



Nexans signs a 22-million euros contract with Shell for an umbilical cable installation

This undersea cable, laid at record depths, will interlink six oil platforms to the continent in the Gulf of Mexico

Paris, 10 April 2001 - Shell has awarded Nexans, the world leader in undersea power and umbilical cables, a contract worth 22 million euros for the supply and installation of a 135 km long umbilical cable.

Capable of conveying fluids, electricity and telecommunication signals, this cable will interlink six oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. It will be laid at depths attaining 2300 metres (7500 ft), a world record for this type of installation.

"Achieving the required performance levels at such depths represents a real technological challenge and confirms our global leadership in this activity. In fact, we are the first company to master all the constraints involved in this type of undersea installation. By once again choosing Nexans for the realisation of a major contract, Shell confirms that we are at the cutting edge of technology", states Yvon Raak, President of the Nexans Energy Division.

The equipment will be manufactured in Nexans' specialised undersea cable plant in Norway. The installation work is scheduled for completion at the beginning of 2003.

About Nexans

Formed from Alcatel Cables and Components, Nexans ranks among the top three in the cable industry. Nexans product portfolio includes an extensive range of cables and system. Nexans solutions can be found in every area of people's lives, from telecommunications and energy networks, to aeronautics aerospace, automobile, building, petrochemical and medical applications. Operating in 20 countries, Nexans employs 18,500 people and has sales in 2000 of euros 4.8 billion. More information on www.nexans.com

About Shell

Shell has more than one hundred years' experience in oil exploration and the production of petroleum products. Today the company has production and operating interests in more than 45 countries and employs over 30,000 people. In its role as an Operator, Shell is responsible for gas and petrol production in 21 countries.

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