

GLOBAL LEADER IN CABLE INDUSTRY

Nexans is the global leader in the energy-based cable connector industry. It specialises in high voltage cable connectors for the wind turbine industry and innovative products for the 'smartgrid' solutions sector.



Nexans is recognised globally as the leading expert in the cable industry with energy as the basis for its development. The company is a global player in the infrastructure, construction and local area network (LAN) markets as well as being involved in key industrial market sectors.

Nexans offers an extensive range of cables and cabling systems that are designed to raise industrial productivity, improve business performance and enhance both reliability and security. With an industrial presence in over 40 countries and commercial activities worldwide, the Nexans Group employs more than 23,000 people worldwide. Nexans is listed on the Euronext stock exchange as well as on the New York stock exchange.

Diverse products with global reach

Nexans serves more than 100 countries worldwide and historically Europe has been its main market. However, even with its strong move into the emerging Asian and South American markets, Europe remains very important to the company. The key industries Nexans serves are the world's main OEM utility companies, including Siemens, Schneider, ABB, Ormazabal and CG, for whom it produces switchgear and transformers as well as cable solutions. This is in addition to the traditional utility companies it serves, such as EON, EDF RWC and Scottish Power. The company is a tier-one and tier-two supplier to OEM wind-turbine companies, installers and other renewable players, in both the OEM and infrastructure sectors.

In the infrastructure sector, Nexans supplies a wide range of products including medium voltage connectors, surge arrestors, cold and heat-shrink joints, and bushings for transformers and switchgear. In addition, the company also supplies technical training and 'pre-made Jumpers' for the renewable infrastructure sector. For the industrial sector it offers a complete portfolio of cables and solutions for markets as diverse as automotive, rolling stock and aerospace, as well as for shipbuilding, nuclear power, oil and gas and the petrochemical industry. In building and construction, it supplies cables and network solutions for residences, public buildings and big industrial complexes. Local area networks >

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rely on Nexans for copper and optical fibre cabling systems for new, resource-intensive applications such as data centres, security services and storage area networks.

The company also continues to invest heavily in new technology and recently installed fully robotised compact connector production facilities at its plant in France, as well as acquiring the latest CNC machinery for production of its metal contacts in Germany.

Innovation driving sales

Innovation continues to be the key driver for the success of the Nexans Group's global operations. This commitment to innovation has resulted in major contracts being awarded to the company recently, including a breakthrough order in the Malaysian offshore sector with a subsea umbilical order for the F29 field development project. It also recently won a €11 million order for its XLPE cable solution to support the future develop-

ment and expansion of Beijing's power transmission infrastructure.

Nexans R&D has also developed new connector ranges specifically for use in wind turbines, as a company representative explains: "We have built the biggest manufacturing plant in Europe for shielded connectors in view of the way that the renewable market is growing. We are active in two separate markets here. The first is the OEM market where we sell our products direct to Enercon and the other

Bekina Compounds

Bekina Compounds has been supplying specialty rubber compounds to Nexans since 1993, complying with Nexans' high demands for electrical insulation and high permittivity applications. The basis for this successful partnership between Nexans and Bekina Compounds is the extremely modern automated production facility of BEKINA and top-level control equipment. Bekina also specializes in water swellable sealing systems and fire resistant and intumescent compounds.





big companies, and the second is the wind infrastructure market. This is where we develop products for connections between offshore and onshore operations for the utilities and independents. Today, there are many new players outside the traditional power utilities and we have a vast array of customers in the wind turbine construction sector.

“Currently we are making ‘jumpers’, which offer pre-mounted cable solutions that are developed inside our factories and tested and industrially prepared prior to installation, which you cannot do in the field. We are also making much more compact connectors today that are capable of higher voltage levels as the wind turbines increase in size and power, and we offer similar solutions for solar power plants. These sophisticated compact cables have been designed specifically for use in the internal cabling of wind turbine towers and offer

unparalleled durability and reliability. Long life cycles of 30–40 years are standard for these products. In another development, the evolution of ‘smartgrid’ for the renewable sector presents new opportunities for us, along with the trend towards new electrical vehicles. We are focused on preparing solutions for these future challenges, at our R&D facilities and global competence centres around the world.”

Turnkey solutions at Nexans Benelux

Like the other companies in the Nexans Group, the Benelux company possesses wide, specialist expertise and knowledge of the cable industry and as one of the country’s biggest manufacturers is heavily represented in the industrial market. In addition to cables, components and accessories, the company also offers comprehensive turnkey solutions for its customers.

Currently the Nexans company in Belgium employs over 300 people and has three production plants. Nexan’s site in Charleroi produces medium and high voltage cables for 6–500kV with synthetic insulation (XPLE), and has its own testing laboratory. The Charleroi facility also takes care of the installation of cables and accessories for the Nexans Group. The company’s site in Dour in Belgium manufactures medium and low voltage cables of up to 6kV as well as serial cables, and at Buizingen, also in Belgium, cables for domestic use are produced. These are low voltage cables and PVC mixtures required for the insulation and outer sheathing of cables manufactured on-site. The logistics centre responsible for cutting and shipping all the company’s cables produced for the European market is also located at Buizingen. □