Gerry and Sylvia Anderson with wire for the marionettes."

'Filmed in Supermarionation' will premiere at the BFI later this year ahead of a general release in autumn 2014.

Ormiston Wire – UK Website: www.ormiston-wire.co.uk

### **Expanding Indian fibre optic operations**

REICHLE & De-Massari (R&M) has acquired the business activities and operating assets of Advanced Fiber Systems (AFS) in India. AFS is a renowned manufacturer of fibre-optic products and solutions for the public network market and has been an R&M certified assembly partner for the E-2000<sup>™</sup> connector for several years.

AFS was founded in 2002 and has its production facility located in Bangalore. The management and all employees of AFS will transfer to R&M in India.

This acquisition provides R&M with the industrial platform to strengthen its existing structured cabling business in India and addresses new strategic market segments.

Laurent Amestoy, executive vice president of R&M Asia-Pacific, said: "We are very excited about the benefits and potential of this acquisition.

"R&M has achieved tremendous growth in India since beginning operations in 2006. This acquisition is a key milestone to further expand our business in India. We can now actively participate in the growing fibre-optic network deployments, fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) roll-outs and data centre projects. I remain confident that our high-quality approach and greater local presence will take us to the next level in India."

# Vijay Kumar H P, director of AFS, said: "Over the last ten years, we have built excellent customer relationships through our expertise in fibre-optic technology and the ability to offer customised solutions. We are thrilled to become a part of the R&M's global organisation. With R&M's worldwide expertise and our local knowledge, we will be able to offer new solutions with added value to our customers."

R&M has been active in India since 2006 and is located in Bangalore, and the number of employees will now rise to over 50.

Reichle & De-Massari AG – Switzerland Website: www.rdm.com

### **Communications to Crimea**

The *Kommersant* newspaper reports that Rostelecom is close to completing an underwater communication line across the Kerch Strait, connecting Crimea with Russian regions and bypassing Ukraine. The line includes a 40km fibre optic cable from the Krasnodar region to the Kerch Strait, and a 6km underwater section.

Rostelecom – Russia W

Website: www.rostelecom.ru

MISI

### New dedicated reeling cable website

Specialist cable manufacturer Tratos has launched a new website – www.reelingcables.com – dedicated to its Tratosflex reeling cables.

Tratos is a long-standing manufacturer and supplier of reeling cables for moving applications, supplying power, control and signalling functions.

Its best selling Tratosflex ESDB cables feature a unique internal cable design, with the structure tightened against the internal relative movement.

This prevents the cable from twisting and leading to possible breakage – extremely dangerous when reeling at speeds up to 300m/m. The cables have been designed to be highly durable, operating in temperatures from -60°C to +90°C.

The new www.reelingcables.com from Tratos details the Tratosflex ESDB cable range, providing the option to download the latest product catalogue and view a range of case studies featuring Tratosflex in action around the world. Recent applications include London Gateway, Jebel Ali Port in Dubai and Busan Port terminal in Korea.

Tratos supplied Tratosflex-ESDB cable for use in 32 ZPMC high-speed cranes in the latter, which is the company's largest order for this cable and is believed to be the biggest single order in the world to date for crane reeling cable.

In addition to the design, manufacture and supply of product, Tratos also offers a full engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) service with comprehensive after sales support provision.

This 'added value' service, detailed on the new website, is available to Tratos customers worldwide.

As an EPC company, Tratos is able to carry out the detailed engineering design of a project, procure all the equipment and materials necessary, and then construct the application to deliver a functioning asset to clients, with a full after-sales support service following its completion.

Tratos – UK Website: www.reelingcables.com

### Cables plant in Macedonia

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

Macedonia's government and the company completed negotiations in mid-April. Under the plan, ODW Elektrik will build its first Macedonian plant on a 10,000m<sup>2</sup> site. The factory is expected to be operational by the end of 2014, creating up to 1,000 new jobs.

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

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

ODW Elektrik is forecasting revenues of €75.2m for 2014.

ODW Elektrik – Germany Website: www.odw-elektrik.com



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## New test to compare gear steel machinability

IISI

news

AS car transmission systems become more complex, with higher numbers of gears, there is more of a premium on the package space required for these systems. Designers want to specify cleaner steels to create stronger parts able to handle high loads without additional weight or reduction in fatigue life, while machinists require steels with excellent machinability for ease of manufacture.

Tata Steel's automotive team demonstrated at wire 2014 how a new test they have developed with the University of Sheffield, UK, will allow the steel supplier to compare different steel chemistries, and prove how it can offer the optimum balance between performance and ease of processing for forgers, machinists and OEMs.

Good machinability is an essential factor for manufacturers because it allows production rates to increase while maintaining good chip control, surface finish and dimensional stability. Chip control refers to the form in which the excess material is generated when machining steel. Small chips are better than longer ones, as they are less likely to clog machines, avoiding costly machine stops to clear entangled swarf.

In order to properly compare the machinability of different steel chemistries in action, Tata Steel's Swinden Technology Centre, in Rotherham, UK, has worked with the University of Sheffield to develop a bespoke machinability test that replicates features of the hobbing process - the machining process for gear cutting which cuts the 'teeth' out of the forged blanks. The test allows steels with different machinability-enhancing elements to be compared, without the need to procure expensive gear hobbing tools or access to specialist hobbing machines.

Designing gear steels requires a careful balance to combine ease of machinability with high fatigue strength - the length of time a product can function under cyclic loading before failing. Tata Steel has worked with its supply chain partners to develop a suite of clean gear steels that it claims offer the best of both.

Adding controlled quantities of key elements can enhance machinability, but has a negative impact on fatigue performance. Adding sulphur to the steel reduces the shear stress needed to create small chips.

Other additions such as calcium can be used to encourage the formation of protective layers on cutting tools that reduce tool wear rates. The addition of bismuth and tellurium contributes to reduced cutting forces and lower tool wear, offering an improved surface finish and - again smaller chips.

The new test compares machinability under interrupted cutting conditions at speeds similar to those experienced in production hobbing operations. The University of Sheffield designed cutting tools with geometries similar to those used in hobbing, and is developing a rapid data-logging system for tool force measurement.

Tata Steel – India

Website: www.tatasteel.com



# SOMETHING NEW IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN IN THE WORLD OF STEEL WIRE COLD ROLLING



www.eurolls.com

### **Partnership agreement for delivery**

MELOS GmbH in Germany and Inhol BV in The Netherlands have entered into a strategic partnership agreement to expand their delivery programmes.

MUSI

news

By signing this agreement both companies will be able to market a wider range of compounds to the wire and cable industry. Through this new agreement Melos and Inhol intend to explore the synergies between the two companies in the field of compound technology and product development.

Both companies have earned the trust leading wire and of cable manufacturers around the world Together Melos and Inhol will utilise the Mecoline brand name and harness a team of specialists to design, manufacture and market innovative Mecoline compounds.

Meanwhile. has Melos made investments in additional co-kneader technology to boost its compounding capacity, coming by the end of 2014.



Mishaus (--

# synergy at work

inhol% melos 🤩 Cable Compounds

### O Partnership between Melos and Inhol

Melos and Inhol will put major focus on designing premium green compounds offer excellent that properties. Improved economical use of compounds by application of social science will not only result in a safer world but will also stimulate savings of chemical and energy resources.

By offering non-corrosive and zero halogen solutions whilst meeting extreme performance and processability requirements, both companies have already made remarkable progress during the last few years. From now on a dedicated technical team headed by Marcus Hohlweck in Germany and Ron Goethals in The Netherlands will offer their customers high standard technical service, research and development support and general support.

"Over the last years Melos has grown organically by supplying compounds to many customers across the world. Our modern production facilities allow us to manufacture numerous types of compounds to meet the demand of the wire and cable market," said Marcus Hohlweck, business unit manager of Melos GmbH.

"The new strategic alliance with Inhol BV will provide us with additional technology in the field of cross-linkable compounds. It is our objective to aggressively grow our wire and cable compound business around the globe and to further invest in state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment, lean manufacturing systems and up to date R&D facilities."

"We take pride in joining our forces with Melos GmbH," added Ron Goethals, director and co-owner of Inhol BV. "We are excited about the opportunity to have direct access to well-equipped R&D laboratories and manufacturing facilities for our European and Far East activities."

Melos GmbH – Germany Website: www.melos-gmbh.com

Inhol BV – Netherlands Website: www.inhol.com

### Copper advances ahead of trade data

Shanghai copper futures climbed in mid-April ahead of trade data from China, the world's largest user of copper.

On 21<sup>st</sup> April the contract for July delivery on the Shanghai futures exchange rose 0.5 per cent to 46,600 yuan (\$7,487) a metric ton. The previous week copper had fallen 0.8 per cent after four weeks of gains.







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### **Distribution deal is signed by Borouge**

DP World, UAE Region, the regional marine terminal operator, and Borouge, a provider of innovative, value creating plastics solutions, signed a contract through which DP World will support the distribution of Borouge's products as one of Borouge's several gateways to export its products to its customers in the UAE and around the world.

news

MISI

The contract was signed by Abdulaziz Alhajri, CEO of Abu Dhabi Polymers Company (Borouge), and Mohammed Al Muallem, senior vice president and managing director, DP World, UAE Region. The signing took place at Borouge's headquarters in Abu Dhabi in the presence of senior officials from both companies.

Under the terms of the signed contract, DP World will provide Borouge with value added logistic services at its flagship Jebel Ali Port including the technology-driven handling operations of containers and the wide connectivity the port provides regionally and internationally. Borouge, in turn, will benefit from the availability of the port's storage facilities, staffing and seamless shipping to its customers globally.

"We are pleased to collaborate with such a strong international port services provider like DP World to distribute our products shipped from our plants in Ruwais to our customers around the world," said Abdulaziz Alhajri.

"The signing of this contract with DP World embodies our commitment to ensure fast and safe shipments of our products looking forward to the high quality services DP World will be providing us."

Mohammed Al Muallem added: "DP World is proud to provide Borouge with value-adding, efficient general cargo handling services and unparalleled sea connectivity through Jebel Ali Port, with 98 weekly services to over 115 direct ports of call. We provide a cost-effective distribution platform that allows Borouge to quickly deliver to its customers the quality Abu Dhabi-made products they expect from this global leader of innovative plastics solutions."

"The contract will enable Borouge to benefit from Jebel Ali's modern technology, which supports the supply chain with gate automation systems and paperless processing of cargo documentation through a single electronic window."

Borouge will also benefit from the semi-automated new capacity coming on line this year, which will take capacity at Jebel Ali Port to 19 million TEU (twenty foot equivalent container units) and enable Jebel Ali to handle as many as ten of the new generation ultra large container ships (ULCS) at the same time.

Borouge – Abu Dhabi Website: www.borouge.com



### **Big demand for cables and wires from Niehoff**

THE most recent issue of Niehoff Magazine, the customer newspaper of the wire and cable machinery manufacturer Maschinenfabrik Niehoff, is now available.

It contains articles in English and German with summaries in Chinese and Russian.

The main article, 'Energy and the future. Big demand for cables and wires in Europe', deals with the importance of automotive technology for the wire and cable industry and the electricity supply in Europe.

In an interview, Philipp Radbourne from the business consultancy and market research institute Integer Research explains details about the evaluation of business information and the derivation of market trends, while in the company portrait, the Er-Bakır company is presented.

In a series of articles about the Niehoff group, Maschinenfabrik Niehoff (CZ), sro is introduced.

The Czech Niehoff subsidiary manufactures individual components and mechanical assemblies which are completed and tested in the main factory in Schwabach.

The factory, with more than 80 employees, operates according to the Niehoff quality standards, relieves the main

factory and helps the Niehoff group to respond flexibly to market developments.

news

**MUSI** 

In its news section the Niehoff Magazine reports about the celebration farewell of Heinz Rockenhäuser, who retired at the end of October 2013 after 20 years' service as managing director.

Further topics regard Niehoff's new machining centre for large workpieces in the Schwabach factory and the visit of 70 participants of the Intercable Association General Assembly in the Czech capital Prague last November at Niehoff's Czech subsidiary.

The magazine provides Niehoff customers and friends twice a year with a wide range of ideas on how to improve the competitiveness of their businesses.

The customer newspaper can be obtained from Niehoff headquarters in Germany or any Niehoff subsidiary and service office all over the world.

It is also available at the website www.niehoff.de

Maschinenfabrik Niehoff GmbH & Co KG – Germany Website: www.niehoff.de



### Shanghai HOSN's machine launch at wire 2014



news

**MUSI** 

 Guests are pictured unveiling the new JLK 630 rigid frame stranding machine



ALUMINUM CLAD STEEL WIRE ACS as per ASTM B415 Diameter : from 2.05-5,18mm Conductivity : from 20%s-40%6 etc.



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The first Chinese company to take the strander to Düsseldorf, Shanghai HOSN held an opening ceremony for the new machine on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April, and followed this with a successful cocktail party for customers and friends on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April.

The company, founded in 2011, is located in Shanghai Pudong Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Development Zone, and the production base can be found in Yangzhou.

The show also went on to be a roaring success for the company, with more than 50 customers worldwide visiting the stand and two South American businesses signing contracts with HOSN.

During a number of presentations during the week, the company proudly showed a video giving an intriguing insight into life behind the scenes at the plant in Yangzhou.

Making the presentation was student James Day who has worked with the company and visited its plants in China as part of his MSc in entrepreneurship at Nottingham University, UK.

Mr Day was on hand to explain to guests and visitors all about the company and its work.

Shanghai HOSN – China Website: www.hosnglobe.com



Visitors also attended a cocktail party during the exhibition



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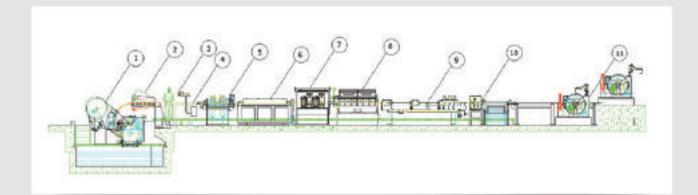
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### **Cutting edge Chameleon**

IN a constant effort to provide cost-effective solutions and innovations to the cable industry, SAMP continuously invests in research and development.

The latest and most important innovation is the Chameleon technology, a breakthrough solution for cable type changeover without production stop and speed limitations.

Like a chameleon with the ability to change colour fast and frequently, the brand new solution guarantees maximum flexibility, efficiency and reliability throughout the extrusion process.

Traditionally, when changing a cable type, when going from a striped cable to a non-striped one, the procedure to be followed is rather long and includes a number of steps:

- 1. Stop the production line
- 2. Cool down the machinery
- 3. Open the extrusion head
- 4. Replace the distributor or ring that creates the stripe on the cable with a similar device allowing the application of a single layer without stripe
- 5. Reheat the machinery

This rough outline describes what takes place in the majority of cases. SAMP has intentionally avoided to mention any other unconventional, home-made attempt to avoid production stop, since these cannot guarantee product homogeneity and therefore do not meet the market requirements, especially in demanding fields such as automotive.

The process described leads to a production slowdown and delays can even amount to several hours in case of CV lines.

In order to maximise efficiency and eliminate non-productive time, SAMP has developed Chameleon, а revolutionary solution that allows the cable type changeover from a striped cable to a non-striped one, and vice-versa, in just a few seconds, without stopping the production line and disassembling the extrusion head.

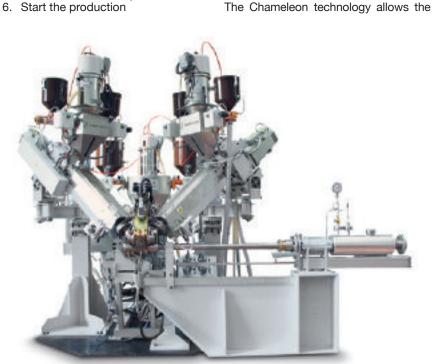
By means of this system, the materials flowing from various extruders are all managed by a single device, which conveys them in the right direction depending on the type of cable to be produced. A simple gesture is enough to control the final melt flow directions.

production of perfectly homogeneous cables, since all the insulation materials are obtained by working at the same temperature and the same pressure level. Moreover, the same distributor is used when producing striped and non-striped cables, so that no extra device is needed for the changeover.

Chameleon technology is suitable for all SAMP extrusion heads, including the more sophisticated like the TX6V, which is equipped with the "0-scrap" quick change colour system for the cable stripe, and the TX6V2, where the "0-scrap" system can be applied both to the stripe and the insulation.

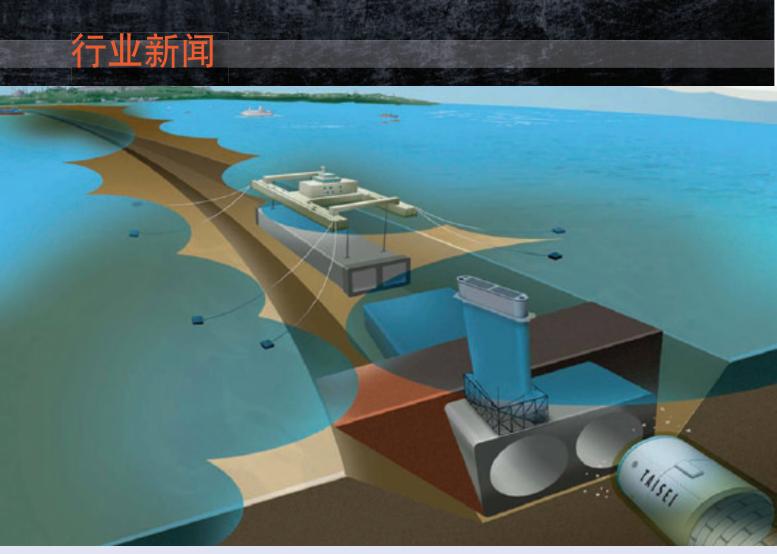
All parameters can be easily managed via the SAMP Supervision and Control Unit, through which production can be automatically programmed and a number of statistical and graphical analyses can be carried out.

#### SAMP – Italy Website: www.sampsistemi.com



Chameleon technology allows production of perfectly homogeneous cables





○ 伊斯坦布尔海峡底隧道效果图

# 两大洲实现海底连接

La Farga为马尔马雷项目中的铁路电气 化提供电缆,新铁路线长76km,连接 Halkali和Gebze(土耳其)。该铁路线的 部分在地面以上,其余部分包含隧道, 在伊斯坦布尔海峡底下。这一革命性的 铁路项目已启动和运行。

Halkali(欧洲方面)和Gebze(亚洲方面) 之间的铁路线也代表着一个坚定的承 诺,为国家提供改进的铁路网络,通过 创新型现代化、快速铁路基础设施,让 铁路交通变得更加便捷。

这是一个大型项目,很可能是铁路交通 基础设施领域最大的项目之一。新铁轨 长约76km,包括56米深度处,长1.4km 的沉管隧道。

项目还包括3个新地铁站和27个现有车站的改善与翻新。火车最高运行速度为每小时100km,列车间隔时长预计在 120-600秒,这意味着需要拥有一个440辆新列车的车队。La Farga是该全球独 一无二庞大铁路项目的重要供应商,受 委托对76km铁轨进行铁路电气化。自 **2013**年,公司就开始为该项目提供高性能铜接触线和铜缆。

La Farga Lacambra and La Farga Rod 总经理Miquel Garcia说: "我们是开 发尖端铜材料和铜产品的领导者,这也 是我们入选马尔马雷项目的原因所在,但同时我们也面临着高端技术组件的挑 战"。

在伊斯坦布尔海峡下兴建铁路隧道的想 法最早是在1860年提出的。现在的理念 是在海底支柱上建造一个悬浮隧道。随 着岁月的流逝,项目逐渐成熟完善。

马尔马雷项目中采用的穿越伊斯坦布尔 海峡技术(沉管隧道技术)于19世纪后期 开发。

第一次使用该技术构建隧道,目的为了 货物运输,是在美国:密歇根中央铁路 隧道建于1906-1910。在欧洲,荷兰是 第一个采用该技术的国家:鹿特丹的马 斯隧道建成于1942年。在亚洲,日本 1994年在大阪率先使用该技术。 自西向东从伊斯坦布尔和伊斯坦布尔海 峡下构建公共铁路线的愿望势头是在20 世纪80年代初。在此期间,关于该项目 的各种应用技术和人手可行性研究如火 如荼地进行。1999年,该项目从经济 角度开始成形,整个过程现已启动和运 行。海底隧道也已开通,并投入使用。

目前,从Halkali到Gebze的旅程大约3 小时,包括从Sirkeci到Haydarpasa的 渡口距离。新的马尔马雷铁路,该旅程 缩短到1小时45分钟。这条铁路目前使 用人次为10,000,新项目建成后,这个 数字将上升到75,000人次。世界上主要 城市的铁路系统效率是通过全部旅程的 百分比来计算的,如铁路和地铁系统相 对于总旅程。东京的百分比达到60%, 纽约31%,伦敦22%,巴黎25%…但在 伊斯坦布尔只有3.6%。据估计,一旦马 尔马雷项目全面投入使用,这一比例将 提高到28%。

La Farga Lacambra and La Farga Rod – 西班牙 网址: www.lafarga.es





# **PTFE Coaxial taping machine**

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- Extruding line 挤出机生产线
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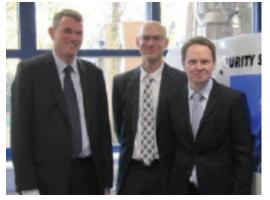


Address : No. 110, Luda Road, Pudoag New Area, Shanghai, China Tel: 0006-21-33890307,0086-21-33890300 Fax: 0006-21-33896305 E-mail: sates@shanghai-nanyang.com sates@shanghai-nanyang.sina.net Contact person : Stephen Chen 客户需要明确确定哪些新技术是由 Sikora推进的。两年前,Maillefer提出 了关于开发检测与分选塑料颗粒中污染 物系统的迫切问题。

行业新闻

究其原因,是由于该系统的必要性 -可再生能源在国际市场的需求不断 扩大。"全球装机量已从 1,250 GW (2010年)上升到 1,700 GW (2013 年),"国际能源协会(IEA)声明。

海上风力发电场提供风力涡轮机。对于 电力传输到陆地,如果使用海底电缆, 由于特定的环境条件,必须满足复杂



 纯度扫描仪是Maillefer和Sikora合作的成果。从左边 起:董事会成员Christian Frank博士,研发部博士 Siegmar Lampe(两位都来自Sikora AG), Maillefer 公司中压/高压工艺专家Timo Mäkelä

的要求。因此,电缆结构和生产工艺必须遵循国内和国际标准。在这些方面, 交联聚乙烯化合物的纯度起着重要的作用,尤其涉及到绝缘:化合物越纯,发 生故障的风险越低。正是由于这个原因,高压电缆的中国标准,比如,要求 排除加工材料中75µm污染物。

电缆接头向来是非常重要的环节,在高 压电缆的海上应用方面尤其突出。电缆 焊接处的接头总是至关重要。因此,能 源供应商希望电缆制造商提供相当长的 电缆,但接头要少,因为每个接头都存 在断裂的潜在风险。我们的目标是要使

用高纯度原料生产长度够长,只有少数接头的能源电缆。

为了在进入电缆前捕捉交联聚 乙烯复合物中存在的可能杂 质,电缆制造商将筛网直接定 位在挤出机后、十字头前的熔流中,以阻止污染物进入到产 品中。但是这些筛网可能因为 退化的交联聚乙烯而堵塞,比 如烧焦,或者运行一段时间 后,产生过量的污染物。挤压 机中的熔解压力显著增加,最 终导致生产中断,更换筛网, 这也意味着,该位置产生一接 头。问题的解决方案是需要-系统在交联聚乙烯颗粒进入挤 出过程前, 检测粒料的纯度。 目前安装的设备使用光学测量 原理,随机检查颗粒的污染。

由于这是一个抽样检查,不是所有的材料都能够被控制。此外,利用光学,只能检查颗粒的外侧,颗粒内部的杂质仍 无法发现。另外,现有设备检查原料不 是在洁净室条件下,这就导致空气环境 或使用传送带产生新杂质。

在最初的实验中,测试了各种传感器, 以确保能够可靠检测50μm的污染物。 显而易见,Sikora拥有这方面的专业知 识来开发相应的技术,以满足Maillefer 的需求。利用新开发的纯度扫描器,不 仅表面的金属与有机污染物,就连颗粒 内部都能够被检测到。

该系统适用于交流聚乙烯化合物,因为 这些化合物广泛应用于生产中、高、超 高压电缆,以及地下与海底电缆,此外 还包括半导体交联聚乙烯化合物。

结合X射线和光学技术,系统开发用于 在进入生产过程之前检测100%颗粒的 纯度。不合格的交联聚乙烯颗粒被可靠 排除出来。

颗粒传输通过振动斜坡进行。传输系统 是密封的,因此,没有外部杂质进入物 料流。

Sikora AG – 德国 网址: www.sikora.com

Maillefer – 瑞士 网址: www.mailleferextrusion.com

### 合作协议

德国Melos GmbH和荷兰Inhol BV两家公司签订了战略合作 协议,以扩大其产品交付范围。通过签订本协议,两家公 司能够向市场推出更广泛的化合物。鉴于该新协议,Melos 和Inhol计划共同探索化合物技术领域和产品开发方面的复 合技术。两家公司均赢得了全球领先的电线电缆制造商的 信任。Melos和Inhol共同使用Mecoline品牌和邀请专家团队 设计、制造与销售创新Mecoline化合物。

同时,Melos还投资于共捏合机技术,2014年底可望实现提高复合产能。Melos和Inhol将重点设计具有优异性能的高级绿色化合物。通过应用社会科学提高经济利用化合物,不仅给我们带来更加安全的环境,而且还会促进节约使用化学与能源资源。通过提供无腐蚀性和无卤素解决方案,同时满足极高的性能与加工性要求,两家公司在过去的几年里取得了长足进展。从现在开始,德国Marcus Hohlweck和荷兰Ron Goethals牵头的专业技术团队将致力于为客户提供高标准技术、研发支持和一般支持。

"在过去的几年里,Melos为世界各地的客户提供化合物, 实现了有机增长。现代化的生产设施,使得我们能够生产 多种类型的化合物,以满足电线电缆的市场需求,"Melos GmbH业务部经理Marcus Hohlweck说。"与Inhol BV缔结 战略联盟,为我们带来了交联化合物领域内的新技术。我 们的目标是要积极开拓全球电线电缆化合物业务,并进一 步投资于最先进的制造设备、尖端生产系统和最新的研发 设施。"

"与Melos GmbH携手合作,我们感到非常自豪,"Inhol BV董事和合伙人 Ron Goethals表示。"我们很高兴能有机 会直接接触装备精良的研发实验室和生产设施,使我们在 欧洲和远东地区的活动大为受益。Melos 和 Inhol的员工都 熟悉业务,我们联手能够为客户在产品设计、质量和交付 能力等方面提供足够的支持。"

"至于美国市场,我们将继续运用几个精心挑选的复合设备进行化合物的生产,我们拥有超过十年的生产经验。"

**Melos GmbH –** 德国 网址: www.melos-gmbh.com

Inhol BV – 荷兰 网址: www.inhol.com

# 新测试用于比较齿轮钢运作过程 中的机械加工性

由于汽车变速器系统变得越来越复杂, 齿轮数目更大,故这些系统的封装空间 费用更高。设计师需要特定的清洁钢来 开发更坚固的部件,这些部件能够应对 高负荷,并且无需额外加重和降低疲劳 负荷寿命,然而,机械师要求钢具有优 良的机械加工性,易于制造。

Tata Steel汽车团队将在2014年线材展 上展示与英国谢菲尔德大学联手新开发 的测试成果,允许钢材供应商比较不同 的钢化学品,来证明他们如何能够为锻 工、机械师和OEMs提供性能与易于加 工之间的最佳平衡。良好的可加工性对 制造商来说至关重要,因为在保持理想 的切屑控制、表面光洁度和尺寸稳定的 同时,可提高生产效率。切屑控制指加 工钢时产生的多余材料。小的切屑比长 的好一些,小的不太可能堵塞机器,避 免昂贵的停机来清除缠结的切屑。

为了正确比较不同钢化学的可加工 性, Tata Steel在英国罗瑟勒姆的技术中 心Swinden Technology Centre与英国 谢菲尔德大学合作开发了定制可加工性 测试,复制了滚齿加工的特点 - 齿轮 切割的加工过程中将"牙"从锻造坯料 切割出来。测试允许钢材具有不同的机 械加工性-对强化元素进行比较,不需 要购买昂贵的滚齿工具或专业滚齿机。

设计齿轮钢需要严谨的平衡,将易加工 性与高疲劳强度结合起来 - 产品在受 损前循环荷载下发挥作用的时长。Tata Steel已与供应链伙伴合作开发了一套干 净的齿轮钢,能够兼顾二者的平衡。

增加关键要素的控制数量能够提高切削 性,但对疲劳性能产生负面影响。添加 硫到钢上,可降低产生小切屑所需的剪 切应力。其它添加剂包括钙,可促进切 割工具上保护层的形成,从而降低刀具 的磨损率。添加铋和碲有助于降低切削 力和减少刀具磨损,提供一个改进的表 面光洁度 - 以及更小的切屑。新的测 试能够以生产滚齿机的类似速度,在断 续切削条件下,比较机械加工性。谢菲 尔德大学设计的切割工具几何形状与应 用在滚齿机上的类似,并正在为工具测 力开发快速数据记录系统。

Tata Steel特殊钢业务开发经理Andrew Woods说: "重量和空间对任何车辆 来说都异常重要,由于这些部件需要承 受负载循环,因此齿轮钢的设计面临特 别复杂的挑战。但通过与客户的密切合 作,我们正开发新产品,解决轻量化、疲劳寿命、强度和可加工性等问题。"

"这种新的测试是客户节省时间、金钱 和精力的又一重要手段,能够让客户了 解给定的材料如何运作,如果他们自己做会有些困难,而且成本较高。"Tom Slatter博士在英国菲尔德大学做讲座时说:"与Tata Steel合作,使我们能够将加工科学专业知识应用于实践,生 产测试设备,从而产生真正的工业影响。"

行业新闻

Tata Steel – 印度 网址: www.tatasteel.com



# wire 2014展览会上推出的新机器



行业新闻

上海HOSN借助杜塞尔多夫 wire 2014这一平台,推出 JLK 630框式结构绞线机。

上海HOSN是首家中国向杜塞 尔多夫展览会上展出线缆机 实体的公司。该公司4月9日 为新机器的推出举办了揭幕 仪式,接着在4月11日,组办 了客户和友人鸡尾酒会。

该公司建于2011年,位于上 海浦东的张江高科技园区, 其生产基地位于扬州。



○ 展览会上,来宾应邀参加鸡尾酒会

这次展览见证了该公司新机型的成功推 出,有五十多位来自世界各地的客户拜 访了他们的展台,其中南美两家公司跟 HOSN签署了业务合同。

Shanghai HOSN - 中国 网址: www.hosnglobe.com

### 太阳能投资骤增

彭博新能源财经(BNEF)的分析师预测,2014年第一季度清洁能源的投资 将增加10%。该增长被认为是由于美 国和日本家用太阳能系统的急剧上升 导致的。太阳能装置的成本下降促使 日本和美国家庭购买光伏系统,实现 了42%的飞跃,投资达212亿美元。 第一季度,清洁能源项目的投资总额 为477亿美元,2013年前三个月的投资总额为436亿美元。同期,也见证 了清洁能源的投资扩大到了新兴经济 体,印尼和肯尼亚在前四名资产融资 交易中居前两位。BNEF主席Michael Liebreich说: "现在说2013年是全 球清洁能源投资的最低点还言之过 早,2014年将呈现反弹,第一季度的 数字是令人鼓舞的。"在世界其它地 方,中国的投资增长了18%,经过艰 难的2013,巴西的投资增长了211%。 中东和非洲实现了82%的增长,然 而,欧洲的投资与2013年第一季度相 比,下降了30%。总体而言,数字表 明,市场自2011年以来一直在努力, 有可能好转。可再生能源技术的投资 2013年下降了11%,2012年下降了 10%。

Bloomberg New Energy Finance - 美国 网址: http://about.bnef.com

# 创新Metalube喜获第二枚女王奖



 Metalube 实验室团队,从左向右依次为: Lesley Hallam, Chris Nettleship, Kevin Duncan, Ben Clarkson, Naomi Pells, Wayne Thornhill和Beverley Gallifant

润滑剂制造专家Metalube被授予 "2014 年企业创新著名女王奖"。公司连续第 二年收获此荣誉。Metalube产品出口到 世界86个国家和地区,公司于2013年赢 得了国际贸易类女王奖。公司发明了一 种合成润滑脂OCG 6000,能够保护架 空电力导线,因此被授予该创新奖。防 腐蚀润滑脂可在超过200℃的环境下应 用,使用寿命长达20多年。OCG 6000 延长了导线的使用寿命,并通过延迟塔 基设施的未来更新降低资本投资。

技术总监Chris Nettleship说: "这是 我们取得的标志性荣誉。赢得一次女王 奖,是一个重大的成就,而连续两年赢 得此殊荣,代表着无上的荣耀。我为我 们的化学家们每天的创新工作而骄傲。 他们的辛勤劳动和专业技术得到业界认 可是多么棒的一件事。"

Metalube制造的润滑油和润滑脂主要 用于电线电缆行业。大多数家庭都拥有 使用铜线的日用品,这些铜线都经过润 滑,其润滑脂保护架空电力电缆导电到 每家每户。经验丰富的出口商Metalube 在中国、印度和巴西设有办事处,拥有 31人的专家团队。

Metalube Ltd - 英国 网址: www.metalube.co.uk

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行业新闻

尖端变色龙

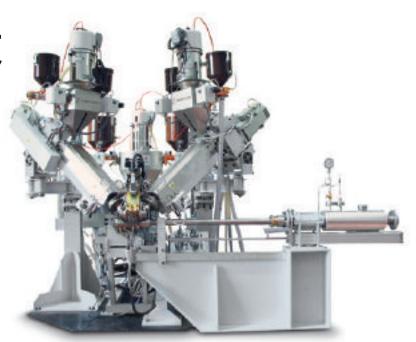
SAMP致力于为电缆行业提供高性价比 解决方案和创新成果,一如既往地投资 于研究开发。最新和最重要的创新是 变色龙技术,这是电缆转型的突破性解 决方案,不需要停产,也没有速度的限 制。就像变色龙一样,能够快速频繁地 改变颜色,全新的解决方案保证整个挤 出过程的最大灵活性、效率和可靠性。

传统上,如果改变电缆类型,比如从条 纹电缆转变为非条纹时,要经历相当长 的过程,包括以下步骤:

- 1. 停止生产线
- 2. 设备降温
- 3. 打开挤压头
- 5. 再加热机器
- 6. 启动生产

以上大体描述了一般情况。SAMP有意 回避其它任何非传统、自身的尝试来避 免生产停顿,因为这些不能保证产品 的同质化,因此也不符合市场的要求, 特别是在那些要求苛刻的领域,比如汽 车。无须赘述,这个过程会导致生产减 速,如果是CV生产线,延迟可能达几个 小时。

为了最大限度地提高效率和消除非生产 时间,SAMP最近开发了变色龙,这是 一个革命性的解决方案,允许转换电缆



○ 变色龙技术允许生产完美均匀的电缆

类型从条纹到非条纹,反之亦然,在短 短几秒钟内,无需停止生产线和拆卸挤 压头。

通过该系统,从各个挤出机中流出的物料由单一的设备操控,根据电缆的生产 类型,以正确的方向运送。一个简单的 手势就足以控制最终熔体流动方向。

变色龙技术允许生产完美均匀的电缆, 所有绝缘材料通过在相同温度和相同压 力下运作而获得。此外,当生产条纹和 非条纹电缆时,使用相同的配电器,所 以转换时不需要额外设备。变色龙技术 适用于所有SAMP挤压头,包括像TX6V 复杂型的,配备了"0-scrap"电缆条 纹快速变色系统,TX6V2,"0-scrap" 系统既适用于条纹,也适用于绝 缘。SAMP监控设备轻松管理所有参 数,因此,生产能够自动编程,并进行 一系列统计和图形分析。

SAMP – 意大利

网址: www.sampsistemi.com

### 铜先于贸易数据 上涨

上海铜期货价格在四月中旬攀升, 比贸易数据提前了,中国是世界 上最大的铜消费国。4月21日,上 海期货交易所7月交付合同上涨了 0.5%,一吨铜价值人民币46,600元 (约合7,487美元)。铜连续四周上涨 后,此前一周,下降了0.8%。

国内冶炼厂纷纷将铜囤积在保税仓 库内,相对于伦敦的比率抬高了当 地的价格。中国的铜消费者29个月 以来,支付的是最高价格,结果导 致本土供应减少。

"如果出口数据显著增加,上海现 货价格有望得到进一步支持,"新华 期货有限公司驻上海分析师连铮(音 译)说。在纽约商品交易所,7月交付 价格变动不大,每磅3.033美元。

# 欧洲大量需求电线电缆

业界领先的电线电缆机械制造商 Maschinenfabrik Niehoff专门为顾客印制的《尼霍夫杂志》已正式出版。杂志 中包含英文和德文版文章,中文和德文 版摘要。主打文章"能源与未来。欧洲 需要大量电线电缆"涉及电线电缆行业 汽车技术和欧洲电力供给的重要性。

来自国际业务咨询与市场研究结构 Integer Research的Philipp Radbourne 先生在接受采访时,对商业信息进行了 评价,对市场趋势也做了推导,在公司 形象方面,推出Er-Bakır公司。

在一系列关于尼霍夫集团的文章中,介 绍了Maschinenfabrik Niehoff (CZ), sro。捷克尼霍夫子公司生产单个与机械 组件,这些组件将在施瓦巴赫的主要工 厂完成和测试。工厂拥有80多位员工, 根据尼霍夫质量标准运作,缓解了主厂 房的压力,帮助尼霍夫集团灵活应对市 场发展的需求。 《尼霍夫杂志》新闻栏目报导了公司元 老Heinz Rockenhäuser的庆祝告别仪 式,Heinz Rockenhäuser担任公司总经 理长达20年之久,于2013年10月底退 休。

其它主题包括尼霍夫位于施瓦巴赫的新的大型工件加工中心,去年11月在位于捷克首都布拉格的尼霍夫捷克子公司参观70人的电缆行业盛会Intercable Association General Assembly。

尼霍夫每年为客户提供两期杂志,就如 何提高客户业务的竞争力,提供广泛的 思路。报刊可从尼霍夫德国总部、尼霍 夫子公司和全球范围内的办事处获取, 也可登录公司网站获得,网址:www. niehoff.de。

Maschinenfabrik Niehoff GmbH & Co KG – 德国 网址: www.niehoff.de

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# **Technology**



The new KW 33TRIO from Zumbach

# Latest lump detectors eliminate stray light

ZUMBACH has launched the new three-axis lump detector family KW TRIO for extrusion lines, optical fibre draw towers, rewinding processes and others.

The first technology with a pulsing light source and automatic ambient light rejection after the cycle makes these detectors impervious to stray light and the pioneers in their class.

Line speed or iridescent light have no influence on measurement results – even the smallest surface faults are detected reliably on a micrometre scale.

In insulating, sheathing, enamelling, wire drawing and other processes, surface faults such as lumps and neckdowns must immediately be detected.

Zumbach has developed a new

concept eliminating stray light as a factor in fault detection in order to enable production processes with the highest quality possible at extrusion lines, optical fibre draw towers, etc.

The one-of-a-kind combination of an electronic measuring principle and a complex optics solution sets a new standard in fault detection reliability and performance.

Advantages for the quality control

- measurement results are unaffected by stray light, velocity and vibration
- complex optics solution enables minimal fault detection height of only 0.01mm and a minimal fault detection length of only 0.2-0.3mm
- fully digitalised signal processing DSP
- micro-processor for intelligent fault analysis and classification

- illuminated, mobile operating and display unit
- detailed error log
- interface for host connection
- compact design, flexible mounting concept
- theoretically unlimited lifespan

Since faults often only cover a limited angle on the product circumference, eg lumps, neckdowns, blisters, etc, 2-axis detectors (X/Y) are usually used.

However, reliability can be three times as high by using the 3-axial measurement of the KW TRIO models.

This is due to the significant reduction in blind spots that only the KW TRIO models enable.

Zumbach AG – Switzerland Website: www.zumbach.com



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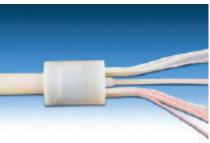
www.messe-duesseldorf.de



# Polyethylene mould for Ametek

AMETEK SCP, a manufacturer of underwater cable and connector solutions for military and commercial applications, has added polyethylene (PE) moulding capability to its factory specialities.

Polyethylene has long been recognised as a preferred material for subsea cables and terminators due to its low-moisture absorption properties, long life and high reliability.



The company now has the capability to custom mould polyethylene subsea

Moulded polyethylene connector and cables from Ametek SCP

cable splices, breakouts and connector terminations, both at the factory and for in-the-field terminations. In addition to the new mould equipment, Ametek has developed a Navy-approved process that effectively moulds polyurethane to a polyethylene jacketed cable.

The company produces custom electrical and optical connectors, cable assemblies and hull penetrators that are widely found on the US submarine fleet as well as many other of the world's navies. It also provides electrical interconnect solutions for a wide range of extreme environments, including undersea, oil field, nuclear and aerospace, that draw upon the extensive knowledge of submarine systems and expertise in electrical connector and data transmission technologies.

Ametek SCP – USA Website: www.ametekscp.com

#### Long-term UV test results

Not content with putting its labels through demanding product testing, UK manufacturer of labelling solutions Silver Fox<sup>®</sup> is now subjecting its labels to long-term accelerated ultra-violet (UV) weathering.

The test, being conducted by the independent test laboratory Materials Technology Ltd in accordance with ISO 4892-3 Method A cycle 1 (outdoor simulation), covers Silver Fox's:

- Fox-Flo<sup>®</sup> zero-halogen tie-on cable labels
- Endurance<sup>®</sup> Pipeline ID tape ISO 14726, in various background colours
- Endurance<sup>®</sup> Pipeline ID Tape BS 4800, in various background colours

According to Materials Technology, accelerated UV weathering can have a number of effects on exposed samples – for example, changes in colour. Other effects, such as surface chalking, can also result in apparent colour changes to the samples and in some extreme cases even disintegration.

Silver Fox – UK Website: www.silverfox.co.uk

# Improved version of simulation software

Technology

SIMUFACT Engineering has upgraded version 12 of the simulation software Simufact.forming with improvements for cold metal forming companies.

As one of the features the new AFS technology bundles functions for the simulation of cold metal forming processes, which provides usability benefits to the customer.

Simufact.forming covers a wide range of different forming processes in the metalworking and metal processing industry. The software is primarily aimed at machinery and plant engineering companies, the automotive and the aerospace industry, as well as sector-related suppliers.

Highly relevant for the cold forming, also from an economic perspective, is – besides the forming of the component – the tool analysis, particularly tool life. The characteristic yield stresses and the material hardening require great pressing forces and reveal the forming tools to be used.

The tool resistance, highly relevant for cold forming processes, can often only be attained by a supporting reinforcement. Therefore the simulation has to consider all relevant framework conditions including the tool reinforcement and the material flow.

Essential for a high-precision simulation of cold forming processes is the realistic presentation of the forces involved in the forming process while taking into account the effects of spring back and the elastic-plastic material laws – features that are all provided by Simufact.forming.

With the latest product version, Simufact.forming 12, Simufact introduced the newly developed AFS technology (Application Function Sets). After starting the software, the user can now decide for a specific field of application.

Specific process-depending setups, such as the selection of the appropriate solver, are displayed, while specific functions for other application fields are hidden.

As a result, the functions for cold metal forming are bundled and the software



 Software improvements for cold metal forming companies

limits itself to the process-relevant functions. This greatly improves the usability of the software: streamlined and simplified, the use becomes more intuitive, faster and more effective.

Besides the cold metal forming, Simufact.forming can be applied for hot forming, sheet metal forming, rolling, ring rolling, open die forging, heat treatment and mechanical joining processes.

Simulation software supports finding answers to urgent matters. Often a simulation-based feasibility analysis shows whether or not the component, requested, can be realised.

For those striving to avoid mistakes in series production, process simulation has become an indispensable tool to manufacturing simulate several approaches simultaneously, to differentiate between good and bad approaches and to decide on the most suitable one. Such an experimental try-out approach would be significantly more expensive and uneconomical in real-life testing. Even without an experimental approach, a reduction of the number of trial runs remains worthwhile.

By virtual testing, the results of multistage manufacturing processes can be predicted. Simufact.forming combines the individual stages and calculates multistage processes in a single run; the required transfer and increase of results (2D-3D) as well as the positioning of the die are automatic functions.

Simufact Engineering – Germany Website: www.simufact.de

### 🧕 Unye

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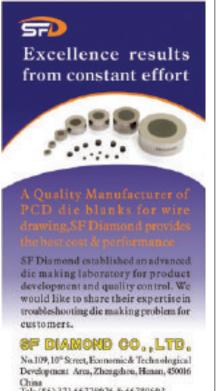
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# Technology

# New cable for railway market



O The Belden RailTuff BE43802

BELDEN has introduced the Belden RailTuff BE43802, a Cat 7 Ethernet data cable designed specifically for the passenger railway market in the EMEA region.

The new RailTuff cable has a transmission performance of 10 Gbps, allowing the integration of multiple on-board applications, effectively making cable installations future proof. In addition, the high temperature rating and low smoke, zero halogen construction along with the flexible 19-strand conductors make it a suitable product for on-board rail vehicle installations.

The Belden BE43802 data cable is designed and manufactured in accordance with relevant international railway standards, EN 45545-2 and EN 50155. The 10 Gbps transmission performance provides a higher bandwidth capability, enabling increased data transfer in expanding on-board networks.

Because of this the Belden BE43802 data cable allows operators to integrate more services and applications for both passengers and operational requirements as they strive to deliver an enhanced travel experience.

This Cat 7 cable is unique in having a maximum operating temperature of 90°C, exceeding the 85°C short-term temperature requirement in Class TX of the EN 50155 railway standard. This means that the cable has almost no limitations when it comes to on-board installation locations throughout the train.

The combination of braid and foil shielding provides high strength and immunity to electrical interference. The halogen-free, oil resistant and flame retardant cable jacket material and insulation delivers superior performance in fire situations, and low smoke emissions.

These characteristics make it a particularly safe option for use in railway systems, allowing installation in critical operational areas, such as the drivers cab or engine room, as well as passenger compartments. The 19-strand copper conductors provide added flexibility as well as flex life, and the resulting small bend radius allows for easy and risk free installation within limited spaces and bulkheads without any effect on signal transmission. A distinctive blue cable jacket provides ease of identification after installation.

This new RailTuff cable is designed for the transmission of data and signals using Ethernet technology for on-board applications, effectively future proofing the on-board Ethernet backbone and enabling compliance with the new series of IEC standards: IEC EN 61375 "Train Communication Network (TCN)" and IEC EN 62580 "On-board Multimedia and Telematic Subsystems for Railways."

With the new RailTuff product extension, Belden has a complete portfolio of data communication cables in the railway transportation environment, covering from 100 Mbps to 1 Gbps, and now also 10 Gbps.

#### Belden Inc – USA Website: www.belden.com

# Technology

# Premium quality dual-mode cables

A HIGH-PERFORMANCE copper data network can be used for voice and data transmission, for the remote supply of power to end devices, and even for digital cable television.

Dätwyler has introduced its universally applicable 'dual-mode' cables and the new RJ45-IEC adapter – a solution which fits the bill, giving the user the ultimate in flexibility and at the same time saving money and resources.

Unlike most commercially available copper data cables, Dätwyler's high-performance category 7A data cables – types CU 7150 4P and CU 7120 4P, for example – allow two different modes of transmission: 'differential mode' for symmetrical signal transmission and 'common mode' for coaxial signal transmission.

These dual-mode cables are therefore universally suitable for transmitting speech, for the transmission of data at a rate of up to 10 gigabits per second (10GBit/s), of BC signals for digital cable TV up to 862 megahertz and, not least, for the remote supply of power to end devices (Power over Ethernet, eg PoE+).

This gives the user the best possible flexibility, saves resources and cuts installation costs.

In addition to the dual-mode cables, shielded modules of at least category 6A (RJ45 and PS-GG45) and Dätwyler's new RJ45-IEC adapter are needed to allow the use of a single standard cabling system for every type of transmission and service including cable television.

One of these adapters takes care of the supply of coaxial services to the data network at the patch panel, the other is plugged into the data socket to allow TV sets to be connected.

The adapter transmits using common mode and provides an IEC connector as the usual physical interface.

### Dätwyler Cabling Solutions – Germany

Website: www.cabling.datwyler.com



O The dual-mode cables from Dätwyler

#### **Family expansion from Solvay**

Solvay Specialty Polymers has expanded its family of Cogegum<sup>®</sup> cross-linkable, halogen-free flame retardant (HFFR) compounds for cable jacketing for the railway, shipboard, industrial, and oil and gas industries. The new polyolefin grade, Cogegum<sup>®</sup> GFR 380, is claimed to deliver greater flexibility and superior flame resistance compared to competitive silane-grafted HFFR materials.

Solvay Specialty Polymers – Italy Website: www.solvay.com





Capacitance Monitor ADM Series Infrared Diameter Gauge



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- IPC Control system
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and monitoring panel for a safe production process.

#### www.witechs.de

# **Technology**

# **Speed and length measurement**

PRECISE knowledge of length and current speed is a key cost and process optimisation factor in the production of sheet goods and cables. Wear and slip push material costs up, but companies today can no longer afford to produce rejects. Quality is in demand from the outset.

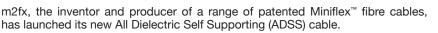
The LSV 1000/2000 velocimeters from Zumbach support manufacturers when monitoring quality in steel, cable, wire and tubing production. They exceed the performance of conventional contact-based measuring methods, at the same time offering maximum robustness with minimised maintenance requirements and costs.

The compact device provides length and velocity data quickly and reliably for both process control and cut-to-length applications. Precise detection of very small movements is possible because the measuring accuracy is not dependent on the speed.

#### The LSV 1000/2000 can:

- Rapidly adjust the desired measuring field. The device is a compact all-in-one system and can be easily integrated into production processes. The visible lasers simplify alignment in the measuring field.
- Measure immediately with mobile or remote monitoring. Recalibration is superfluous. Its low weight of just 4.3kg and the supplied mobility kit allow rapid mobile deployment as well as connection to a laptop. The sensors are immediately ready for use and feature a universal power supply and a LAN connection.
- Optimise production processes irrespective of the surfaces, materials and temperatures. The LSV length and speed sensors can

#### **New ADSS cable**



Designed to speed up the last mile of fibre to the home (FTTH) and fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) deployments, ADSS's ultra lightweight yet durable construction means it can use existing poles and fittings, without expensive and time consuming survey, planning and remedial civil works or the need for costly blowing equipment.

m2fx Ltd – UK

Website: www.m2fx.com



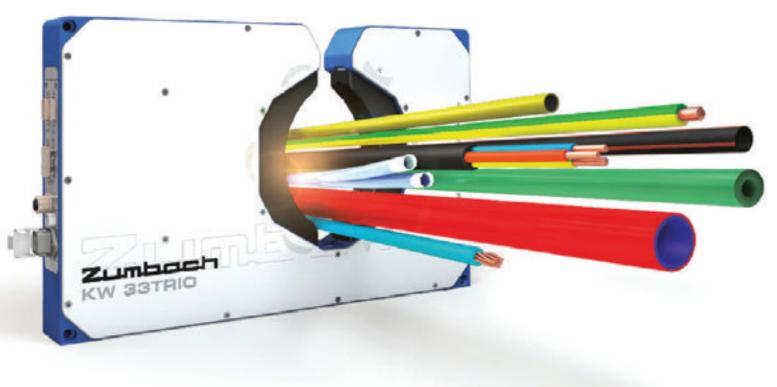
O LSV 2000 velocimeter

be used in a huge array of environments. They are robust enough to supply reliable results even in adverse conditions: the LSV 1000/2000 measure reliably on virtually any surface, eg steel, shiny aluminium, oily sheets, wire and cable. Certified for protection classes IP 66 and IP 67 (in acc. with EN 60529), the robust sensor technology ensures reliable operation even under harsh conditions.

Communicate effectivelv. The rapid, state-of-the-art sianal processor is equipped with a powerful command system for efficient system communication via serial or Ethernet interface. The new system allows Zumbach to support the objective of optimising continuous production processes to obtain significant material cost savings. In the light of its performance and the low operating and maintenance costs, the ROI is extremely attractive.

#### Zumbach AG – Switzerland Website: www.zumbach.com

# 科技新闻



○ Zumbach新型KW 33TRIO检测仪

# 最新KW TRIO疙瘩探 测器可靠消除故障 检测的漫射光

Zumbach推出全新三轴疙瘩探测器系列 KW TRIO,用于挤出生产线、光纤拉丝塔 和复绕工艺等。首先,技术具备脉冲光源 和循环后自动环境光抑制,因此,这些探 测器能够抵抗漫射光,在同类产品中属先 驱。线速度或虹彩光对测量结果没有影响 - 即使是小到微米的表面缺陷都能够可 靠检测到。

在绝缘、护套、上釉、拉丝等工艺中,表 面缺陷,如肿块和颈缩必须立即进行检测。Zumbach开发了将消除漫射光作为故 障检测一个因素的新概念,使得在挤压生 产线和光纤拉丝塔等生产工艺中实现最 佳品质。电子测量原理和复杂光学解决方 案的巧妙组合为故障检测的可靠性与性能 设定了新标准。

肿块与颈缩 KW 33TRIO 探测器,KW 33TRIO 肿块探测器,适用于电线电缆、 光纤、管道和软管。

质量控制的优势:

- 测量结果不受杂散光、速度和振动影响
- 复杂的光学解决方案能够检测高度仅为0.01mm、长度仅为0.2...0.3mm的最小故障
- 全数字化信号处理DSP
- 微处理器用于智能故障分析与分类

- 发光、移动操作和显示装置
- 详细的错误日志
- 接口用于连接主机
- 设计紧凑,安装方便灵活
- 理论上,使用寿命无限

由于故障往往只出现在产品周围的一个有限角度,比如肿块、颈缩和气泡等,因此通常使用2轴检测器(X/Y)。然而,使用KWTRIO型3-轴测试,可靠性能提高三倍,因为盲区显著减少了,也只有KWTRIO型能实现这一点。

#### Zumbach AG – 瑞士 <u>网址: www.zum</u>bach.com

мш. www.zumbaci

科技新闻

# 长期紫外线测试结果

领先的标签解决方案英国制造商Silver Fox®,不满足于将其标签进行苛刻的产品测试,目前标签正经受长期加速的紫外线(UV)风化。

该测试在独立测试实验室Materials Technology Ltd进行,符合ISO 4892-3方法 A cycle 1塑料老化测试(室外模拟),Silver Fox测试产品涵盖:

- Fox-Flo®零卤素绑结式电缆标签
- Endurance®管道标识胶带ISO 14726,具有不同的背景颜色
- Endurance®管道标识胶带BS 4800,具有各种背景颜色

Materials Technology表示,加速紫外线耐候性对曝光产品有很多影响 - 例如,颜色的变化。其它影响,包括显著的颜色变化,在某些极端条件下甚至崩解。

Silver Fox®标签的中期报告指出:"测试已经进行了6,000小时。这被认为是一种持续时间较长的测试,在最长的测试期内测试产品 - 比如,超过了测试中东用于装饰的产品。""对于标签产品,印刷的清晰度是重要特征之一,在这项工作中,印刷的清晰度与发生的其它任何变化都进行了评估。一般情况下,不管发生什么变化,易读性都会保留很好。"

在印刷有信息的样本中,比如Fox-Flo标签,可读性依然清晰分明。

首席执行官Nick Michaelson说:"说实话,我们很高兴取得这样的结果。我们总是测试完成的最终印刷产品 – 而不去测试制造成品的组件。最终,我们做到了这一点,这也是大势所趋,每天世界各地的项目都有在使用。"

"此外,我们正在测试各种各样的彩色标签 - 不只是一种颜色,比如白色,随着时间推移,白色是不太可能褪色的。""虽然所有的测试尚未完成,但这些对我们的标签来说,已经是非常可喜的成绩,"他补充说。"我们并不清楚其它标签制造商是否对其产品做如此密集的测试 - 我们很满意Silver Fox标签取的优异表现。"

Silver Fox - 英国 网址: www.silverfox.co.uk

### Ametek聚乙烯模具

Ametek SCP专门为军事与商业应用制造 水下电缆和连接器,最近将聚乙烯(PE)模 塑能力增加到其工厂特色。

聚乙烯由于其低吸湿性、使用寿命长和高度可靠性,长期以来被认为是海底电缆和接头的优选材料。公司现具有能力定制模聚乙烯海底电缆接头、爆发与连接器端子,无论是工厂还是现场端接都适用。除了新的模具设备,Ametek还开发了海军批准工艺,能够有效地将聚氨酯塑造到聚乙烯护套电缆。

公司生产定制电气与光学连接器、电缆组件和船体穿入,广泛应用于美国潜艇舰队和其它许多世界海军应用。公司还为多种极端环境提供电气连接解决方案,包括海底、油田、核电和航天,解决方案基于广泛的潜艇系统专业知识、电连接器经验和数据传输技术。

Ametek SCP - 美国 网址: www.ametekscp.com



 Ametek SCP 制造的聚乙烯模压 连接器和电缆

# 精确的速度和长度测量

生产片状和电缆产品的过程中,长度和当前速度的精确掌控是成本和工艺优化的重要因素。磨损和滑脱使得成本上升,但是,



LSV 2000 velocimeter

现在的公司已不能生产废品。质量从一开 始就需严格把关。

Zumbach生产的LSV 1000/2000测速仪 为钢铁、电线电缆和管道生产提供理想的 质量控制支持。该产品超越了传统接触式 测量方法的性能,同时,提供最大的耐用 性和最小的维护成本需求。

设备紧凑,为过程控制和切割长度应用提供快速与可靠的长度与速度数据。因为测量精度不依赖于速度,因此精确检测非常小的移动也是可能的。

LSV 1000/2000能够做到:

- 快速调整所需的测量范围。该装置是 一款紧凑型、集所有功能于一身的系统,而且很容易集成到生产过程。可见 激光器简化了测量领域内的校准。
- 测量及时 移动与远程监控。无需 校准。重量最轻的只有4.3kg,提供的 流动性工具包允许快速移动部署和连

接到笔记本电脑。传感器可立即投入使用,并配备有通用电源和局域网连接。

- 最优化生产过程 不论表面、材料和 温度。LSV长度与速度传感器能够用于 各种各样的环境,这种产品非常强大, 即使在恶劣条件下,也能提供可靠的结果:LSV 1000/2000几乎能够在任何 表面进行可靠测量,比如,钢铁、光泽 铝、油性板材、电线和电缆。认证防护 等级IP 66和IP 67(符合EN 60529标 准),强劲的传感技术即使在恶劣条件 下也能确保可靠运作。
- 有效的沟通。快速、先进的信号处理器 配备有强大的指挥系统,通过串口或以 太网接口进行有效的系统通信。新系统 允许我们支持客户不断优化的生产流 程,从而显著节省材料成本。产品性能 佳,运行和维护成本相当低,投资回报 率非常有吸引力。

#### Zumbach AG – 瑞士 网址: www.zumbach.com

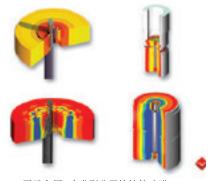
# 改进版本的模拟软件

Simufact Engineering升级了版本12模拟 软件Simufact.forming,力争为冷金属成 型公司提供更好的服务。作为AFS新技术 功能包的一项创新,模拟冷金属冲压成型 过程,将为客户带来易用性的便捷。

Simufact.forming涵盖范围广泛,包括金属加工和金属加工业内不同的成型工艺。 该软件主要面向机械和工厂工程公司、汽车和航空航天事业,以及相关行业供应 商。高度相关的冷成型,从经济的角度来 看 - 除了组件的成型 - 工具分析,尤 其注重工具寿命。特征屈服应力和材料硬 化需要极大的压制力,并揭示所使用的成 型工具。

工具阻力,冷成型工艺具有很强的针对 性,往往只能通过支持强化获得。因此, 模拟必须考虑所有相关的框架条件,包括 工具加固和材料的流动。高精度模拟冷成 型工艺必不可少的条件是真正地参与形成 过程,同时还要考虑到弹回的影响和弹塑 性材料的规律 - 这是Simufact.forming 具备的所有特点。 随着最新产品版本Simufact.forming 12 的出现,Simufact推出了新开发的AFS技术(应用功能集)。启动软件后,用户现在可 以决定应用的特定领域。具体以流程为依 据的设置,比如选择适当的求解器,都有 显示,而其它应用领域的特定功能是隐藏 的。因此,冷金属成型的功能是捆绑的,软 件将自身限制成与工艺相关的功能。此举 显著提高了软件的使用性:精简与简化, 使用变得更直观、更快捷和更有效。除了 冷冲压成型,Simufact.forming还可应用 于热成型、钣金成型、压延、环轧、开模锻 造、热处理和机械连接工艺。

模拟软件支持紧急事务查找答案。通常, 基于模仿的可行性分析显示客户要求的元 件与否,这是可以实现的。对于力求避免 批量生产的错误,流程模拟已经成为不可 或缺的工具,同时模拟几个多制造方法, 来区分好与坏,再决定其中最合适的方 法。通过实验尝试出的方法在实际应用中 会比较昂贵,成本不经济。即使没有实验 性的方法,减少试运行的次数,也是值得 的。



○ 用于金属 冷成型公司的软件改进

通过虚拟测试多级制造工艺是可以预测的。Simufact.forming结合各个阶段,并 计算单次运行的多级工艺;所需结果的传 送和增加(2D-3D)以及模具的定位都是自 动功能。

Simufact Engineering – 德国 网址: www.simufact.de

# 新电缆面向铁路市场

Belden推出Belden RailTuff BE43802, 系7类以太网数据电缆,专门设计用 于EMEA地区的客运铁路市场。新的 RailTuff电缆传输能力达10 Gbps,允许 车载应用进行多种整合;有效地让电缆 安装面向未来。另外,耐高温、低烟、无 卤构造,以及柔性19股导线,使其成为 车载轨道交通设备的理想选择。Belden BE43802数据电缆的设计与制造符合国 际铁路标准EN 45545-2和EN 50155。10 Gbps传输性能提供了更高的带宽能力, 实现了车载网络更高的数据传输。

由于Belden BE43802数据电缆允许运营 商整合更多的乘客与操作要求,因此,努 力增强旅游体验。7类缆的独特之处是最 高工作温度达到90°C,超过了EN 50155 铁路标准Class TX级所要求的85°C短期 温度。这意味着电缆在整个火车上的安装 位置几乎没有任何限制。编织和铝箔屏蔽 提供高强度和抗电磁干扰。无卤、耐油和 阻燃电缆护套料和绝缘在火灾和低烟排 放情况下,具有卓越的性能。

这些特性使之成为铁路系统一个特别安全的选择,允许安装在关键操作区域,如驾驶室或发动机室,以及乘客车厢。19股铜导线提供附加灵活性和弯曲寿命,以及由此产生的小弯曲半径使得有限的空间和舱壁安装方便且无风险,对信号传输不会产生任何影响。独具特色的蓝色电缆护套,安装后方便识别。

"最新一代铁路运输车辆,设计成面向未 来的客运与运营商服务系统,"运输部营 销经理Richard Weatherburn说。"火车 制造者和设计者现在制定数据网络能够 支持更高的带宽和数据传输速率,鉴于 此,Belden BE43802将有助于他们实现 该目标。"

新的RailTuff电缆使用以太网技术传输 车载数据与信号,有效适应未来发展的 车载以太骨干网,并符合一系列新的IEC 标准: IEC EN 61375 "列车通信网络 (TCN)"、IEC EN 62580和 "车载多媒体 与远程信息铁路子系统。"

随着新产品RailTuff不断延伸,Belden在 铁路运输方面拥有完整系列的数据通信电 缆,从100 Mbps到1 Gbps,现已达到10 Gbps。

Belden Inc - 美国 网址: www.belden.com

Belden RailTuff BE43802



#### India India

# Floating solar power

A COLLEGE in Kolkata has developed a system of generating electricity from anchored floating solar panels, exploiting the space available on the surface of ponds, lakes, reservoirs and dams.

An initial project is being tested on a lake outside Kolkata city. The project has been funded by the ministry of new and



Floating panels provide one answer to providing solar power

renewable energy and is expected to generate around 12kW of power by December.

Since the government's commitment to a huge increase in solar power generation capacity, prices of barren land earmarked for solar power projects have increased by 20-30 per cent.

This has, in turn, increased solar power prices. To generate 1MW of solar power on land requires about four acres of space. Panels installed on floating platforms require an area of around 20 per cent less.

It is proposed that the surface of the water body can be rented out by its owner for a minimal fee, because such water surfaces can be put to no other use.

"The ecology of the water body is not likely to be affected much and it will also reduce evaporation, thus helping preserve water levels during extreme summer," said SP Gon Choudhury, chairman of the Renewable Research College.

"Such floating solar stations would generate more energy as research has shown that if the panels stay cooler, they generate more energy, up by 16 per cent. Each station would require around 3,000 square feet of space to generate 20kW of power. There are many water bodies that could be used for this."



### **Smelter shutdown**



 $\bigcirc$ April's shutdown could have helped support global copper prices

India's refined copper producer Sesa Sterlite Ltd shut down its smelter for 22 days of maintenance work, starting 26th April, cutting supplies for the period. Sesa Sterlite produces 30,000 tonnes of refined copper per month and exports half of that to China.

The shutdown could help support the falling global copper prices, and might also lead to metal from China being shipped to India. Several large Chinese copper smelters are said to be planning to boost shipments in the coming months to cope with low domestic prices.

P Ramnath, head of Sesa Sterlite's copper business, declined to comment on the planned shutdown, but said that falling prices were not an issue for the company. Sesa Sterlite's smelter closure last year, in response to questions over emissions, created a shortage for Indian cable makers, including Finolex Cables Ltd and Precision Wires India Ltd, and increased imports. An environmental court later allowed the plant to be restarted.

#### Sesa Sterlite Ltd - India Website: www.sesasterlite.com

### More hydro power

According to India's Central Electricity Authority (CEA) over 14,000MW of hydro power capacity will be commissioned over the next four years. CEA data shows 40 projects in various stages of implementation in the country, all expected to be commissioned by 2018. The projects are under development by central and state governments as well as the private sector.

NHPC's projects include the 330MW Kishanganga, 800MW Parbati II and 520MW Parbati III (Himachal Pradesh) and the 2,000MW Subansiri (Arunachal Pradesh).

Another state-owned firm, NTPCBSE, which is primarily engaged in thermal power generation, has diversified into

hydro power generation and has three projects, as does NEEPCO (North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd).

Over 2,000MW hydro power capacity is being added by the state power generation companies, with Himachal Pradesh contributing 956MW. Six hydro electricity plants in the state are in various stages of construction and will be commissioned by 2018.

Private sector projects will contribute over 4,500MW capacity from hydro power projects in the next four years, with up to 18 plants under construction by private enterprises such as GMR, GVK and Lanco. At present, hydro power contributes over 17 per cent (39,788MW) to the country's total installed capacity of 228,722MW.

Central Electricity Authority – India Website: www.cea.nic.in

### HT wire causes deaths

The Press Trust of India reported that, on 18th April, five people including three children, were killed after the bus in which they were travelling came into contact with a high tension wire. Police said the bus, carrying a marriage party, caught fire.

The incident took place on the Ater-Porsa Road, in Madhya Pradesh.

"We have received reports that five persons - two men and three children - were killed when a bus carrying [a] marriage party caught fire after high tension wire fell on it," said the deputy inspector general (Chambal Range), D K Arya.

The death toll may increase as the bus was carrying nearly 50 people and was gutted in the incident. The marriage party was on its way to Arjaria from Baroa village in the district when the accident happened.

# Elephant stumbles into electric wire

In a further fatal incident relating to electricity cabling in India, a wild adult elephant has died after stumbling into an electric wire in an Indian forest. The animal was electrocuted as it came into contact with the 11,000-volt wire dangling eight feet above the ground.

Sources said the wire was hanging from a bent pole in a forest range in Assam, north eastern India. The local authorities are understood to have taken the elephant's carcass for post-mortem examinations to be carried out.

Locals are understood to have made repeated pleas about the bent pole and this is the fourth incident of its kind in recent months.

Three elephants have died in the same area and a young boy has been electrocuted after coming into contact with loosely hanging wire.

#### **Telecom** news

#### Huawei: Reports of US spying mean 'tiresome' extra work for company attachés but will not impact business

According to acting CEO Eric Xu of Huawei, revelations that the US National Security Agency (NSA) spied on the Chinese telecom equipment maker, hacking into its servers and network gear, will not have a negative impact on business.

However, as noted by editor Phil Goldstein of *FierceWireless* (23<sup>rd</sup> April), Mr Xu acknowledged that the reports have obliged Huawei executives and workers to engage in time-consuming damage control. They have, he said, "had an impact on workloads, in communicating with and persuading current industry stakeholders [that products are secure], and that's more tiresome."

In March, the *New York Times* and the German daily *Der Spiegel* reported that the NSA had been spying on Huawei via "back doors" into its servers. Mr Xu offered his views in the course of an analysts' conference at company headquarters in Shenzhen, China.

The surveillance activities emerged from thousands of classified NSA documents released to media outlets by the renegade low-level systems administrator Edward Snowden, now on renewable asylum status in Russia through August. Beginning in 2007, and making major inroads in 2010, the NSA accessed information about Huawei's technology and monitored communications of the company's top executives.

The irony, of course, wrote Mr Goldstein, "is that US officials have long suspected that Huawei has ties to the Chinese government or military, and the company's products could be used as vehicle for espionage against the US." Huawei has denied those claims.

Since the first Snowden data dump, in May 2013, some US-based multinational companies, including network gear makers, have seen their businesses suffer when the Chinese government pressured domestic firms to avoid purchasing American products.

➢ Huawei said its performance was strong across all business areas in 2013, with revenue of \$38 billion up 8.5 per cent year-over-year. Sales at Huawei's carrier network unit went up four per cent, to \$26.7 billion, while revenue from the enterprise division rose 32 per cent, to \$2.4 billion. Huawei's consumer business group, which includes smartphones, saw its sales jump 18 per cent to \$9.17 billion. Smartphone shipments totalled 52 million, up more than 60 per cent from 32 million in 2012. The privately held company has set a target for 2014 of 80 million smartphone shipments.

#### One in four residential fixed broadband connections in the UK is already 'superfast'

Although ADSL remains the main broadband delivery technology in the United Kingdom, accounting for 69 per cent of residential broadband connections, Guy Daniels of *TelecomTV* reported that FTTC continues its advance in availability and service speed. Additionally, the York native was pleased to note, York is soon to become the UK's first gigabit city.

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According to research from the telecoms and media regulator Ofcom, cited by Mr Daniels, the average actual fixed-line residential broadband speed in the UK is 17.8Mbit/s, up from 12Mbit/s over a year's time.

Some 735 million separate test results – derived from measurements taken of actual broadband connection speeds in 2,391 homes last November – informed the findings.

Ofcom now classifies one in four UK residential fixed broadband connections as "superfast" – ie, offering headline speeds of 30Mbit/s or more.

The average achieved superfast connection speed is 47.0Mbit/s. ("UK Broadband Speeds Continue to Climb," 17<sup>th</sup> April). The average download speed of FTTx connections was 42.9Mbit/s, in contrast to the average ADSL speed of just 6.7Mbit/s. With Virgin Media having completed its "double speeds" upgrade programme, the average download speed of residential cable broadband connections increased by 5Mbit/s in six months to 40.2Mbit/s.

Rural areas are laggard. Average speeds in rural areas increased from 9.9Mbit/s to 11.3Mbit/s over the period studied, as compared with an average urban download speed of 31.9Mbit/s. But *TelecomTV* noted that the UK government has made the improvement of speeds in rural areas a priority. More broadly, plans call for 90 per cent superfast broadband availability across the UK by early 2016. And London recently pledged an extra \$420 million to extend that coverage to 95 per cent of households by 2017.

#### As private network operators strive to meet their outsize bandwidth needs, new global network builders are emerging

Data published by *TeleGeography*'s Global Bandwidth Research Service indicate that demand for international bandwidth grew 39 per cent to 138 Tbps in 2013, a 4.5-fold increase from the 30 Tbps of bandwidth used globally in 2009.

According to a recent report from Washington-based the telecom market research and consulting firm, Internet backbones remain the primary users of international bandwidth, accounting for 75 per cent of demand in 2013. However. the drivers of international bandwidth demand are changing. ("New Global Network Builders Emerge," 23rd April). As private network operators including such large content providers as Google, Microsoft and Facebook - expand their internal networks, their bandwidth requirements increasingly exceed those of the largest carriers.

*TeleGeography* found that private network bandwidth grew at a compounded rate of 55 per cent



annually between 2009 and 2013, while international Internet bandwidth grew 44 per cent.

Private networks accounted for 25 per cent of utilised international bandwidth in 2013, up from 20 per cent in 2009. Given their massive capacity requirements, some of the largest content providers – striving to lower their costs – have moved towards ownership of infrastructure.

Global network expansion has undergone a long-term shift in focus, from connecting users to users, to linking users to data centres; and – increasingly – to linking data centres to one another. Data replication and mirroring among data centres are key drivers in the rapid growth of private network capacity.

*TeleGeography* sees private network operators as poised to play a leading role in future global network development, perhaps as anchor investors and consortium members in submarine cable systems.

#### Elsewhere in telecom . . .

As an amendment to a 1999 agreement that mandated a 35-hour work week in France, French trade unions have negotiated a cut-off of after-hours phone email and messages to several hundred thousand employees from consulting, computing, and polling firms.

The accord, signed in April and awaiting approval by the Labour Ministry, would require the employers to verify that the 11 hours of daily "rest time" to which workers are legally entitled are spent uninterrupted.

As noted by the London-based *Guardian* (10<sup>th</sup> April), given the reach of the global economy the French offices of such companies as Google and Facebook will be affected. While French labour law is known to be highly solicitous of workers' rights, similar limits have been imposed in Germany.

In 2011, Volkswagen started shutting down its BlackBerry servers at the end of the work day, preventing employees from sending or receiving email. And last year the German Labour Ministry ordered its supervisors not to contact employees outside of office hours.

Comcast is the largest cable supplier in the US and Time Warner Cable is in second place. If their planned merger is to gain approval, the two leaders must first calm some antitrust regulatory concerns over their combination.

In mid-April they were reported to be mulling the divestiture of some \$20 billion in assets, potentially involving three million subscribers.

Two options were believed to be under consideration: selling off those subscriptions to another cable player (with Charter Communications the name most frequently mentioned); or directing them into a spun-off business that falls outside the scope of the prospective merger.

Having voiced its opposition to the proposed Comcast-Time Warner merger, Netflix on 22nd April said that it plans to build on its successful integrations with European cable operators by launching its first US cable tie-ins. In an earnings letter announcing to shareholders first-quarter results, the provider of on-demand Internet streaming media said it remained "very happy" with customer embrace of its MVPD (multichannel video programming distributor) set-top box integrations in Europe.

Colin Mann of *Advanced-Television.com* noted that two of the company's European deployments – Virgin Media in Britain and Com Hem in Sweden – access Netflix via TiVo STBs. A third, the Waoo! solution in Denmark, has been developed in collaboration with AirTies.

- For FTTH (fibre to the home) users in Sweden who are scouting a new residence, the quality of broadband in various locations is the criterion second only to house prices in influencing their selection. (FTTH Council Europe/ Diffraction Analysis joint study).
- IT spending worldwide will rise 3.2 per cent to \$3.8 trillion this year, driven by rebounding device

sales and strong growth in the enterprise software category, according to Gartner.

The American technology research firm expects enterprise software revenue to jump 6.9 per cent, to \$320 billion, on increased interest in social software and in database and data management technologies.

Gartner vice president John Lovelock said in a 2<sup>nd</sup> April interview with *IDG News Service* that 2014 is going to be very different from 2013, when many organisations "hunkered down" and focused on planning software projects, not implementing them.

This year, according to Mr Lovelock, more companies will begin executing those project plans. Accordingly, he said, the IT services segment is set to jump 4.6 per cent to \$964 billion in 2014.

Meanwhile, the Gartner official said, sales of devices are set to rise 4.4 per cent to \$689 billion. Demand for the highest-priced phones is seen as slowing down as buyers in the US and Europe make choices in the "midtier premium" segment, while users in emerging markets go for lower-end Android phones.

Hundreds of students and activists marched in Mexico City on 22<sup>nd</sup> April to protest a telecommunications law being debated by the Senate that they said would allow authorities to arbitrarily censor Internet content.

The Mexican government claimed to be seeking only to combat illegal Internet activity. But a controversial article in the proposed legislation would permit it to request Internet providers to "block access to certain content, applications, or services" – not excluding the suspension of online access or cellphone service if there is a perceived threat to public safety.

One demonstrator told the *Associated Press*: "If they can block Internet and cellphone signals whenever the government wants that will leave us very vulnerable and go against our own security."

# 电信新闻

#### 华为: 美国间谍报告对于公司专员来说意味着 "令人疲惫" 的额外工作但不会影响业务

根据华为代理首席执行官徐直军的观点,美国国家安全局(NSA)对该电信设备制造商的监控事件的出现,包括侵入其服务器和网络设备将不会对公司业务产生消极影响。然而,据《激情无线》(FierceWireless)(4月23日)编辑菲尔•戈德斯坦(Phil Goldstein)评论,徐先生称该报告已经迫使华为高管和员工参与到旷日持久的破坏性控制之中。他说,他们"已经对工作量产生的影响,对目前行业利益相关者[其产品是保密的]的沟通与说服过程产生影响,而这更令人疲惫。"

3月, 《纽约时报》和德国报纸《明镜》(Der Spiegel)报道了美国国家安全局通 过侵入华为服务器的"后门"对该公司进行监听的消息。徐先生在公司中国深圳 总部的某个分析师会议上提出了他的观点。该监控行动是从数千份经过分级的 美国国家安全局的档案中呈现出来的,由变节的低级系统管理员爱德华•斯诺登 (Edward Snowden)将这些文件透露给媒体机构。斯诺登自8月后更新了他在 俄罗斯的庇护身份。美国国家安全局接入华为的技术信息并对公司最高管理人员 通讯进行监控的行动始于2007年,在2010年取得重大进展。当然,讽刺的是, 戈德斯坦先生写道,"是美国官方长期以来一直怀疑华为与中国政府或军方关系 紧密,该公司的产品可被用于针对美国的间谍活动工具。"华为已经否认这些指 控。自从2013年5月斯诺登第一次数据转存以来,部分位于美国,包括网络设备 制造商在内的跨国公司,已经感觉它们的业务因中国政府向其国内机构施压不得 购买美国产品而受到伤害。

▶ 华为称2013年公司所有业务的业绩都很强劲,年营业额达到380亿美元,同比增长8.5%。华为的运营商网络设备的销售额上升4%,达到267亿美元,同时机构业务部的营业额上升32%,达到24亿美元。华为包括智能手机在内的消费事业部,销售额跃升18%,达到91.7亿美元。智能手机出货量共计5,200万,比2012年的3,200万上升超过60%。该私人控股公司已经为2014年设定了出产8,000万台智能手机的目标。

#### 英国四分之一的住宅固定宽带 连接已达到 "超高速"

虽然ADSL仍旧是英国主要的宽带交互 技术,在住宅宽带连接中占69%,但 据电讯电视(TelecomTV)的盖•(Guy Daniels) 报道称光纤到户(FTTC) 继续 保持其在可得性与服务速度上的领先。 此外这个约克本地人很高兴的写道。 约克很快就将成为英国第一个千兆比 特(gigabit)的城市。丹尼斯先生引用 电信及媒体管理机构英国通讯管理局 (Ofcom)的调查称,英国居民固定宽 带实际平均速度为17.8兆比特/秒,相比 去年的12兆比特/秒有所上升。某7.35 亿单独测试结果——来源于去年11月 从2,391个家庭测得的实际宽带连接速 -形成以上发现。英国通讯管理局 度-将1/4的英国居民固定宽带连接分类为" 超高速"-一例如提供大力宣传的30兆 比特/秒及以上的速度。超高速连接所达 到的平均速度为47.0兆比特/秒。("英 国宽带速度持续攀升,"4月17日)

光纤到户的平均下载速度为42.9兆比 特/秒,相对而言ADSL的平均速度仅为 6.7兆比特/秒。维珍传媒(Virgin Media) 业己完成其"双倍速"升级计划,居民 电缆宽带连接平均下载速度在6个月内 从5兆比特/秒上升到40.2兆比特/秒。 农村地区相对滞后。农村区域在研究 期间的平均速度从9.9兆比特/秒上升至 11.3兆比特/秒,相对而言城市平均下

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载速度为31.9兆比特/秒。但是电讯电视(TelecomTV)称政府优先考虑改善农村地区网速。更广泛的说,计划要求到2016年年初全英国90%的家庭可获得超高速宽带。伦敦最近承诺追加4.2亿美元以在2017年前将覆盖范围扩大至95%的家庭。

#### 在民营网络运营商努力满足他 们极大的带宽需求时,将诞生 新的全球网络制造商

电信地理(TeleGeography)全球带宽研究服务机构颁布的数据显示全球带宽需求2013年增长了39%达到了138泰比特每秒(Tbps),相比2009年30Tbps的全球使用宽带增加了4.5倍。该位于华盛顿电信市场研究和咨询机构的最近的一份报告指出,互联网骨干网仍旧是互联网带宽的第一用户,占据了2013年需求的75%。但是影响国际宽带需求的驱动因素正在改变("新的全球网络制造商诞生,"4月23日)

由于民营网络运营商一一包括诸如谷歌、微软和脸书(Facebook)在内的大 内容供应商——扩大其内部网络,上述 公司对带宽的需求不断地超过那些最大 运营商。电信地理发现2009年至2013 年期间,民营网络带宽每年以综合速度 55%增长,与此同时,国际互联网带宽增 长44%。民营网络占据2013年国际宽带 使用的25%,相比2009年的20%有所上 升。鉴于其巨大的容量要求,部分最大 的内容供应商一一尽力降低其成本一一 己向基建设施所有权方向迈进。全球网 络扩张已经经历了长期的焦点转换,从 用户与用户连接,到用户与数据中心链 接;以及一一不断增长的一一不同数据 中心之间的链接。数据中心中的数据复 制和镜像是快速增长的民营网络容量的 主要驱动因素。电信地理认为民营网络 运营商正准备在未来全球网络发展中发 挥主要作用,可能在海底电缆系统中担 当主要投资者和联合财团成员的角色。

#### 电信行业其他新闻……

- ▶ 由于1999年法国执行35小时工作制 协议的修订,法国工会已经协商禁止 下班后发电子邮件和电话留言给数十 万来自于咨询公司、计算机公司和调 查公司的雇员。该协议于4月签署并 等待法国劳工部批准,将要求雇主确 认每天11小时的"休息时间",这段 期间内雇员依据法律有权不受打扰。 据位于伦敦的《卫报》(Guardian)(4 月10日)的评论称,这将使得诸如谷 歌和脸书之类全球经济体在法国的办 事处受到影响。当法国劳工法为高度 关心工人的权利而闻名的同时,德国 也实施了相应的限制。2011年,大众 公司开始在每周工作日结束时关闭其 黑莓服务器,防止雇员发送或接受电 子邮件。去年,德国劳工部命令其主 管不得在工作时间以外联系雇员。
- ▶ 康卡斯特(Comcast)是美国最大的 有线供应商,而时代华纳有线(Time Warner Cable)处在第二位。如果他 们所计划的合并被批准,这两巨头必 须先安抚一些对他们合并忧心忡忡的 反垄断监管。4月中旬他们被报导称 被考虑剥离部分价值200亿美元的资 产,可能涉及300万订购用户。据信 有两个选项正在考虑之中:一是将这 些用户转售给其他有线营运商(查特 传播(Charter Communications)是被 最频繁提及的);二是指导他们进入 预期合并范围以外的子公司业务。
- ▶ 网飞公司(Netflix)对被提议的"康卡 斯特与时代华纳"合并表示反对,网 飞公司于4月22日称其计划通过首次 美国有线联合促销建立与欧洲有线运 营商成功融合。在一份告知股东第一 季度结果的利润的信中,这家应需网 络流媒体供应商称其对客户在欧洲 拥有综合MVPD(多频道视频内容传 输者)机顶盒感到"非常高兴"。领 先电视网站(Advanced-Television. com) 的科林 · 曼 (Colin Mann) 称网 飞公司在欧洲的两个部署——英国 维珍传媒(Virgin Media)和瑞典Com Hem公司——通过数字录影机顶盒 (TiVo STBs) 接入网飞公司。第三个 部署,丹麦的Waoo!解决方案公司, 已经与空中连接(AirTies)合作开发。

#### Automotive

#### A new 'grey market' for luxury cars: purchase in the US for quick resale overseas at up to three times the sticker price

A ruling issued by a judge in Ohio ordered the United States government to return money and cars it seized in September from a Los Angeles-based automotive export company involved in reselling newly purchased Porsches, Range Rovers and other luxury cars to wealthy buyers overseas. By some estimates, as many as 35,000 new luxury cars a year leave this ambiguous sphere, bound for China, Russia and other markets. As reported by Matthew Goldstein in the *New York Times*, the 3<sup>rd</sup> April ruling dealt the authorities a setback in their year-long crackdown on a growing niche business: buying top-shelf cars in the US for quick resale elsewhere at mark-ups to as much as triple the initial purchase price. ("US Ordered to Return Assets Held in Crackdown of Luxury Cars Exported to China").

The federal prosecutors had asserted that the company, Automotive Consultants of Hollywood, violated federal wire fraud laws by using foreign money to defraud American car dealers into selling them vehicles intended for domestic use. They also claimed that approximately \$1.16 million held by the company in a bank account could be traced to international customers taking part in the scheme, which involved the use of "straw man" buyers for the cars. But Judge Sandra S Beckwith of the Federal District Court for the Southern District of Ohio held that prosecutors had failed to produce sufficient evidence of wrongdoing by the car export company to justify the asset freeze.

"There is nothing inherently illegal about using wire transfers to move money, nor about wires from foreign sources," Judge Beckwith wrote in her 26-page ruling. "The court must conclude that the United States has not established probable cause to believe the funds seized are the 'proceeds' of wire or mail fraud." Judge Beckwith's ruling applies only to the lawsuit filed by the Justice Department against Automotive Consultants. But Mr Goldstein noted that it has the potential to complicate similar seizure actions that federal authorities are pursuing in states including Florida, New York, South Carolina and Texas.

- Federal authorities briefed on the crackdown told the *Times* that it was not being coordinated by the Justice Department. The effort was, they said, more a matter of individual jurisdictions going after an apparently questionable business activity. Mr Goldstein wrote: "Advocates for the automotive export companies have claimed that the federal government is responding to complaints from auto manufacturers looking to defend their turf."
- On 17<sup>th</sup> April, authorities in New York appeared to be getting closer to filing charges in connection with accusations of kickbacks paid to sales personnel at high-end car dealerships in the New York-New Jersey area. This investigation centres on accusations that some sales executives at luxury auto dealerships took bribes or other payments from exporting businesses.

As noted by Mr Goldstein, if the inquiry by the New York State attorney general's office should result in criminal charges, it would represent a significant escalation of the crackdown effort: it would also "potentially put a further chill in the profit potential of this type of business."

#### **The GM recall**

A pivotal question for General Motors: with a stronger-spring ignition switch available, why was a weaker device chosen?

"The conclusion we draw from examining the two different designs of the ignition switches under consideration in 2001 is that General Motors picked a smaller and cheaper ignition switch that cost consumers their lives and saved General Motors money."

The excerpt is from a letter to GM CEO Mary Barra from Clarence Ditlow, executive director of the Center for Auto Safety, and from Joan Claybrook, president emeritus of the consumer rights group Public Citizen. Both groups are based in Washington DC. The safety advocates claimed that GM evidently had safer alternatives to a problematic ignition switch during the development period of its 2003 Saturn Ion.

As reported by *Detroit Free Press* business writer Alisa Priddle on 18<sup>th</sup> April, the writers wanted to know why General Motors chose the defective ignition switch design for its small cars in 2001 when another option was available. The alternative, they say, might have prevented the 31 crashes and 13 deaths linked to the faulty device. ("Safety Advocates to Barra: Why Did GM Choose Weak Ignition Switch Design?," 18<sup>th</sup> April).

The switch design chosen by GM for its small cars had a short spring and plunger that allowed ignition keys to jump unbidden from "Run" to "Accessory" – a position which cuts off power to engine, airbags, power steering and brakes. The rejected design, with a longer spring and plunger, postulated greater torque that would have made it much harder to move the ignition key.

It was not until this year that GM recalled 2.6 million of its older-model small cars to address reported problems with the switch.

Ms Barra, a 33-year GM attaché who rose through a series of manufacturing, engineering and senior staff positions at the company, was installed as its CEO in January. In April, she was called upon by the safety advocates "to publicly and openly produce all documents relevant to the decision-making on the selection of the lethal short detent [viz. catch or lever that locks the movement of one part of a mechanism] spring and plunger switch in 2001," including documents showing the relative costs of the switches.

Mr Ditlow and Ms Claybrook made plain that they are asking for the complete results of GM's internal investigation – not just a summary of findings – to be made public. Their letter starkly challenges Ms Barra: "Who inside GM made these decisions and at what level?"

# From the Americas

As summed up by the *Detroit Free Press* on 12<sup>th</sup> April, General Motors was facing a growing list of lawsuits and investigations, including one by the US Justice Department. The inquiry behind the extensive recall of GM cars had been expanded to the ignition lock cylinder. The automaker said that the recall, including the cost of new parts and loaner vehicles for drivers, would mean a \$1.3-billion hit against its first-quarter earnings.

On 15<sup>th</sup> April, four US senators inquired into the role of Delphi Automotive (Troy, Michigan) in the General Motors recall tied to the ignition switch produced by Delphi. Specifically, the senators asked the company, a unit of Delphi Automotive PLC (Gillingham, England), whether it was Delphi or GM that started discussions about fixing the part in 2005-6; why GM rejected an earlier design change proposed in 2005; and whether "at any point" Delphi raised "any concern that a failure to enact this change could be fatal for consumers."

#### Elsewhere in automotive . . .

- In other news of General Motors, the US automaker will no longer offer its Opel line of cars in China, having registered only 4,365 sales there in 2013. Noting the comparison between the Opel results and the 810,000 sales for the company's Buick brand, which flourishes in China, GM said it had decided against what would have been an expensive campaign to build awareness of Opel in the Chinese market. "This is a long overdue decision," Opel CEO Karl-Thomas Neumann said in a 28<sup>th</sup> March statement which also declared the company's intention of selling even more Buicks in China. Overall, some 3.16 million GM vehicles were sold there last year.
- Toyota Motor on 9<sup>th</sup> April announced that it was recalling about 6.4 million vehicles worldwide, including almost 1.8 million in the United States, for problems with air bags that may not deploy or seats that could move in a crash. The Japanese carmaker said an electrical connection with a spiral cable assembly "could become damaged when the steering wheel is turned" – illuminating a warning light that could disable the driver's air bag. A separate problem centres on the rails for the driver's and some front-passenger seats. The springs that help lock the seat into position after it is moved forward or back may break, preventing the seat from being locked.

Toyota said it was not aware of any injuries or deaths related to the defects. This is, however, not the first time that the company has reported trouble with air bag wiring. In 2012 it recalled almost half a million Tacoma pickups for that problem.

Honda's third-generation Fit subcompact, redesigned for the 2015 model year, went on sale in the US in April at a sticker price of \$17,000. The Japanese automaker said it expects to sell 70,000 Fits a year in the American market, up from 53,500 in 2013.

In March, Honda started building the Fit — for the first time in North America — at a new plant in Celaya, Mexico. The plant will also make a new "urban utility vehicle" and Honda intends to adjust the mix of the two to balance supply and demand.

Celaya is Honda's eighth assembly plant in North America, bringing its regional capacity to 1.92 million vehicles a year.

Ford Motor Co said on 28<sup>th</sup> March that it was putting \$500 million into an upgrade of its Lima (Ohio) engine plant to manufacture the 2.7-litre "EcoBoost" engine for the 2015 Ford F-150 – the best-selling truck in the North American market. The investment will cover a new flexible engine assembly system and renovation of 700,000 square feet of floor space for machining and assembly work.

The new engine reportedly utilises technology that turns it off automatically when the vehicle is at a stop and restarts it when the brake is released. It will go into 25 per cent of the F-150s to be produced at Lima, which stands to gain 300 new jobs. The new and lighter-weight (by nearly 700 pounds) F-150 attracted attention at the North American International Auto Show in January when Ford announced that it would be using a high-strength, military-grade aluminium alloy for the truck body.

#### **Metals in brief**

Ben van der Meer, who covers regional planning and construction for the Sacramento Business Journal, reported that contractors and builders in California can probably look forward to brisker business but also to higher steel costs. ("Rising Steel Prices to Hit Construction," 3<sup>rd</sup> April). Research by Ibisworld Inc indicates that, fuelled by increasing demand in the US, the price of steel worldwide will rise by 2.2 per cent annually over the next three years. Sean Windle, a business analyst with the Los Angeles-based market research firm, cited five items he considers especially sensitive to rising steel prices: nails, security wire fencing, elevators, forklifts, and building demolition machinery and equipment.

"In general, [the expected rise] will cause the price of construction to increase," he told the *Business Journal*. "But pent-up demand for new construction will overcome a lot of that." The steel-intensive construction areas he sees as most likely to be affected are infrastructure (a matter of urgent concern in California) and residential development handy to public transit (a growing trend in urban planning there).

When Alcoa completes the curtailment of 147,000 ۲ metric tons of aluminium smelting capacity at its São Luís (Alumar) and Poços de Caldas smelters in Brazil, the company will have taken 21 per cent (approximately 800,000 metric tons) of its global smelting capacity offline. Alcoa had already, last year, curtailed 34,000mt at Pocos and 97,000mt at São Luís. The new retrenchment will include the remaining 62,000mt of capacity at the Poços smelter, resulting in a full stop for its three potlines. Another 85,000mt are to be curtailed at São Luís. Citing challenging global market conditions in primary aluminium and higher costs that have made the smelters uncompetitive, the New York-based market leader said that the Poços refinery will reduce output in line with the smelter cutback.

From the Americas

The mine, aluminium powder plant, and casthouse at Poços will continue normal operations, as will the refinery at São Luís. Other Alcoa operations in Brazil are not affected. Alcoa owns 100 per cent of the Poços smelter. The São Luís smelter is owned 60 per cent by Alcoa Alumínio and 40 per cent by the Anglo-Australian mining and petroleum company BHP Billiton.

#### Cuba

#### Needing to attract foreign capital, the Cuban government relaxes some of its rules on investment, ownership and taxation

New regulations governing foreign business activity in Cuba were scheduled to be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> July. The rules, several of them liberalised from the previous foreign investment law, were unanimously approved in March by the Cuban National Assembly. As noted by *USA Today* (29<sup>th</sup> March), only time will tell whether the new law will energise the struggling Cuban economy; whether, in a communist-run nation, it represents evolution from a centrally planned economy to a more capitalist one; and whether the success of foreign companies there will prompt American businesses to push for an end to el bloqueo: the US embargo enacted against Cuba in 1960.

In the meantime, these are some highlights of the new law:

- While negotiations with the Cuban authorities entailed many steps before a proposal reached the Council of State or Council of Ministers – at which point the two bodies had 60 days to approve or reject – some minor ventures may now be approved within 45 days. Larger ventures still must go through the longer process.
- Previously, profits were taxed at 30 per cent and use of labour at 25 per cent. The new law cuts the tax on profit to 15 per cent and eliminates the labour tax.
- Profits from raw material ventures were taxed at rates up to 45 per cent. The new limit is 22.5 per cent.
- Any tax breaks for investing in Cuba had to be negotiated. The new law declares investors exempt from profit tax for eight years from the date an agreement is signed. Additionally, foreign investors are no longer subject to Cuban income tax.
- Previously, only state-run Cuban companies were authorised to enter joint ventures with foreign investors. Now, private cooperatives may form such alliances. A series of economic reforms has been instituted in Cuba since Raúl Castro took over the presidency from his ailing brother Fidel six years ago. Cubans are now permitted to buy and sell houses and cars, and the government has encouraged more private ownership and operation of small businesses. But according to Phil Peters, president of the Virginia-based Cuba Research Center, despite these positive changes Cubans so far have not seen the growth, job creation, and foreign exchange earnings that they need.

"They've made progress," Mr Peters told USA Today. "But the economy needs a bigger lift and foreign capital can do that."

#### **Counterfeits**

#### China Customs assists a US effort to stem the influx of knockoff electronics: No 3 among confiscated fake products

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimates that counterfeit products may cost the global economy up to \$250 billion a year. Millions of shipments of such products reach the United States. While US agencies do their best to crack down on counterfeit goods, they manage to catch only a fraction of the fake products at the border.

Still, according to the financial news and opinion service 24/7 Wall St, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) appraises that seized fraction at staggering amounts. The value of counterfeit goods seized rose by 38.1 per cent to \$1.7 billion last year, up from \$1.2 billion in 2012. And some of the highest-value imitations found in those millions of shipments were of consumer electronics and parts.

On the basis of information provided by CBP, 24/7 Wall St reported that the dollar value of counterfeit consumer electronics products seized at the US border rose by 40 per cent to \$145.9 million in 2013, from \$104.4 million in 2012.

Such items made up eight per cent of the total value of all seizures in 2013, making consumer electronics the third most frequently confiscated fake product for the year, after luxury apparel and accessories. ("Most Counterfeited Products in the US," 27<sup>th</sup> March).

The number of seizures of counterfeit electronic products grew in conjunction with their value. There were 5,656 such seizures in 2013, representing a 44 per cent increase from 3,928 seizures in 2012. One particularly big haul in 2013 grew out of a joint operation by CBP and China Customs: the customs agency of the People's Republic of China. The two-month long sting resulted in seizures of 1,735 electronics shipments and removal of more than 243,000 counterfeit consumer electronic products from the market.

The 24/7 Wall St reporters – Thomas C Frohlich, Alexander E M Hess and Vince Calio – noted that the bulk of imitations picked up by US law enforcement agencies originated in mainland China. They theorise that China's role as manufacturer of a broad range of authentic products, as well as its intellectual property rights framework, may contribute to the high instance of Chinese-sourced counterfeiting.

More than \$400 million worth of seized goods came from Hong Kong, which CBP classified separately.

According to CBP, the process and detection methods for counterfeiting operations are constantly evolving, enabling officers to better target and intercept shipments of knockoff products.

# From the Americas

The measurable increase in 2013 in the number and value of seizures was attributed in part to new collaborative efforts between the agency and various partners, notably China Customs.

#### Telecom

#### Washington facilitates iCanConnect: a programme to introduce needy blind and deaf persons to the world of telecommunications

In the *Reflector*, the student newspaper of Mississippi State University, undergraduate Claire Wilson reported on the needs-based programme iCanConnect. A three-year study initiative, underwritten by a \$10 million-per-year allocation from the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC), it provides low-income people who are both blind and deaf with state-of-the-art telecommunications devices and training in their use.

The equipment, designed specifically for the deaf-blind, includes amplifiers for telephones, programs for text enlargement, and refreshable Braille displays that connect to Apple products via Bluetooth. These displays employ tiny pins that pop up and down through holes, enabling a sightless user to read. ("Telecommunications Technology Adapts for the Deaf and Blind," 11<sup>th</sup> April).

The level of technology involved means that these devices can cost as much as \$6,000 each to produce. The FCC is very firm that they are intended exclusively for a population that is deaf-blind and needy. A rigorous screening process establishes which devices would most benefit a given applicant. The equipment is allocated accordingly.

Programme partners with the FCC are the Helen Keller National Center (Sands Point, New York); the Perkins School for the Blind (Watertown, Massachusetts), where Ms Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan were educated; and Mississippi state agencies. Ms Wilson of the *Reflector* reported that, at the 18-month halfway point of the programme, an estimated 2,000 people had received devices and training under iCanConnect.

#### Employment

#### As manufacturing jobs go begging in the US industrial heartland, business and academia are urged to join forces

In Northeast Ohio, a region of high unemployment in a state in which about 12 per cent of the workforce is in manufacturing, there are 7,400 open manufacturing jobs, all within a 100-mile radius of the Akron industrial hub. Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank president and CEO Sandra Pianalto supplied the simple but jarring explanation: many workers do not have the skills that area employers need. Declared the Fed official on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, "That has to change."

As reported by the *(Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, Ms Pianalto was addressing a group of about 150 at a one-day regional meeting of the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) – an initiative of President Barack Obama's – at the University of Akron. Attendees included representatives from local businesses, regional economic development organisations, national industry organisations, and even from China. ("Why Are 7,400 Manufacturing Jobs Open in This Region?", 3<sup>rd</sup> April).

Plain Dealer business columnist Teresa Dixon Murray noted that AMP has a steering committee of 19 members from industry, labour and higher education. It is tasked with coming up with recommendations on ways to improve US competitiveness, encourage innovation, and help manufacturing thrive. The emphasis in Akron was on ways that the three domains and government can work together to develop advanced manufacturing jobs in the Midwest and nationwide. According to the Fed's Ms Pianalto, manufacturers choose locations for their plants on the basis of three factors: infrastructure, regulatory issues, and trade and tax policies. She asserted that there is an important fourth factor, as well: firms will locate where they believe they can innovate and tap into human capital. But only recently have businesses, educators and community leaders intensified their focus on the role of education in manufacturing.

In an interview between sessions of the AMP meeting, University of Akron president Luis Proenza told the *Plain Dealer* that, as new technology renders old jobs obsolete, people competing for the new jobs "need to get the new skills." The process, he said, must involve more collaboration between universities and the business community.

The recession saw a drop in American manufacturing employment of 16 per cent, for a loss of two million jobs nationwide in the sector. The US has recovered 17 per cent of manufacturing employment lost; Ohio has recovered 41 per cent.

#### Of related interest . . .

"Undoubtedly there was some catch-up in hiring following the [harsh winter]," said Kathy Bostjancic, director of macroeconomic analysis at the Conference Board, an independent research group, on 4<sup>th</sup> April. "Still, the underlying hiring trend is encouraging, with more good news expected this spring and summer."

The reference was to the addition by the US economy of 192,000 jobs in March. The results fell below a forecast for 206,000 added jobs, and the unemployment rate held steady at 6.7 per cent when it had been expected to fall. But the overall message – with upward revisions to job totals for earlier months – was that the US continues to record solid economic growth.

Especially encouraging, the Labor Department said the proportion of Americans on the payroll rose slightly as the number of people looking for work increased. This suggests that workers are being drawn back into the job hunt as openings appear.

#### Dorothy Fabian – Features Editor

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#### 汽车行业新闻

#### 一个新的豪华轿车 "灰色市场": 在美国购买后 迅速在海外以标价3倍的价格转售

俄亥俄州法官颁布了一项裁定要求美国政府归还于9月扣押的某 洛杉矶汽车出口公司的钱和汽车,该公司曾参与将新购的保时 捷、路虎揽胜(Range Rovers)及其他豪华型轿车转售给海外富 裕买家。据估计,每年多达35,000辆新款豪华轿车通过这种擦边 球方式驶向了中国、俄罗斯和其他市场。

据《纽约时报》的马修•戈德斯坦(Matthew Goldstein)报导, 这项4月3日颁布的裁定表明当局对一项不断增长的盈利业务长 达为期一年制裁措施的失败:该业务为在美国购买最新设计的轿 车,再迅速以原始标价3倍的价格转售。("美国下令归还在制裁 出口中国豪华轿车行动中扣押的财产")

联邦检察官称这家名为"好莱坞汽车顾问"的公司使用国外资金,欺骗美国汽车销售商将用于国内销售的汽车售予该公司,从而违反了《联邦电信欺诈法》。检察官还声称该公司在银行账户中持有的大约116万美元能被追踪到是参与计划的国际客户,该计划还涉及使用伪造身份的买家购买轿车。但是俄亥俄州南部地区联邦地方法院的桑德拉•S•贝克威斯(Sandra S Beckwith)法官,认为检察官未能就该汽车出口公司的行为不端而提供足够冻结其财产证据。

"利用电汇转移钱款本质上并不犯法,来自国外的汇款也不犯法,"贝克威斯法官在26页的裁定中写道。"法院只能得出结论,即美国尚未建立足够的理由让人相信所扣押的资金是电汇或邮件欺诈的'进款'"。

贝克威斯法官的裁定仅适用于司法部门归档的针对"汽车顾问" 公司的诉讼。但是戈德斯坦(Goldstein)评论称该裁定可能使得 联邦政府在包括佛罗里达、纽约、南卡罗来纳和得克萨斯在内的 各州所进行的相类似的扣押行动被复杂化。

- ⑤ 联邦当局就制裁问题向《时报》做了简要陈述,即未由司法部门协调。他们说这种努力更多是一个单独司法管辖权寻找现阶段的可疑商业行为的问题。戈德斯坦先生写道:"对汽车出口公司拥护已经表明了联邦政府对寻求保护自己利益的汽车制造商所作抱怨的回应。"
- ④ 4月17日,政府在纽约似乎越来越倾向于于将入档指控与纽约-新泽西地区高端汽车商销售人员收取的回扣的控诉联系起来。这次调查集中于部分豪华汽车经销商的销售主管的受贿或出口业务的其他款项。如戈德斯坦先生所述,如果纽约州总检查长办公室的调查将引发刑事诉讼,这将意味着制裁力度明显升级:这还意味着"可能对这类业务的潜在盈利能力再泼一盆冷水。"

#### 通用汽车召回

#### 关于通用汽车至关重要的问题: 可采用更高强 度的弹簧点火开关, 为何还要选择较差的设 备**?**

"我们通过对两个不同设计的点火开关进行测试得出结论为基于2001年的考虑,通用汽车选择了一个更小更廉价的点火开关, 节约了通用汽车的成本却导致用户丧命。"这段摘录来源于汽车 安全中心(Center for Auto Safety)执行董事卡拉伦斯•迪特劳 (Clarence Ditlow)和消费者权利组织公共公民(Public Citizen) 的名誉主席琼•克莱布鲁克(Joan Claybrook)致通用汽车首席 执行官玛丽•芭拉(Mary Barra)的信。两个组织均位于华盛顿特区。安全倡导者称通用汽车在开发其2003款土星离子(Saturn lon)时显然有比使用有问题的点火开关更安全的选择。

如4月18日底特律自由新闻报商业作家阿里萨•普里德尔(Alisa Priddle)所报道,作者想知道为什么通用汽车于2001年选择将有缺陷的点火开关设计运用于其小型轿车之上,而当时有其他的选择。他们说,选择另一个设计或许能避免与该有缺陷的设备相关的31次车祸和13人次的死亡事故的再次发生。(安全倡导者质问芭拉:为什么选择较差的点火开关设计?4月18日)

这个由通用汽车为其小型轿车所选择的开关设计有一个短弹簧 和活塞允许点火开关能自动的从"运行"调到"附属"——一个能 切断发动机、安全气囊、动力装箱装置及刹车能源供给的位置。 而被拒绝的设计,有个稍长的弹簧和活塞,共设的扭矩更大使得 移动到点火开关位置变得更难。

直到今年,通用汽车才召回260万辆其老款的小型轿车以确定相关被报道开关问题。

芭拉女士,一个在通用33年的老将,她从公司的的制造、工程、到高级职员逐步升职,于1月被任命为通用汽车首席执行官。在4月安全倡导者要求她"向公众公开所有与2001年选择致命短距制动[即抓住还是控制将该机械零部件的运动锁定]相关的弹簧和活塞开关的决策制定文件"包括能体现该开关相关成本的文件。

迪特劳先生和卡莱布鲁克女士明确说明他们要求通用汽车将其内部调查的完整结果——不仅是发现的概要——公诸于众。他们在信中明白无误的质问芭拉女士:"通用汽车中是谁作出了这些决定,在哪个等级?"

- 《底特律自由新闻报》于4月12日总结,通用汽车正面对一张 不断增加的诉讼和调查清单,其中甚至还包括美国司法部的 一项调查。通用汽车轿车大规模召回之后的调查已经延伸到 了点火锁芯。该汽车制造商称此次召回,包括新零件和为司机 租用车辆的成本将意味着抵消其在首个季度13亿美元的收入。
- ④ 4月15日,四名美国参议员调查在通用汽车召回中与点火开关相关的德尔福(Delphi)汽车公司(密西根州特洛伊市),点火开关由该公司生产。参议员很直截了当的质询德尔福汽车(英格兰、吉林厄姆),是德尔福还是通用汽车于2005——2006年开始决定修改零件;为什么通用汽车在2005年否决了早先的设计变更提议;以及是否"在任何意义上"德尔福引起了"任何关注即这种改变一旦失误将攸关用户的生命。"

#### 汽车行业其他新闻.....

③ 通用汽车的其他新闻,该美国汽车制造商将不再在中国提供 其欧宝汽车的生产线。2013年在中国,已登记的销售量仅为 4,365辆。注意到欧宝的销售结果和该公司在中国相当流行的 别克品牌汽车810,000辆的销售结果相比,通用汽车称其已 经决定不在花费大量的广告费用来吸引中国市场的眼球。

欧宝的总裁卡尔-托马斯诺依曼(Karl-Thomas Neumann)在 3月28日的声明中称"这是个姗姗来迟的决定,",同时还宣 布公司意图在中国销售更多的别克汽车。去年共计大约有316 万辆通用汽车公司旗下的汽车被出售。

(\$) 丰田汽车4月9日宣布其将在全球范围内召回640万汽车,其中大约180万辆在美国,召回的问题在撞车中气囊无法弹出或座位可能会移动。

这家日本汽车制造商称一个带有螺旋形线路的线路连接的装 配"在方向盘转动过程中可能会损坏"——使得一个指示灯 闪亮而使驾驶员的气囊失去功能。另一个问题集中于驾驶员 和前排乘客作为的滑轨上。用来帮助作为锁定位置的弹簧在前后移动之后容易损坏,使得座位无法被固定。丰田汽车称尚未发现有任何受伤或死亡的与该缺陷相关。但是,这已经不是第一次该公司报道气囊线路有问题了。在2012年,丰田汽车因这个问题召回大约半数的塔克马(Tacoma)皮卡车。

◆田汽车已为其第三代飞度微型轿车2015款做了重新设计, 于4月在美国以标价17,000美元的价格销售。该日本汽车制造 商称其预计在美国市场一年销售70,000辆飞度,相比2013年 53,500辆的销售量有所上升。

3月,本田汽车首次在北美一一在墨西哥塞拉亚(Celaya)的新工厂内——开始生产飞度。该工厂同样生产一款新型"城市多用途汽车",本田公司打算对两款车进行调整以平衡供需。塞拉亚是本田公司在北美的第八个装配厂,使得其在该地区的生产能力达到了每年192万辆。

③ 福特汽车公司于3月28日称其将在俄亥俄州利马发动机工厂的升级中投入5亿美元为2015款的福特F-150生产2.7 升"EcoBoost"发动机——该款车是北美市场是销售最好的卡车。投资将包括一条全新的灵活发动机装配系统和用于机械及装配工作70万平方英尺的地面改进。

新的发动机据报道所用的技术能在汽车停止状态下自动关闭,而在刹车放松是能再次发动。25%的F-150将会在利马生产,这意味着将获得300个就业岗位。

这款新型轻量级(大约不到700磅重)F-150卡车在一月的北美国际汽车展上吸引了大量的关注,当时福特宣传该款车的车身将使用高强度军用等级的铝合金。

#### 金属材料简要新闻

- ⑤ 本•冯•德•米尔(Ben van der Meer),他负责《沙加缅度商报》(Sacramento Business Journal),地区计划和构架,报道称加利福尼亚的承包商和建筑商可能能够期盼更繁荣的业务但是同样面临价格更高的钢材成本。("攀升的钢材价格打击建筑业"4月3日)
- (⑤ Ibisworld公司的调查发现,受美国日益增长的需求推动, 全球范围内钢材价格将在未来三年里每年上涨2.2%。这家 位于洛杉矶市场调研机构的商业分析师肖恩•温德尔(Sean Windle)称他认为有5个项目对攀升的钢材价格尤为敏感:五 金、安全铁丝网、电梯、叉车和建筑拆迁机械与设备。

"一般而言,[预期的上升]将引起建筑价格攀升,"他告诉《商 业期刊》(Business Journal)"但是对新建筑被压抑的需求 将会克服其中的一大部分。"

他认为钢铁集中的建筑区域最可能受影响的是基建(一个在 加州受关注的紧迫问题)和公共交通便利的住宅发展(城市规 划中的趋势)。

⑤ 当美国铝业(Alcoa)完成其阿鲁玛(Alumar)的圣路易斯(São Luís)和巴西波索斯德卡尔达斯(Poços de Caldas)冶炼厂缩减14.7万公吨的冶炼量的任务,该公司将使得其全球21%的 熔炼能力(大约80万公吨)下线。美国铝业去年已经在波索斯 减产3.4万吨,在圣路易斯减产9.7万吨。新的整顿将包括在 波索斯冶炼厂剩余的6.2万吨产能,将导致其三个电解槽系 列完全停产。在圣路易斯将再减产8.5万吨。

评论称生铝全球市场条件的困窘和高成本已经使得冶炼厂 无竞争力,这家位于纽约的市场领袖称波索斯精炼厂将会 通过冶炼厂减产来减少流水线产量。波索斯的矿、铝粉厂和 出铁厂将继续日常经营,圣路易斯的精炼厂也一样。在巴西 其他美国铝业的运营不受影响。美国铝业拥有卡尔达斯冶炼 厂100%的股份,拥有圣路易斯厂60%的股份而另外40%由 英澳矿业(Anglo-Australian mining)及石油公司比和必拓 (BHP Billiton)持有。

#### 古巴新闻

#### 为了吸引外资,古巴政府对部分投资、所有权 及税收法规松绑

管理古巴外国企业活动的新法规计划在7月1日实施。该法规对 之前的外国投资法某些部分进行开放,于3月经古巴国会一致通 过。

如《今日美国》(3月29日)的评论,只有时间会告诉我们新的法律能否激励困窘的古巴经济;在这个共产党领导的国家是否代表了中央计划经济演变为更资产阶级化的经济;同时是否外国公司的成功将会促成美国企业推进"封锁"的结束:美国在1960年对古巴实施禁运。

与此同时,以下是新法规的部分重点内容:

- ⑤ 与政府商谈的同时,提案提交至国务院或内阁要经历很多步骤——这意味着两个机构有60天的时间决定批准还是否决——部分小企业可能在45天内获批。较大规模的企业仍旧必须经历较长的流程。
- ⑤ 先前,利润将被征30%的税而对使用劳务征税25%。新法将税务削减至利润的15%且消除了劳务税。
- ⑤ 原材料企业的利润原先被征税率最高达45%。新的上限为 22.5%。
- ⑤ 任何在古巴投资的税收优惠必须经过磋商。新的法规宣布投资者自协议签署之日起的8年内可豁免利得税。此外,外国投资者不再受古巴所得税管制。
- ⑤ 先前,只有古巴国有公司有权与外国投资者建立合资公司。现在民营企业也能组成类似同盟。

自劳尔•卡斯特罗(Raúl Castro)6年前从患病的兄长菲德尔•卡斯特罗手中接任总统宝座以来在古巴已经制定了一系列的经济改革措施。古巴现在已经允许购买房屋和汽车,同时政府鼓励更多的民营企业和小型企业经营。但是根据位于弗吉尼亚州的古巴研究中心总裁菲尔•皮特斯(Phil Peters)观点,除了这些积极的变化古巴迄今为止在其他们所需要的就业岗位的创造和外汇收入上没有看见增长。

"他们已经取得进步,"皮特斯先生告诉今日美国。"但是需要更大的经济提升,而外资可以做到。"

#### 仿冒品新闻

#### 中国海关协助美国努力阻止山寨电子产品流 入: 电子产品在充公的假冒产品中排名第三

据位于巴黎的经济合作发展组织(OECD)估计:假冒产品每年可能给全球经济造成高达2500亿美元的损失。

数以百万批次计的上述产品进入美国。在美国官方尽力扣押假冒 产品的同时,他们仅成功抓获边境上的一小部分假冒产品。 然而,根据金融新闻及意见服务机构《华尔街24/7》(24/7 Wall St)的观点,经美国边境保护局(US Customs and Border Protection (CBP))评估,抓获的部分金额巨大。去年被抓获的 假货价值相比2012年的12亿美元上升了38.1%,达到了17亿美元。同时在这些被发现的数百万批次的假货中部分价值最高的货物是家用电子产品及配件。

在美国边境保护局提供信息的基础上,《华尔街24/7》报导称这些2013年被美国边境抓获的假冒的家用电子器件产品价值相比2012年的1.044亿美元上升了40%,达到了1.459亿美元。上述项目构成了2013年全部被查获物品的8%,使得家用电子产品成为该年度第三大最常见假货产品,紧随奢侈品服装和装饰品之后。("大部分假货在美国,"3月27日)

被抓获的假冒电子产品数量的增长与它们的价值息息相关。在 2013年抓获5,656起,相比2012年的3,928起上升了44%。美国 边境保护局和中国海关在2013年的联合行动得到了极其重大的 收获。2个月卧底行动导致了查获1,735电子产品出口并从市场上 清扫了243,000假冒家用电子产品。

《华尔街24/7》记者——托马斯•C•弗洛里克(Thomas C Frohlich),亚历山大•E•M•赫斯(Alexander E M Hess),和文斯•卡里奥(Vince Calio)——评论称大部分美国执法机构查获的假冒品来自于中国大陆。他们推论中国作为一个生产范围广泛的正宗产品的制造商,以及它的知识产权框架,可能有助于中国成为假冒产品源头的高发地。

超过4亿美元的查获物品来自香港,美国边境保护局进行了单独 分类。

●根据美国边境保护局的观点,处理和侦测假货运营的方法正在不断的改进,使得官员能更好的定位和拦截山寨产品的出货。2013年在查获物品在数量和价值上的重大增幅可部分归因于两个不同机构和伙伴的共同努力,尤其是中国海关的努力。

#### 电信行业新闻

#### 华盛顿资助"我能连接(iCanConnect)":一 个将贫困盲人和聋哑人带入电信世界的计划

在密西西比州大学的校刊《反光灯》(Reflector)上,本科生克莱尔•威尔森(Claire Wilson)报道基于需求的计划"我能连接"。这是一项为期三年的首创研究,美国联邦通讯委员会(FCC)每年拨款1000万美元,为即瞎又聋的低收入人群提供最先进的电信设备并培训他们使用。

该设备,专为即瞎又聋的人设计,包括电话放大器,文字扩大程序 及通过蓝牙信号连接到苹果产品可刷新的盲文显示设备。这些显 示设备采用小型机针打出凹凸有致的小孔,可供盲人用户阅读。 (盲人和聋哑人可使用的电信技术,4月1日)

涉及的技术水平意味着该设备生产成本可能高达6,000美元。美国联邦通讯委员会非常肯定他们将专门提供给即瞎又聋且贫困的特殊人群。美国联邦通讯委员会将建立一个严格的筛分流程以使得该设备能最大限度的有利于特定应用。该设备将依据筛分流程做相应的分配。

美国联邦通讯委员的项目合作伙伴是位于纽约州桑茨波恩特 (Sands Point)的海伦•凯勒国家中心(Helen Keller National Center);位于马塞诸塞州沃特敦(Watertown)的帕金斯盲校 (the Perkins School for the Blind),凯勒女士和她的老师安 妮•沙利文(Annie Sullivan)曾在该校接受教育;以及密西西比 州立机构。 《反光灯》的威尔森女士报道称,在该项目的中间点即18个月期间,预计2000人已收到设备并接受"我能连接"项目培训。

#### 就业新闻

#### 由于制造业岗位在美国工业重地稀缺,企业与 学术界被督促进行合作

俄亥俄州东北部是该州高失业率地区,大约12%的劳动力从事制造业,有7,400个制造业工作岗位空缺,都在阿克伦工业中心方圆100英里以内。克里夫兰联邦储备银行总裁兼首席执行官桑德拉•皮奈尔托(Sandra Pianalto)提供了坦率但逆耳的解释:很多工人不具备该地区员工所需要的技能。并在4月2日由联邦官方发布,"这必须改变。"

据克里夫兰《诚实商人报》(Plain Dealer)报道, Pianalto女士 在一个150人参加的为期一天的先进制造业合作委员会(AMP) 地区会议上讲话——经奥巴马总统提议——在亚克郎大学 (University of Akron)举行。与会人员包括地区企业、地区经济 发展组织、国家工业组织的代表、甚至来自中国。("为什么该地 区有7,400个制造业岗位空缺?4月3日)

《诚实商人报》商业专栏作家特里萨•迪克森•穆雷(Teresa Dixon Murray)评论称AMP有一个有19个人组成的督导委员会, 成员分别来自工业、劳工及高等教育领域。督导委员会负责提出 提高美国竞争力的建议,鼓励创新,及促进制造业繁荣。亚克郎 的重点是促进三方面和政府共同合作以在中西部和全国范围内 发展高新制造业岗位。

根据联邦储备银行的皮奈尔托女士的观点,制造商选择厂房的地 点基于三个因素:基础设施、监管问题、以及贸易和税收政策。她称还有一个重要的第四因素:企业将选择他们认为他们能革新且 挖掘人力资本的地方。但是直到最近才有企业、教育家和社区领 袖加强对制造业教育地位的重视。

在AMP会议间隙的采访中,亚克郎大学校长路易斯•普罗恩扎 (Luis Proenza)告诉《诚实商人报》,由于新技术使得原有岗位 被淘汰,人们要完成新的工作需要获得新的技能。他称,该过程 必须拥有更多的大学与企业界之间的合作。

① 在衰退中看到美国制造业岗位减少了16%,全国范围内在该领域减少了200万工作岗位。美国所失去的制造业岗位已经恢复了17%;俄亥俄州已经恢复了41%。

#### 相关信息.....

独立研究组织"世界大型企业联合会"的微观经济分析主管凯 西•波斯特安斯克(Kathy Bostjancic)在4月4日说,"毫无疑 问,就业严冬之后肯定会有回升。因此,随着今年春天和夏天可 以预计的好消息,潜在的就业趋势是令人鼓舞的。"

此话的依据是今年3月美国经济增加了192,000个工作岗位。该结 果低于预期中的增加206,000个工作岗位,同时预期失业率将下 滑,失业率稳定保持在6.7%。但是总体而言,随着前几个月工作 岗位总量的回升——意味着美国继续保持了经济稳步增长的记 录。

尤其鼓舞人心的是,劳工部称由于寻找工作人员数量的增加使得 美国在职职工比例稍有上升。这表明随着空缺的出现,工人正回 到求职状态。

#### 专栏编辑: Dorothy Fabian



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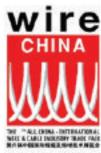
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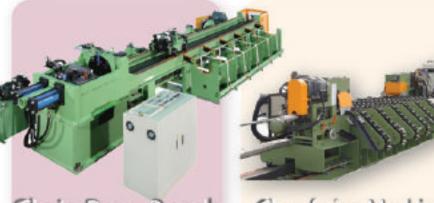
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