



Press Release

2008 first-quarter financial information

- **Further organic growth in cable business of 6.4%***
- **First-half growth rate expected to be above 6%**
- **First semester 2008 profitability expected to show marked improvement: operating margin expected to be between 8.5% and 9%, compared with 7.6% in the first half of 2007**

Paris, April 22, 2008 – Nexans today announced 2008 first-quarter sales of **1,743** million euros (at actual non-ferrous metal prices). At constant non-ferrous metal prices**, the quarter's sales stood at **1,192** million euros.

Organic growth in the cable business was **6.4%***** (up 2.3% including electrical wires business for which the Group is gradually limiting production to its own internal needs).

For the first half of 2008, the Group is expecting the trends observed in the first quarter to continue, with organic growth of the cable business above 6% due to strong growth in energy cables, continuing growth in industry and steady business in building.

In terms of profitability, the Group should see additional improvement with the operating margin at June 30, 2008 expected to be between 8.5% and 9%, compared with 7.6% at June 30, 2007, on sales at constant metal prices. Improved performance is supported by the energy and industry cables segments, despite a slight drop in the profitability on building cables.

At June 30, 2008, the Group is expecting the net financial debt to be at a level significantly lower than at June 30, 2007 (533 million euros).

* **Reminder: As 2007 first-quarter sales had increased sharply (cf. April 17, 2007 press release) the comparison base effect is significant.**

** To neutralize the effect of variations in the purchase price of non-ferrous metals and thus measure the underlying sales trend, Nexans also calculates its sales using a constant price for copper and aluminum.

*** 2007 sales on the basis of comparable data correspond to constant metal sales, recalculated after estimated adjustments for comparable scope and exchange rates. The exchange rate effect amounts to a negative 20 million euros mainly because of the US dollar's decline, and scope effects for a negative 10 million euros.

CONSOLIDATED SALES BY BUSINESS SEGMENT

(in millions of euros)	Q1 2007		Q1 2008	Organic growth (calculated on non-rounded figures)
	At constant metal prices (**)	On the basis of comparable data (***)	At constant metal prices (**)	
Energy business				
– Energy infrastructures	371	379	441	+16.4%
– Industry	255	229	237	+3.8%
– Building	288	296	294	-0.7%
Telecom business				
– Telecom infrastructures	65	63	58	-8.5%
– Private networks (LAN)	71	71	72	+2.5%
Other	1	1	4	N/A
Sub-total: Cable business	1,051	1,039	1,106	+6.4%
Electrical wires	143	126	86	-31.3%
Group total	1,194	1,165	1,192	+2.3%

- **Energy infrastructures: growth increasing at a quicker pace**

The organic growth of the energy infrastructures business amounted to 16.4%. It has sharply increased compared with the first quarter 2007. Numerous high-voltage contracts awarded in the last few months were invoiced in the first quarter 2008. This growth has been made possible by the sustained investment policy in 2006 and 2007. The high-voltage business order backlog is close to 1,300 million euros at actual copper prices at end March 2008, representing an increase of 20% compared with year end 2007.

- **Industry: continuing growth in industry cables**

Special cables sales, directed towards multinational OEMs, were up by 3.8% in organic terms. Sales of industry cables to Nexans' priority market segments have increased at a faster rate than the Group average. For example, the growth rates for marine cables and oil and gas cables have been particularly strong, confirming the very buoyant nature of these two main markets: oil & gas and transport. Sales of special cables to telecom OEMs in Europe and China have slightly decreased.

- **Building: steady business**

First quarter 2008 sales have remained stable. This should be viewed in relation to the very high comparative base of the same quarter a year earlier, in which growth of 16.7% had been recorded. Sales increased slightly over the last quarter 2007, with volumes remaining strong, but prices falling in North America.

- **Telecom Infrastructures: slower sales for copper telecommunications cables**

The slower telecommunications infrastructures business has been factored into the Group's strategy of selling off its copper telecom cable business in Spain.

- **Private Networks (LAN): growth still strong in North America**

LAN cable business was up sharply (7%) in North America, and holding steady in Europe.

- **Electrical wires: ongoing strategy to refocus on the Group's own needs**

Sales of electrical wires dropped by 31% (at constant metal prices, comparable scope and exchange rates), as a result of the ongoing strategy to focus on the Group's own internal needs.

DEVELOPMENTS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

CONSOLIDATED SALES BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

(in millions of euros)	Q1 2007		Q1 2008	Organic growth (calculated on non-rounded figures)
	At constant metal prices (**)	On the basis of comparable data (***)	At constant metal prices (**)	
Europe	727	732	778	+6.4%
North America	106	96	102	+5.7%
Asia-Pacific	133	127	129	+1.2%
Rest of the World	85	84	97	+15.0%
Sub-total: Cable business	1,051	1,039	1,106	+6.4%
Electrical wires ****	143	126	86	-31.3%
Group total	1,194	1,165	1,192	+2.3%

(****)The breakdown of "electrical wires" sales by geographic area for the quarter in 2007 was: Europe 71 million euros; North America 68 million euros, and Asia-Pacific 4 million euros. In 2008, the breakdown by geographic area is: Europe 46 million euros and North America 40 million euros.

- **Europe: strong growth in high-voltage energy infrastructures cables**

Organic growth in the first quarter 2008 stood at 6.4% for the cable business. This increase is largely attributable to energy infrastructures cable business (up 16.8%), especially underground and submarine high-voltage cables. The building cable business remained stable.

- **North America: growth driven by energy and industry cables**

The cable business organic growth was 5.7% despite a slight 2.1% drop in building cables; these trends are in line with those observed in the last quarter of 2007. Strong volume sales helped in part offset the downward trend in prices.

Energy infrastructures cable sales were up sharply (17.9%), a development mainly attributable to the end of the strike in the Quebec (Canada) plant. Electronic cables continued their recovery with business rising by 16.1%.

- **Asia-Pacific: growth penalized by the shutdown of the Telecom cable business in Vietnam**

The modest 2008 first-quarter organic growth (up 1.2%) was due to the shutdown of production of the Copper Telecom cable business in Vietnam. But, growth is strong for building cables in Australia, energy infrastructures cables in South Korea and marine cables in China.

- **Rest of the World: strong growth in all countries in this geographic area**

Organic growth in the Rest of the World geographic area amounted to 15% in the first quarter.

It was particularly strong in energy infrastructures cables in Brazil, Lebanon and Egypt; automotive cables in Morocco; and LAN cables in Turkey.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FIRST HALF 2008

Ongoing business growth and improvement in profitability support the Group's 6% organic growth target for its cable business. The Group is also aiming for an operating margin of between 8.5% and 9%, under economic conditions comparable to those observed in the first quarter 2008.

Financial calendar

April 22, 2008, 3:00pm (Paris time): Shareholder information meeting in Paris (Musée d'Orsay)

April 24, 2008 (upon opening of the market): dividend detachment

April 29, 2008: Payment of the dividend

June 3, 2008: Individual shareholder information meeting in Dijon*

June 5, 2008: Individual shareholder information meeting in Lille*

July 24, 2008: Publication of 2008 first-half sales and results

September 30, 2008: Individual shareholder information meeting in Nice*

November 24, 2008: Individual shareholder information meeting in Reims*

(*Approximate dates to be confirmed)

About Nexans

With energy cables as its core, Nexans, the worldwide leader in the cable industry, offers an extensive range of cables (copper, aluminum and optical fiber) and cabling systems. The Group's strategy is focused on infrastructure, industrial and construction markets. Nexans develops solutions for industry sectors such as shipbuilding, oil and gas, nuclear, automotive, electronics, aeronautics, handling and automation and includes an offering dedicated to public and private (local area) telecommunications networks.

With an industrial presence in more than 30 countries and commercial activities worldwide, Nexans employs 21,000 people and had sales in 2006 of 7.5 billion euros. Nexans is listed on the Paris stock exchange, compartment A of the Eurolist of Euronext. More information on <http://www.nexans.com/>

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APPENDIX 1

	First quarter 2007	First quarter 2 008
At actual metal prices	1 805	1 743
At constant metal prices	1 194	1 192

Sales at actual metal prices by business segment		
Energy	1 246	1 335
Telecom	166	155
Other	1	3
Electrical wires	392	250
Group total	1 805	1 743

Sales at constant metal prices by business segment		
Energy	914	972
Telecom	136	130
Other	1	4
Electrical wires	143	86
Group total	1 194	1 192

Sales at actual metal prices by geographic area of activity		
Europe	1 137	1 122
North America	337	284
Asia-Pacific	204	193
Rest of the World	127	144
Group total	1 805	1 743

Sales at constant metal prices by geographic area of activity		
Europe	798	824
North America	174	141
Asia-Pacific	137	129
Rest of the World	85	97
Group total	1 194	1 192