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June 2015 issue - No 48

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#48 EDITOR

There are some large numbers mentioned in this issue of wiredInUSA – not least 1,000 jobs, 730 miles and adding 3,000MW of capacity to the western US power grid.

These are all part of the TransWest Express transmission project, which would create an important link between renewable resources in the Rocky Mountains and the desert of the southwest. The final environmental impact statement has now been released into the possible social, ecological, cultural, aesthetic and economic impacts of the project. The full story can be read on page 9.

Surveying is also due to begin near Alaska's coastline in an effort to improve communications to the local communities by laying a \$700m fiber optic cable between Europe and Asia via the Arctic Ocean. You can read the full story on page 10.

David Bell
Editor

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NEWS

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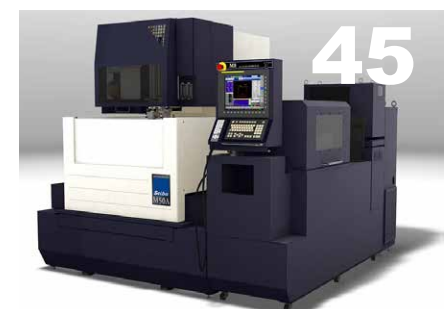
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DIARY SHOW EVENTS

2015

JUNE

16-18 June 2015
The 16th Guangzhou wire show
 Guangzhou, China
 Exhibition
www.metalchina-gz.com

SEPTEMBER

16-18 September 2015
wire Southeast Asia
 Bangkok, Thailand
 Exhibition
www.wire-southeastasia.com

OCTOBER

6-8 October 2015
wire South America
 São Paulo, Brazil
 Exhibition
www.wire-south-america.com

2016

APRIL

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wire Düsseldorf
 Düsseldorf, Germany
 Exhibition
www.wire.de

SEPTEMBER

26-29 September 2016
wire China
 Shanghai, PR China
 Exhibition
www.wirechina.net

OCTOBER

5-7 October 2016
Wire & Cable India
 Mumbai, India
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- **Fibre no circularity measurement**

NCTM:

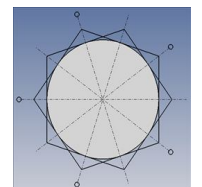
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MAKING THE NEWS

Project's final impact survey

A final environmental impact statement (EIS) has been released by the bureau of land management (BLM) and Western Area power administration regarding the TransWest Express transmission project.

The 730-mile project would add 3,000MW of capacity to the western US power grid, creating an important link between renewable resources in the Rocky Mountains and the desert of the southwest – and would create 1,000 jobs.

The 2,550-page document, from technical services firm AECOM, addresses the possible social, ecological, cultural, aesthetic and economic impacts of the power project.

AECOM was selected to assist BLM and Western with EIS preparation because of its history preparing third-party NEPA documents in the western US, and its environmental permitting and

management experience with large, complex capital projects.

AECOM has previously completed the NEPA process for 30 major energy and industrial development projects, including wind, solar, natural gas and oil pipelines, electrical transmission, power plants and mines under direction of BLM and other federal agencies.

The high voltage, direct current transmission line is planned to complement existing lines and deliver 20,000GWh per year to utilities in California, Nevada and Arizona.

A major regional transmission line, construction of the project is expected to create up to 1,000 jobs. Publication of the EIS in the federal register on 1st May 2015 marked the start of a 30-day public availability period, with a final record of decision due in September 2015.

Keeping cable on ice

Marine surveying is due to begin again near Alaska's coastal communities in an effort to improve communications by laying a \$700 million fiber optic cable between Europe and Asia via the Arctic Ocean.

The Alaska Dispatch News reports that lingering sea ice in Canada's Northwest Passage has caused delays for cable laying ships.

Anchorage-based Quintillion Holdings is a partner in a project initiated by Canada's Arctic Fibre. Quintillion CEO Elizabeth Pierce said that developers are using a phased approach, with work starting on links from Asia to Nome, and Prudhoe Bay to Europe, once the Alaska portion of the project is completed.

Pierce says her company planned to break ground in May to begin the installation

of around 500 miles of fiber optic cable from Fairbanks north to Deadhorse, and is developing a subsea line from the oil field complex of Prudhoe Bay to come ashore in Nome, a Western Alaska community.

The marine survey will help determine cable routes and necessary protective measures.

Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative is an investor in Quintillion, and director of operations Jens Laipeniaks says the satellite or microwave connections currently in use by rural communities are costly and provide only sporadic coverage.

"A fiber optic connection will never have issues like snow in the satellite dish or solar interference, and it is much faster as far as lower latency technology," he said. "Instead of taking 500 or 600 milliseconds, it will be 20 or 30 milliseconds."

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Reel honor

Southwire's SIMpull Reel™ payoff was selected by Electrical Construction & Maintenance magazine as product of the year in the wire and cable (accessories & equipment) category, recognized for making it possible for a single person to safely maneuver a 6,000lb reel through a job site and set up and pay off the reel right beside electrical equipment.

This is the sixth time in nine years that a Southwire product has received an honor.

A panel of judges reviewed the entries to select 42 products of the year. The category winners will compete for the 2015 product of the year platinum, gold and silver awards, which will be determined through an online readers' poll. Final results will be announced in EC&M's August 2015 issue.

Richard Temblador, director of field research at Southwire, said: "Southwire's SIMpull Reel payoff is designed to make the entire process of handling, transporting, setting up and pulling indoor feeder wire reels significantly more efficient.

"Southwire has eliminated the need for traditional material handling and payoff equipment. With outer reel flanges that each rotate independently, combined with an inner reel compartment which contains the wire and rotates separately from the outer reel flanges, the unit is significantly easier to move and navigate.

"The entire idea behind the SIMpull feeder management system is to improve productivity on job sites, while enhancing safety and making the job easier for electrical contractors."

NEW SOLAR FOR CANADA

Atlantic Wind & Solar Inc has added new utility scale solar plant to the Ontario power grid, developed by its Canadian subsidiary, Atlantic Solar Inc. The final stage in the plant's construction was marked by the receipt of a notice of commercial operation from the Ontario Power Authority.

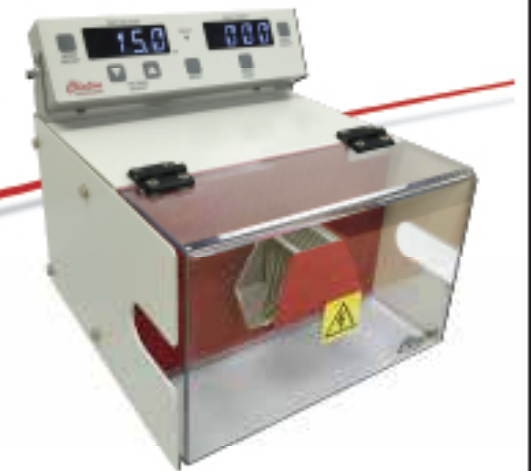
The latest photovoltaic plant uses a 130kW AC/137.25kW DC fixed array

of 450 multi-crystalline modules of 305W each. The power will be sold to the Ontario Power Authority under a 20-year agreement.

Atlantic Wind and Solar has over 750MW of projects in various stages of development in Canada, South America and the Caribbean.

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Transmission line brings added benefits

PPL Electric Utilities has energized the 500kV Susquehanna–Roseland transmission line, serving the northeast. Regional grid operator PJM Interconnection identified that Susquehanna–Roseland was needed to relieve congestion on other regional transmission lines.

PPL built the 101-mile Pennsylvania portion, and Public Service Electric and Gas Company constructed the 45 miles in New Jersey. The two companies partnered to build a four-mile segment through National Park Service lands on the border of the two states.

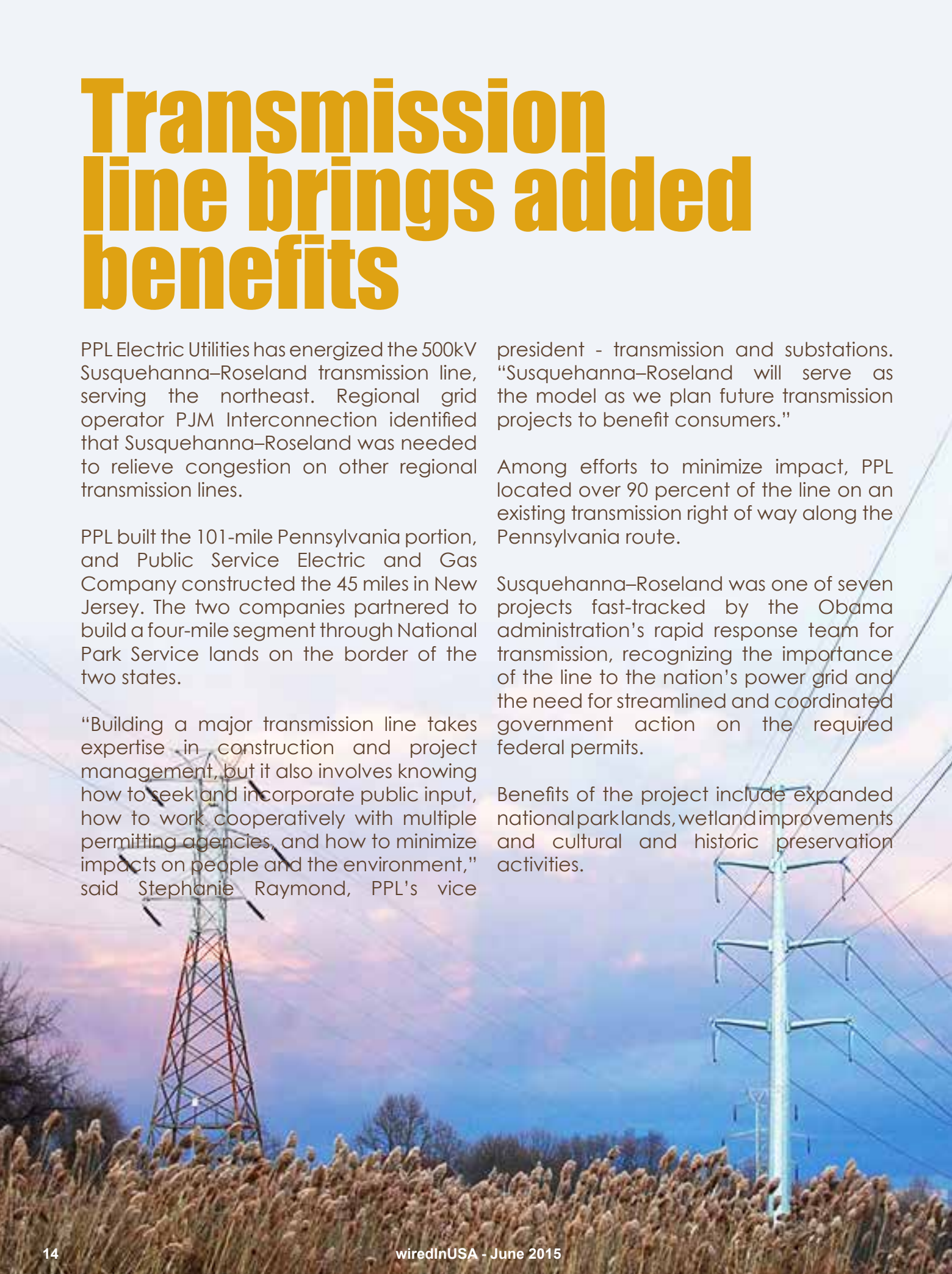
“Building a major transmission line takes expertise in construction and project management, but it also involves knowing how to seek and incorporate public input, how to work cooperatively with multiple permitting agencies, and how to minimize impacts on people and the environment,” said Stephanie Raymond, PPL’s vice

president - transmission and substations. “Susquehanna–Roseland will serve as the model as we plan future transmission projects to benefit consumers.”

Among efforts to minimize impact, PPL located over 90 percent of the line on an existing transmission right of way along the Pennsylvania route.

Susquehanna–Roseland was one of seven projects fast-tracked by the Obama administration’s rapid response team for transmission, recognizing the importance of the line to the nation’s power grid and the need for streamlined and coordinated government action on the required federal permits.

Benefits of the project include expanded national parklands, wetland improvements and cultural and historic preservation activities.



SEARCH FOR SAVINGS

Philatron Wire and Cable has announced that Phil Ramos Jr, CEO and president of Philatron International, is to launch a new Engineering Design Solutions department. This new service will allow OEM customers to work with experienced electrical engineers in R&D prototype OEM cables.

Philatron engineers will prepare layout, design, and CAD drawings with details

on wire stranding, gages, conductors, conductive properties, and specialized compounds suggested for use on custom cable requests.

The new engineering design solutions department will review all industrial marketplaces to re-engineer existing cables for possible savings.

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Connector cable

BC Ferries unveiled its first cable ferry, Baynes Sound Connector, at an official naming ceremony at Seaspan's Vancouver shipyards on 9th May 2015.

The 78.5m ferry – named after the channel it will cross – will enter service later this summer, and carry up to 50 vehicles and 150 passengers. Using one drive cable and two guide cables, Baynes Sound Connector will also be one of the longest cable ferries in the world, traversing a distance of approximately 1,900m at speeds of up to 8.5 knots.

Baynes Sound Connector will shortly be towed to Buckley Bay on Vancouver Island to be connected to the three cables that were laid in April. In June and July, BC Ferries' crews will undergo extensive training and familiarization on the cable ferry in preparation for passenger and vehicle service. After receiving certification from Transport Canada and classification society Lloyd's Register, the cable ferry will enter service by late summer.



Rod mill closure

Over 220 skilled laborers and professionals at ArcelorMittal in Georgetown will lose their jobs later this year with the closure of its wire rod facility.

According to the company, "Challenging market conditions facing the USA business" are to blame for the closure, which is expected to be complete between July and August.

Brian Tucker, director of the Georgetown County economic development department, said even though the department could not confirm the closing before ArcelorMittal's announcement, it had already been working through expansion plans for up to five industries in Georgetown County.

"All of those expansion plans include job creation and additional hiring," Tucker said. "The folks at the steel mill have tremendous experience. They have a very specific set of skills. That experience and those skill sets are very much in demand. We'll work with our existing industries, and we'll work with ArcelorMittal and the department of employment and workforce and people who are vested to try to find a home and a new position for as many of these folks that we possibly can.

"With all of that said, it doesn't make it go away or make it any better. But we're going to work through it and we're going to make the best of it."

The company announced the closure through a news release.



Electronics acquisition

Molex Incorporated has announced its acquisition of certain assets of Soligie Inc. Soligie was founded in 2005 and is headquartered in Savage, Minnesota.

Soligie products range from sensor systems, medical wearables, LED lighting, specialized RFID labels, and devices that enable the Internet of Things (IoT). The strategic acquisition of Soligie's business complements Molex printed circuit-based solutions, including membrane switches, polymer thick film circuits, copper flex circuits and printed circuit board assemblies.

"Soligie's business expands our capabilities in the high growth field of printed electronics," said Todd Hester, vice president and general manager of Molex printed circuit products business unit.

Soligie will bring design, process development, prototype fabrication and product development expertise and a range of printing platforms for high precision, high volume roll-to-roll printed electronic manufacturing. These technologies enable the development of custom proprietary solutions that are cost-effective for customers and contain fewer components.

"The Soligie team is extremely excited about the acquisition as it blends game-changing printed electronic technologies with Molex's highly skilled engineering talent and worldwide manufacturing and sales network," said John Heitzinger, president, Soligie. "Printed electronics empowers customers to create products outside the limits of conventional circuitry."



CHANGES TO THE BOARD

Michael W Sutherlin is to join the Schnitzer Steel Industries board of directors.

Mr Sutherlin served from 2006 to 2013 as president and CEO of Joy Global Inc, a manufacturer and servicer of mining equipment. Before joining Joy Global in 2003, Mr Sutherlin served as president and CEO of Varco International.

Mr Sutherlin also serves as a director of Peabody Energy Corporation and Tesco Corporation. He graduated with a degree in business administration from the Texas Tech University, and earned an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin.

Schnitzer Steel Industries is among the largest manufacturers and exporters of recycled ferrous metal products in North America, with operating facilities in 14 states, Puerto Rico and western Canada.

GROWING THE TEAM

Metro Wire and Cable, of Iowa City, has announced the hiring of Kurt Means and Phill Seebeck as sales consultants. They both have similar direct selling backgrounds focused on consultative, relationship selling.

Ryan Wesley, regional sales manager, said that having Kurt and Phill join the team is very exciting: "Having two team members join us with extensive selling experience really helps our organization grow and advance. We are excited that these two are joining our already strong organization. This makes us even stronger."

GLOBAL APPOINTMENT

Mr Valgene E Raloff, president of Electron Beam Technologies, has named Oscar Rodríguez as the company's new global sales manager. By utilizing his extensive background and expertise in wire and cable markets, Mr Rodríguez is expected to expand and strengthen Electron Beam Technologies' global presence through new and existing business relationships, markets and opportunities.

Mr Rodriguez previously worked for RGV International Marketing, Industrial Electric Wire & Cable, and EVANA Automation & Repair Specialists. He has a BS degree in international marketing from the University of Texas and speaks both English and Spanish.

Electron Beam Technologies manufactures a wide variety of welding products and provides services for the welding industry, primarily for use in the arc welding process.

NEW PRESIDENT

James Murphy has been appointed president and chief executive officer of Davis-Standard, LLC.

Mr Murphy has been with Davis-Standard for over 25 years, progressing through various leadership roles in sales and engineering management. Before his promotion, Murphy was a member of Davis-Standard's office of the president and responsible for leading the company's sales and marketing efforts.

Robert Geckle, a current member of Davis-Standard's board of directors, will support the leadership team as chairman of the board. Mr Geckle has been part of the board for over a year and has significant executive experience with industrial companies and private equity.



Around the world with fiber

NexGen Networks has recently made fiber backbone acquisitions. The addition of capacity on the Transit Europe-Asia (TEA) terrestrial cable network completes a global circuit that enables NexGen to route traffic anywhere in the world, moving eastward or westward as required.

“In addition to being an incredible symbolic milestone, this achievement has significant practical implications,” says NexGen’s Edward Lawson, SVP of business development. “It enhances our ability to meet specific routing requirements based on speed, diversity, and numerous other factors for existing and potential clients.”

NexGen has improved and upgraded its network to allow clients around

the world to find optimized, tailored network solutions. NexGen’s global network means that customers can choose from multiple paths to Europe and Asia to circumvent a failure due to cable cuts or other damage from accidents or natural disaster.

The TEA cable network is the world’s longest overland route, traveling from Frankfurt to Turkey, and tracing the ancient silk route through central Asia into western China and on to Shanghai. The route is said to provide the lowest possible latency connections between Asia and Europe, with latency times of 164ms between London and Hong Kong.

Cloud cover

Microsoft is investing in underwater cables to connect its data centers in Ireland, the UK and North America.

The company has signed partnerships with Hibernia Networks and Aqua Comms, each of which will provide an underwater cable that links Microsoft’s North American infrastructure with data centers in Ireland and the UK.

Microsoft hopes the network will give a competitive edge, while also expanding the reach of its cloud business. “As people and organizations expect data and information at their fingertips, Microsoft must have an infrastructure that can deliver the cloud services,” said David Crowley, managing director of network enablement at Microsoft. He said the cables would help deliver data at higher speeds, with higher capacity and lower latency.

“The goal of our expansions and investments in subsea cables is so our customers have the greatest access to scale and highly available data, anywhere,” he added.

Microsoft will work with Hibernia Networks and Aqua Comms to develop the fiber optic system, which is expected to be in operation in the early part of 2016.

Mr Crowley also said Microsoft had joined a consortium of companies including China Telecom, China Mobile and KT Corporation that were working to build the first physical landing station in the US connecting North America to Asia, in what will be known as the New Cross Pacific (NCP) Cable Network.

The NCP cables will cover over 13,000km to link facilities in Oregon with China, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan.

EUROPE NEWS

FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

Italian cable maker Prysmian expects core earnings to reach \$687 million this year, after posting a 53 percent rise in the first quarter. The company, which became world's biggest cable maker when it acquired Draka in 2011, is benefitting from the economic recovery underway in Europe, said its CEO, Valerio Battista. He told analysts during a conference call that Prysmian is presently looking at several merger and acquisition options.

The group's adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) beat market expectations with a rise in the first quarter to \$135 million.

"This positive result reflects the group's positioning in the high-tech businesses of

submarine and optical cables," Battista said. "These businesses, which have shown resilience even in the face of economic downturn, are now benefiting from the progressive signs of recovery."

Organic growth of between three and four percent for 2015 revenues is achievable, he said.

Revenues were up nearly six percent in the first three months of 2015, while the first quarter of 2014 was hit by execution problems at one of the company's high voltage cable projects. The company said a plan to make its European organization more efficient is expected to generate additional cost cuts.



Inspectors snap to it

A detailed inspection of a Forth Road Bridge main cable will be carried out following an increase in detected wire breaks. The bridge operator, Forth Estuary Transport Authority, found 24 wire breaks in three months in one area of the cable, compared with 93 breaks across the entire bridge in the previous eight years.

Chief engineer Barry Colford said: "The main cable acoustic monitoring system is designed to give us early warning of potential problems within the cable. While this increase in wire breaks does merit further investigation, there are no immediate safety concerns and the cables still have more than enough strength to do their job.

"The inspection...is purely to determine whether the recent increase in the rate and concentration of wire breaks is indicative of a longer term problem. Once we know the results of this inspection we will recommend any further action that is required to ensure the bridge remains safe and open to traffic."

Each of the main cables on the bridge consists of 11,618 individual steel wires.

An acoustic monitoring system was installed in 2006 to detect wire breaks. Microphones along the length of the cables identify the sound of snapping wires.



Testing times

Eland Cables has become the first UK cable supplier to achieve UKAS ISO 17025 accreditation for its Cable Lab – an in-house cable testing facility.

ISO 17025 is a standard for calibration and testing laboratories around the world, and accreditation to this international standard demonstrates that the Cable Lab is technically competent and able to produce precise and accurate test results. The laboratory can now be called upon by third parties for independent and comprehensive cable assessment, a full audit trail, and a test report including RoHS testing and the requirements for SONCAP approval.



Cable delayed

Russian naval ships are accused of repeatedly disrupting cable-laying work between Sweden and Lithuania prompting diplomatic protests from both countries.

The laying of the Nordbalt cable has been disrupted four times by Russian ships in the past two months, the Swedish press reported. "Sweden has discussed the matter with Russian authorities," confirmed Pezhman Fivrin, spokesperson for the Swedish foreign minister, Margot Wallström.

The Lithuanian foreign ministry has also taken action, summoning the Russian foreign minister and claiming that Russia is in violation of the United Nations convention on the law of the sea (UNCLOS). The ministry released a statement that accused Russia of "attempts to interfere" with the construction of the cable. Russia has explained the action as a protecting its military exercise zones.

The 400km cable runs from Klaipeda in Lithuania to Nybro on Sweden's east coast. The purpose of the cable is to improve Lithuanian and Scandinavian trading on electricity markets, and to increase the security of power supply to both the Nordics and Lithuania. The energy link has received financial support from the EU.



Power share

Francesco Starace, chief executive officer of Enel, and Matteo Del Fante, chief executive officer of Terna, have signed a memorandum of understanding for three years of cooperation in identifying, assessing and developing integrated initiatives and opportunities in transmission projects in countries where Enel and Terna have a strategic or commercial interest.

Under the terms of the memorandum, which excludes Italy, if either company identifies an opportunity that it deems could be of mutual interest, or even of exclusive interest to the other party, they could offer that party information on the opportunity as a priority. Opportunities will be assessed by the two companies on the basis of their common interests.



Center for data centers?

Germany's privately owned Hetzner Online AG is investing in a 685-mile deep sea cable between northern Germany and Helsinki, and is considering locating a data center in Finland, the company has revealed.

Hetzner said the fiber optic link should be in operation by spring 2016, under a contract with Finland's state-owned Cinia Group. "In view of its very favorable climatic conditions and low energy prices, Finland is also of interest to Hetzner Online as a possible data center location," it said in a statement.

The Finnish government went further, saying Hetzner was considering investing around \$109-\$218 million in the data center.

The Nordic country has offered tax breaks to attract data centers to boost the economy, hurt by the decline of Nokia and the slowdown in Europe and Russia. To date Google, Microsoft and Russia's Yandex have announced data center investments in the country, and Apple Inc has announced a plan to build two data centers in Ireland and Denmark.

Hetzner currently has two data centers in Germany.



Brazilian wind contract

Swiss technology group ABB has won orders worth around \$30 million from Casa dos Ventos, a renewables company in Brazil, to provide substations and related power infrastructure for two new wind complexes.

Casa dos Ventos has the largest portfolio of wind projects in Brazil, with over 4,800MW of renewables capacity in operation or under construction.

The 216MW and 130MW wind complexes, São Clemente and Tianguá, will be located in northeastern Brazil, and are scheduled for completion in 2016. They are designed to generate enough renewable energy to meet the consumption needs of about 300,000 local households.

ABB will be responsible for the delivery of the 230kV and 69kV air-insulated switchgear substations, including compact 34.5kV substations with distribution transformers, connection bays and overhead lines.

To reduce the impact of disruptions resulting from the integration of intermittent wind power into the grid, ABB is also supplying reclosers – circuit breakers designed to interrupt short-circuit current – to isolate faults and prevent outages from cascading across the network.

SPECIAL ALCATEL-LUCENT SECTION



Australia to Africa solution

Alcatel-Lucent Submarine Networks (ASN) and GoTo Networks have signed a turnkey contract to build Australia West Express, the first direct undersea cable between Australia, the Middle East and Africa.

The AWE system will cross the Indian Ocean, connecting Perth in Australia and Djibouti in north-east Africa, with onward connectivity to provide an entirely new lower latency route to Europe. This will enhance traffic protection and extend broadband connectivity to new areas. The system is expected to be ready for service by the end of 2016, and will have an ultimate design capacity of 20Tbit/s.

John Mariano, GoTo Networks founder and CEO, said: "AWE will support a wide variety of consumer and enterprise broadband services for Australasia economies and recognize Europe's increasing importance as a destination for Internet traffic."

Philippe Dumont, president of Alcatel-Lucent Submarine Networks, said: "The creation of the Australia West Express comes at a period of increasing interest in new international routes to reliably carry increasing volumes of data traffic as global demand for ultra-broadband access rises."

Record setting

Alcatel-Lucent Submarine Networks has achieved a technological record for subsea communications by extending the reach of unrepeated cable systems at 100Gbit/s to more than 610km, using the same fiber for both signal and amplifier transmission.

The breakthrough is expected to lead to significant improvements in cable system efficiency, extending the reach of current unrepeated systems without affecting the signal transmission (low-loss) and offering an optimized trade-off which significantly exceeds the capabilities of other transmission technologies. The laboratory demonstration was based on a 100Gbit/s channel over a single second-generation coherent submarine fiber using advanced modulation schemes and Raman amplification.

By supporting channel rates of up to 100Gbit/s, ASN's unrepeated systems offer a homogeneous solution for systems with a variety of segment lengths, providing cable protection and armoring options for any environment or sea floor conditions.



www.iwma.org

CabWire World Conference 2015

Congress Center Düsseldorf, Germany
3 November 2015

7th biennial cable and wire technical conference



Pictures: Mark Low & Krill Peterson - www.freeimages.com

CabWire 2015 world technical conference – a date for your diary!

The IWMA is delighted to announce that the 7th biennial CabWire world cable and wire technical conference will take place on Tuesday, 3rd November 2015 in Düsseldorf, Germany, home of the wire industry.

The conference will be held at the Congress Center, and is already attracting interest following the successful CabWire conference which was held at the Palazzo Turati, Milan, in November last year, and attracted 200 wire and cable professionals from all over the world.

Preparations are well under way, with Dr Probst, retiring CEO of Leoni AG, committed as a

keynote speaker, and Arcelor/Mittal preparing to host a visit for delegates to its rod mill in Duisburg on Wednesday, 4th November.

There will also be an event at a downtown Düsseldorf location on the Tuesday evening where delegates will get the chance to network and socialize.

There are a variety of promotional opportunities available, such as sponsorship and table top displays. Similarly, if you are interested in attending as a delegate and would like to be kept up to date with conference developments then please get in touch.

www.cabwire.com



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Keep your business wired to the heart of Southeast Asia

The 11th edition of wire Southeast Asia returns to Bangkok in 2015, amidst a vibrant manufacturing and industrial landscape as the region gears up for the full establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community, bringing with it free movement of goods, services, investment and capital through the development of a common marketplace across Southeast Asian nations.

wire Southeast Asia is expected to continue on its upward trend, presenting a wide range of innovative machinery in wire manufacturing and finishing, fastener manufacturing and spring and wire formed parts manufacturing alongside new and upgraded machines, tools and auxiliary materials in process engineering, as well as wire and rod materials. Also, new processes will be shown in measuring, control and test engineering as well as in other specialist areas. The biennial trade fair is co-located with the synergistic Tube Southeast Asia 2015.

With Thailand anchoring as the region's manufacturing and production hub, Southeast Asia is set to achieve a real GDP growth rate of 5.4% per annum between 2014-18, thereby setting its wire and cable industries to greater heights in the years ahead.

With wire Southeast Asia, you can be assured Messe Düsseldorf Asia is providing the best business opportunities for you to navigate the dynamic marketplace of Thailand and Southeast Asia.

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Ms Beatrice Ho at:

Tel (65) 6332 9620
Emails: wire@mda.com.sg / tube@mda.com.sg



Become an exhibitor: wire South America 2015

wire South America is fast approaching and with it your chance to present your machinery and equipment to the South American market.

Economic development is set to continue in the region and with it demand for wire and cable products will increase. 750 exhibitors from 26 countries presented their products in 2013 attracting some 15,000 visitors, proving that demand is strong. This trend is set to continue as we approach this year's event, to be held concurrently with TUBOTECH at the Imigrantes Exhibition Center in São Paulo, October 6th to 8th 2015.

Make sure to take advantage of this marketing and communication platform to build and strengthen your contacts in South America.

For further information visit the website at www.wire-south-america.com or contact the show organisers, Messe Düsseldorf GmbH:

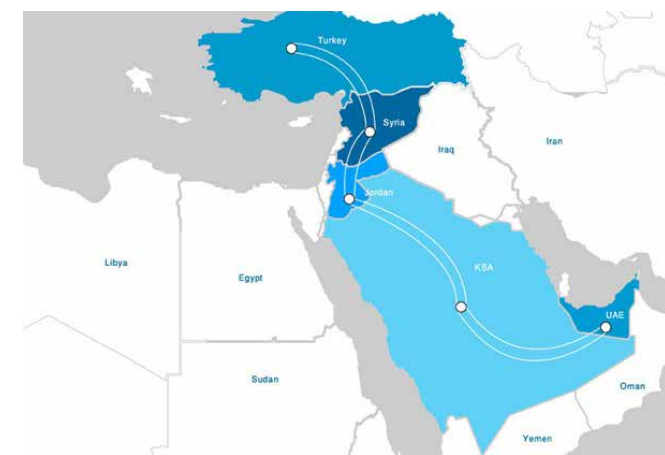
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ASIA & AFRICA NEWS

FIRST LINK READY TO GO

The RCN (Regional Cable Network) consortium has announced the commercial launch of a high-capacity terrestrial fiber network from Fujairah, UAE to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and then to Amman.

The consortium of Etisalat (UAE), Zain and Orange (Jordan), Turkcell Superonline (Turkey), Mobily (Saudi Arabia), and Syrian Telecom (Syria), was established in December 2010 to terrestrially link the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Turkey.



In its first phase, to maintain a high level of stability and resilience and due to the prevailing security conditions in Syria, the

RCN cable system extending from Fujairah to Amman has been rolled out and is ready for commercial service.

At present, there are 5,000km of activated RCN, offering up to 1.2Tbps in multiples of 10G Ethernet. The consortium will extend the RCN to Turkey in the future, as and when the socio-political climate in Syria stabilizes, a statement said. The original agreement was for a 7,750km fiber optic line.

Ali Amiri, chairman of the consortium and executive vice president of carrier and wholesale at Etisalat UAE, said: "The development and launch of this fiber optic cable is of great significance to the region as it avails additional network capacity to the region.

"The RCN consortium also sets a fantastic example of multi-country and multi-operator cooperation, which I believe will become more necessary in the future as telcos look to maintain their relevance and appeal in a rapidly evolving sector," he added.



Fiber acquisition

AFL has acquired AFC, a manufacturer, designer and integrator of fiber optic and copper communication solutions with operations in Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

Kurt Dallas, EVP of cable and connectivity for AFL, said: "AFL is truly excited to have AFC as part of AFL. During our initial discussions, it was clear very quickly that AFC was a special company. AFC's impressive team of professionals has consistently delivered exceptional quality and innovative solutions to their customers."

"From a cultural perspective, AFC and AFL are a terrific match. This acquisition better positions us to expand our customer reach and capabilities. We are delighted to join the AFL family," said Tony Macleod, founder and CEO of AFC.

With the addition of AFC, AFL's new expanded portfolio will include fiber optic cable, fiber management systems, fiber assemblies and fiber enclosures as well as splicers, test equipment and a complete set of communication network products.

AFL will continue operations in AFC's existing facilities, including Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide, Auckland and Hong Kong.



Change on the board

The current chairman, and one of the founders, of Oman Cables Industry, Mustafa al Lawati, has retired after more than 30 years on the company's board. He will be replaced by Fabio Romeo, who has been on the board since 2012.

A special farewell dinner was attended by H E Abdullah al Salmi, executive president of the Capital Market Authority, and other dignitaries, colleagues, employees and friends of Lawati.

Speaking at the event, the chairman said: "Results can only be achieved by working hard, planning thoroughly and thinking through everything meticulously." Mustafa al Lawati established various companies and enterprises in Oman.

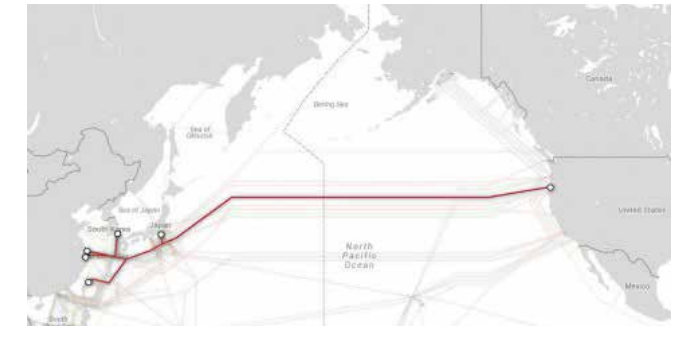


Safe power for LPG

Nexans' halogen-free cables have been selected to power the central processing facility (CPF) at the INPEX-operated Ichthys field near Darwin, Australia. The contract, for around 2,200km of instrumentation and electrical cables, was awarded by Samsung Heavy Industries.

The Ichthys CPF will be the world's largest semi-submersible platform. Its floating central processing facility is a column-stabilized, offshore semi-submersible production unit supporting a hydrocarbon processing system and utilities, as well as living quarters for about 200 people. It will power the plant and control the compressor that liquefies the gas.

Gas from the Ichthys field, approximately 200km from the coast of Western Australia, will undergo preliminary processing offshore to remove water and extract condensate. The gas will then be exported to onshore processing facilities in Darwin via an 889km subsea pipeline. It is expected to produce 389.5 billion cubic feet of liquefied natural gas per year.



Pacific crossing

China Unicom and six global partners from China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and America have initiated the construction of the New Cross Pacific (NCP) submarine optical cable.

With a total length of over 13,000km, NCP submarine optical cable will connect mainland China, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan to the USA. By adopting the most advanced 100G wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) transmission technology, its capacity is designed to be over 80Tbit/s. It is expected to be completed and put into operation during the fourth quarter of 2017, with a total investment of at least \$500 million.



Infrastructure funding

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed a \$6 billion loan to help Pakistan boost its power network and other key infrastructure. ADB will finance a 660MW coal-fired power plant in southern Pakistan, and funds will also be allocated for projects in the health, education and road sectors.

Pakistan expects the funds to help tackle the country's electricity crisis. Hydroelectric dams to generate between 100MW and 300MW will also be constructed using ADB's loan.

Electricity supply is an on-going problem for Pakistan, which every year faces a power shortfall of 4,000MW during the months of June and July.

Hydro projects to go ahead

The Niger Delta Power Holding company (NDPHC) is planning that the second phase of the national integrated power projects (NIPPs) to build hydro power generation plants will add 4,000MW of electricity to Nigeria's power grid.

The NDPHC said in a statement that, in addition to its board's approval of the construction of the 1,030MW Mambilla hydro power project and 16 medium and small hydro power projects, the second phase of the NIPPs will include the construction of transmission projects to add 20,000MW of electricity generated from existing and new power stations.

The NDPHC is a registered limited liability company owned by the three tiers (federal, state and local) of Nigerian government.

Solar, by royal appointment

King Abdullah II of Jordan has inaugurated the Royal Hashemite Court's grid connected solar power plant, established within the Royal Court compound. The 5.6MW plant is in accordance with His Majesty's directives to develop renewable energy projects to encourage the switch to this source of power. It will meet the Royal Court's energy needs while reducing expenditure.

Royal Court secretary general Yousef Issawi briefed the king on the importance of this project in meeting the Royal institution's electricity demand.

Yousef Issawi advised that commissioning production of the plant began three weeks earlier, adding that work is currently underway to complete further phases of the project in other locations affiliated to the Royal Court.

Indonesian fiber backbone

President Joko Widodo has inaugurated the \$275 million Sulawesi, Maluku and Papua cable system (SMPCS), a fiber optic network to improve eastern Indonesia's telecommunications capacity.

The cable system forms part of the telecommunication firm Telkom's plans to connect the entire archipelago with fiber optic technology by the end of 2015. The 8,772km SMPCS crosses 34 districts in North Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, North Maluku, Maluku, East Nusa Tenggara, West Papua and Papua. To date, Telkom has installed 6,193km of cable and plans to complete the project by September.

The eastern network is part of the 76,727km fiber optic infrastructure that stretches between Sabang, in the northwest of Indonesia, to Merauke in the southeast.

PRODUCTS & MACHINES TECHNOLOGY

Cold climate cables

Turck's extremelife-60 cables remain flexible down to -40°C, and carry UL -60°C cold bend and UL/CSA -40°C cold impact listings, as well as FT4 flame rating. The cables are available in a variety of AWG sizes, constructions, conductor counts and cable jacket colors.

In addition to its cold bend, cold impact and flame ratings, the extremelife-60 cables also have ITC and PLTC approval from UL, as well as CIC approval from CSA, which makes these cables code compliant for NEC and CEC class 1 division 2 hazardous location applications. The extremelife-60 cables carry Oil Res I and Oil Res II approvals and are UL listed for exposed run and direct burial.



▲ The new cables from Turck

The cables pass the same exacting crush and impact tests as metal clad cable, but without metal cladding. The flexible cable jacket will not break or crack when pulled or bent in extreme cold, and holds a UL/CSA listing and hazardous location rating.

Jay Bartsias, senior product manager for Turck, said: "It can be challenging to find a cable solution for many cold weather applications. Cables that perform well in the cold often don't come with any approvals,

which is a concern specifically in regulated environments. With the help of our internal cable design team, our extremelife-60 solution has an FT4 flame rating, UV resistance, oil resistance and the proper approvals for use in hazardous locations, as well as in really cold and harsh environments."

Robust industrial cable

TPC Wire & Cable Corp has launched a new, lightweight sootblower cable designed to survive harsh industrial environments. Trex-Onics® sootblower cable offers a compatible sootblower cable, designed to be abrasion-, heat- and moisture-resistant even in situations where boilers and furnaces are operated.

Trex-Onics sootblower cable is designed with a light, durable material that creates a smaller, tighter cable coil, so allowing for a more compact design. The long-term coil retention design eliminates the need to align the coils, resulting in less downtime.

"The new Trex-Onics sootblower cable will work very well for customers who are looking for a compatible, lightweight retractable sootblower cable with superior abrasion, heat and moisture resistance," said Paul Barras, product manager at TPC.



▲ The lightweight sootblower cable from TPC
Photograph courtesy of TPC

"Our value proposition across our full product line holds just as true for our new sootblower cable. We maximize productivity through minimizing equipment downtime due to repair or replacement of electrical cable."

Trex-Onics sootblower cable is expected to be of benefit to a range of sectors, including food and beverage, wood, pulp and paper, utilities, and steel.

Drilling cable



▲ Exane cables from RSCC
Photograph courtesy of RSCC

RSCC Wire & Cable has introduced two new category 6 cable products for offshore oil drilling and land drilling applications.

RSCC's Exane cat 6 is a rugged, armored, and shielded cable, jacketed with the company's proprietary Exane high performance compound. The cable is highly flame retardant and designed for resistance to the effects of drilling mud and oil.

The new cables pass the IEEE 1202 vertical cable tray flame test for fire safety. An

alternative version, Exane ZH cat 6, is sheathed with low smoke zero halogen material, as used in cable installations where the action of corrosive gasses liberated from halogenated cables needs to be controlled.

Exane cat 6 cables are designed with stranded conductors for more flexibility and a higher performing signal transmission rate. The stranded conductors will not break in a high-flexing drilling environment, while providing a consistent category 6 attenuation rate of 250MHz to be transmitted to monitoring equipment.

Welding wire

Lincoln Electric has launched SuperGlaze® HD, a new aluminum welding wire for use in heavy duty applications where wire feeding can be a challenge and arc performance is critical.



▲ The new welding wire from Lincoln

Designed to address the common issues of welding aluminum, SuperGlaze HD delivers a steady wire feed from the payoff to the arc, resulting in a uniform and uninterrupted weld.

In demanding welding environments, using standard aluminum wire can result in inconsistent wire feeding and poor arc characteristics, resulting in costly downtime. SuperGlaze HD is developed for smooth wire feeding without wire shavings.

Watertight connections

LEMO has announced its new watertight T Series connectors.

T Series connectors offer a new design for the security, test and measurement, medical and other sectors requiring a watertight connection. The T Series is a small-sized watertight connector using LEMO push-pull technology. Based on the LEMO B Series, the T Series connector has an inner sleeve and extra sealing to provide IP68 water protection.

The T Series is available in 2- to 32-contact configurations. Contacts can be terminated by soldering to the wire, crimping onto the wire, or directly to a PCB. Additional T Series sizes (accommodating higher pin counts) are expected shortly. A keying system ensures correct connector alignment.

T Series plugs are backwardly compatible with the B Series receptacles (IP50). The T Series receptacles fit the same receptacle panel-hold diameter as the B Series, which will benefit customers needing to upgrade an existing design.

The connector's outer shell offers full EMI shielding, and is available in black-chrome finish or plated brass.

Motor cable

The Lapp Group's new Ölflex VFD 2XL UL TC-ER rated motor cable is a robust, oil-resistant shielded design for use with variable frequency drives.

Also available with a pair for brake or temperature, the Ölflex VFD 2XL comes with XLPE (plus) insulation and a phthalate-free TPE outer jacket that gives the cable maximum flexibility, low capacitance and flame-retardant properties. Ölflex VFD 2XL is dual-rated for applications ranging from 600V to 2,000V, which allows a single cable to serve a range of applications.

The Ölflex VFD 2XL features a thermoplastic elastomer jacket and conductors made from finely stranded tinned copper. Its cross-linked polyethylene insulation provides superior electrical properties and allows the cable to withstand the heat generated by overcurrent conditions common with VFDs. Shielding for the Ölflex VFD 2XL series includes barrier tape, triple layer foil tape and tinned copper braid.

The motor cable has a test voltage of 6,000V and a minimum bend radius of 7.5 times the cable diameter. Suitable applications include VFD drive and motor connections for pumps, compressors, conveyors, elevators, extruders, pressers and HVAC, especially in industrial environments.

Extrusion on show

At the recent National Plastics Expo, Guill featured its range of crossheads and inline

tubing dies in fixed and adjustable center, for single or co-extrusion applications.

The tooling is designed to process all compounds, and features the company's patented, precision Feather Touch concentricity adjustment, the Seal Right system, which combines with the Feather Touch system to eliminate polymer leaking. Guill also displayed its spiral flow distribution system.



▲ One of the range of crossheads from Guill

Guill introduced the latest generation of its series 800, the 2-to-6 layer extrusion tooling designed to produce material-efficient 1/8" to 6" outer diameter tubing for automotive, medical, appliance and industrial applications. The redesigned series 800 is said to produce flawless extrusion and layer definition of fluoropolymer and other materials for all fuel line constructions, multi-layer PEX pipe and drip irrigation applications. The Guill design allows thin layer combinations of polymers and adhesives to 0.02mm or less.

Simply stripping

Eraser Company's hand-operated LS10 wire and cable strippers are designed for a clean

strip on a range of jacketed material types and sizes, with an outer diameter up to 1.25". The material is simply placed into the unit and a single pull of the handle will close the blades, sever the insulation, and remove the slug. Return the handle to the start position to remove the stripped material.

An LSR10 version, for material with an outer diameter up to 1.06", features rubber-covered clamps to prevent marks on the jacketing.

LSA20 and LSAR20 are air-operated versions of the LS10 and LSR10. To operate, open the blades and insert the material. Close the guard to activate the stripping action and when complete, open the guard to remove the stripped material. All units feature an adjustable length stop to ensure consistent strip lengths.

Die blades are required, selected to suit the diameter of the conductor. Parallel blades and custom blades are also available.

It's a wrap

Electrolock Incorporated has added Pyrodox™ to its existing line of wire and cable insulation products. The new proprietary brand of mica tape utilizes muscovite mica and phlogopite mica to provide high temperature performance, fire survival, and the durability necessary to insulate wire and cable from extreme temperatures whilst maintaining circuit integrity.

"We are very excited to release our own proprietary brand of mica tape," said

Electrolock national product manager, Rich Reed.

Pyrodox is available in slit pads and traverse packs, and in several styles – GP 300, GP 400, GP 500, GM 500 and GP 600 – each with varying specifications for thickness, weight and mica content, to serve the individual needs of, amongst others, the oil exploration, military and defense, and aerospace industries.

Automation cables

Cicoil's EZ-Flexx Motion Series Plus cable incorporates power and signal wires in a single flat cable package, and provides EMI/RFI suppression even when flexed or routed through tight spaces.



▲ EZ-Flexx Motion Series Plus cable incorporates power and signal wires

The cable has six conductors and 20 signal wires in a condensed, flat profile. The EZ-Flexx allows for easy stripping, and the Crystal Clear design is compatible with standard handheld manual and automated stripping and crimping equipment.

The EZ-Flexx Motion Series Plus cable is available in a single axis design that can be placed side-by-side for maximum flexibility, or its profile allows individual cables to be grouped into space saving stacked positions for one, two or three axes of servo motion.

Using Cicoil's online cable configurator, multiple EZ-Flexx Motion Series cables can be incorporated into a single profile and inner components can be rearranged to create a symmetric cable layout.

The durable outer Flexx-Sil rubber jacket is self-healing from small punctures and will not wear, crack or deform during a lifetime of over ten million flexing cycles or long term exposure to vibration, water, steam, shock, sunlight, temperature extremes (-65°C to +165°C), flames, radiation, operational stress, humidity, ozone, UV light and many chemicals.

The cables are UL recognized, CE conforming, RoHS and REACH compliant, and class 1 clean room rated.

Flexible cables get tough

The new EcoFlex® PUR continuous flex cables from Alpha Wire are 40 percent smaller and 44 percent lighter than typical continuous flex cables. An addition to the EcoGen™ range, 600V EcoFlex PUR cables use mPPE insulation and an abrasion-resistant polyurethane jacket.

"Saving weight and space is critical in industrial machinery, mining equipment, and outdoor applications, especially those utilizing cable tracks," said Justin Dubow, senior product manager at Alpha Wire.

"But the weight and space savings cannot come at the expense of durability and reliable performance in these demanding applications. At eight million flex cycles and counting, EcoFlex PUR has proven itself to be

just as durable as traditional continuous flex cables, but with the additional weight and size savings and zero halogen value only an EcoGen product could offer."

The zero halogen PUR jacket offers high abrasion-oil-and UV radiation-resistance, and remains flexible at temperatures down to -40°C. The mPPE insulation contributes to the size and weight savings, and enables the cables to meet RoHS and REACH requirements for the elimination of hazardous substances and recyclability.

EcoFlex PUR cables are available in over 120 standard shielded and unshielded configurations, with up to 36 conductors.

Getting wind of new products

Helukabel showcased its latest cabling technologies for the wind energy industry at May's annual conference and exhibition, Windpower 2015, hosted by the American wind energy association (AWEA).

Ten cables were introduced, with five using copper as a conductor and five using aluminum.

Helukabel has added four cables – Heluwind WK 110-torsion, Heluwind WK 110-torsion multi, Heluwind WK MS-single-torsion 610, and Heluwind WK MS single-310-torsion – to its torsion cable portfolio. These cables have been tested in Helukabel's wind turbine test simulator for up to 15,000 torsion cycles. A power cable for vertical elevators in wind turbines – Heluwind WK lift – has also been added.

Aluminum cables and wires are gaining popularity for their reduced weight (70 percent lighter than copper) and their ability to perform comparably to their copper counterparts with only a minimal size increase to the cable or wire's diameter. Helukabel has expanded its aluminum cable offering for the wind sector with five additional single and multi-conductor power cables – Heluwind WK Powerline alu MS-single, Heluwind WK Powerline alu single, Heluwind WK Powerline alu multicore, aluminum MV-90 and MV-105.

To ensure that its latest cables can connect to other wind turbine subsystems, the connection technology product range has been expanded with additional aluminum and aluminum/copper hybrid compression terminal pins, shear bolt connectors and lugs, junction boxes and cable connectors.

Seabed survey

Teledyne TSS has extended its subsea monitoring range with Powertrack, believed to be the world's first tracking system for live seabed power cables.

A variant of the company's TSS 350 system, used worldwide on ROVs, Powertrack is capable of detecting the harmonics of AC tones in all AC and DC utility cables, regardless of whether or not they are carrying power.

Unlike conventional pipelines, cables have a much smaller metallic profile and are therefore considerably harder to detect.

Developed to meet the specific demands of the offshore power generation sector, the system weighs just 17kg and is depth rated to 3,000m. It is capable of detecting a cable at a vertical range of up to 10m and within a total horizontal swathe width, centered on a coil array, of 20m.

If power is not being carried by a cable at the time of a survey, a tone of 30mA at 25Hz can be generated for detection purposes.

New EDM

The new MA series of wire cut EDM machines from Seibu has been designed to reduce energy consumption, while improving productivity.



▲ The new MA series of wire cut EDM machines
Photograph courtesy of CNC International

The machines offer a cutting accuracy of ±3µm and a wire diameter capacity of 0.1mm-0.3mm. The mid-range M50A provides a working envelope of 800mm x 650mm x 300mm and accommodates workpieces weighing up to 800kg – all within a footprint of 2,235mm x 2,400mm.

Among optional extras on the M50A is a Core Stitch function (instead of leaving a tag, when using brass wire the machine welds the core in place as it cuts, so the operator only has to tap the core to remove it); EL coating, where a coating on the brass wire prevents cobalt from dissolving in the water when machining tungsten carbide; and Thermal Adjust 24, which maintains the vertical positioning of the wire by correcting any thermal displacement caused by a temperature difference between the upper and lower heads.

The M50A has a round diamond die guide to improve precision, while a jet feed guide flushes water from the upper nozzle to improve feed rates.

Restoring power on-site

Nexans' temporary site cables are designed for use in a high voltage network during repair work on overhead lines or in transformer stations when converting networks.

The temporary site cables are custom made, and feature multi-strand copper conductors with cross-sections of 150mm² and 300mm². They are similar in design to high voltage cables, but a high-purity insulation allows for a reduced insulation thickness, producing a compact cable with reduced outer diameter and weight.

Site cables are available in 110, 132, 150 or 230kV and in lengths of 50m to 500m. They can carry a current up to 750A or be connected in parallel to double the capacity.

The cables act as a temporary bridge within or between cable or OHL circuits, as well as providing emergency power supply as a contingency or within an emergency return to service requirement.

More data, more speed

The 1620 Softnode platform from Alcatel-Lucent Submarine Networks will enable the transmission of 240Tbit/s on multiple fiber pairs, and has been selected by GoTo Networks for the Australia West Express system. The platform's capabilities were demonstrated recently, during a field trial conducted over the Africa Coast to Europe (ACE) system, which has been in service since December 2012. The field trial demonstrated a transmission of 12.6Tbit/s of data per fiber pair.

The 1620 Softnode platform leverages the 1620LM submarine line terminal equipment, and will provide web-scale connectivity between data centers and points-of-presence in different continents. It will offer complete scalability – from the smallest upgrades to the largest new systems – faster transmission speeds, and a wider range of channel spacings on longer routes, maximizing capacity and flexibility over undersea systems of any reach.

Olivier Gautheron, chief technology officer of Alcatel-Lucent Submarine Networks, said: "New undersea plant is emerging, offering larger spectrum and more fiber pairs to serve new data centers with ultra high capacity. At the same time, existing undersea

plant designed with legacy technology needs to better support design capacity, connectivity and flexibility. By evolving the 1620 SLTE architecture to Softnode, new and enhanced node configurations will provide more advantages over traditional submarine cable architectures, both at node level and at system level."



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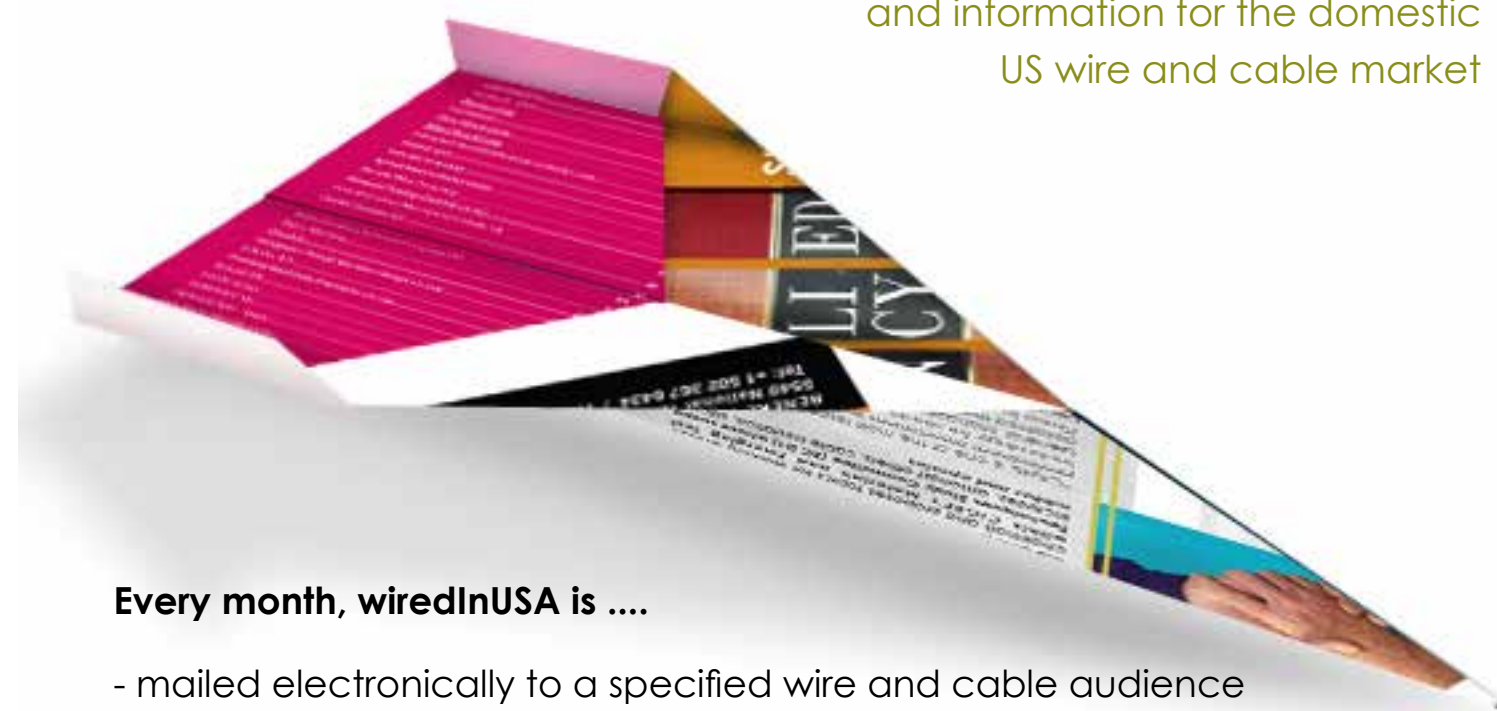
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The image shows a social media feed for 'wiredInUSA'. It features several article thumbnails with titles like 'Add for cheap energy tests to...', 'Up and running in California...', and 'wiredIn USA'. Below the feed, there is a blue banner that says 'You can get all the latest news daily' and two buttons: 'Follow us on Twitter' and 'Like us on Facebook'.

The image shows the logo for the Professional Publishers Association (PPA), which consists of the letters 'PPA' in white on a blue square background. To the right of the logo, the text reads: 'wiredInUSA is a member of the Professional Publishers Association'.

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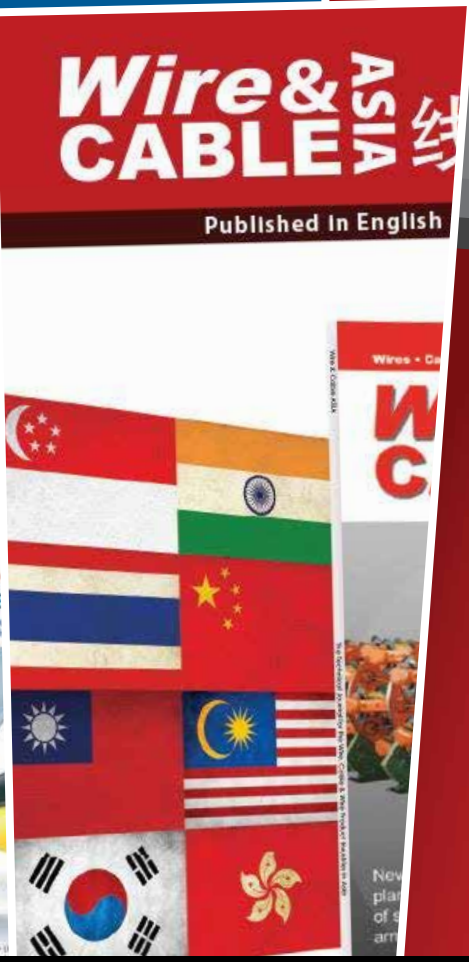
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