



Press release

Nexans to deliver the world's first subsea umbilical with integrated high voltage cable in the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico

98 million NOK power-umbilical contract for deep waters in the Gulf of Mexico will be a major advance in subsea technology*

Paris, November 4, 2005 – Nexans, the worldwide leader in the cable industry, has been awarded a 98 million NOK contract by BP America Production Company to design and manufacture the world's first subsea service umbilical to integrate a HV (high voltage) cable. The 26 km power-umbilical is to be installed in the Gulf of Mexico as part of a project to retrofit two existing subsea wells in BP's King Complex with multi-phase pumps.

Integration of the power cable and umbilical functions in a single unit will enable a HV (24 kV) supply to be provided in deep waters, which has not previously been possible. In addition, it will be more efficient to transport and install one power-umbilical rather than separate umbilical and power cables.

The concept of integrating HV electrical power cables in a subsea umbilical is very challenging from both the mechanical and electrical design aspects, with electrical interference between conductors and inductive losses in the steel tubes of particular concern. An additional challenge is that the cable will operate at depths of over 1,700 metres.

Two existing Subsea wells in the BP King Complex are planned to be retrofitted with multi-phase pumps. The King Subsea development is tied back to the Marlin Tension Leg Platform (TLP), located approximately 135 km south east of New Orleans Louisiana in block Viosca Knoll, at 988 m water depth.

* US Dollar equivalence: 15 million USD based on exchange rate on November 2, 2005.

The umbilical system for this project consists of a main dynamic and an infield umbilical to provide the necessary services to accommodate the two subsea well pumping systems. These services include high voltage (HV) electrical power, low voltage (LV) electrical power, fiber optic communications, and chemical injection and lube oil services.

The umbilical will be manufactured at Nexans' plant in Halden Norway while the fiber optic element and LV cables will be delivered by Nexans factory in Rognan in the North of Norway. The contract award is a part of a frame agreement with BP America Production Company which started in 2002 with the Thunder Horse and Atlantis projects.

The delivery of the King umbilical is scheduled for the second half of 2006.

About Nexans

Nexans is the worldwide leader in the cable industry. The Group brings an extensive range of advanced copper and optical fiber cable solutions to the infrastructure, industry and building markets. Nexans cables and cabling systems can be found in every area of people's lives, from telecommunications and energy networks, to aeronautics, aerospace, automobile, railways, building, petrochemical, medical applications, etc. With an industrial presence in 29 countries and commercial activities throughout the world, Nexans employs 20,000 people and had sales in 2004 of 4.8 billion euros. Nexans is listed on the Paris stock exchange. More information available on www.nexans.com

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