



Press release

Nexans and Sercel successfully trial advanced seismic sea bed system

Paris, 20th November, 2001 - Nexans and Sercel SA* have successfully performed the first field trial of a new seabed seismic system, 'Deep Sea Link', which the two companies have been co-developing together for several years. The field trial took place in a fjord in Norway at a water depth of 500 m, and several different handling exercises were conducted over a period of 5 days. All the tests were regarded as very successful.

The seabed seismic system can 'see' details of the subsurface which 'traditional' marine seismic surveys (conducted on the sea surface) cannot detect. A permanently installed seabed seismic system can also give repeated surveys with a much better accuracy than a traditional marine survey. The system can, therefore, be used both for surveys to locate new oil and gas reservoirs, and to monitor a reservoir during production in order to increase the yield from the reservoir.

The prime end users, for data provided by 'Deep Sea Link', are oil companies, but seismic contractors are involved in the acquisition of the data. Thus, both are potential customers for this system.

Commenting on the success of the trials, Pascal Portevin, President Telecom Division, Nexans, said: " *We are very satisfied that the 'Deep Sea Link' system has performed so well in the trials. Nexans demonstrates in that way its technological innovation capacities in high value added areas. This system will be an invaluable tool to our customers involved in oil research.*"

Nexans' focus, in this co-operation, is the supply of the cable and cable terminations and Sercel on the sensors, electronic hardware and data acquisition system software.

Note to Editors

About 'Deep Sea Link'

Deep Sea Link consists of an instrumented communications cable deployed on the seabed down to depths of 2000 m, with units containing sensors (3 orthogonally mounted geophones and 1 hydrophone) and electronics distributed at short intervals along the entire length of the cable. The end product of the system is a 3-D image of the subsurface, showing the geological structures of oil and gas reservoirs. Both the cable, cable terminations, sensors, electronics and the sensor-/electronics packages have been extensively tested in laboratories in Norway

and France before taking them to the field trial. The sensor and electronics performance was monitored during all the mechanical stress tests.

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 systems can be found in every area of people's lives, from telecommunications and energy networks, to aeronautics, aerospace, automobile, building, petrochemical, medical applications, etc. Operating in more than 20 countries, Nexans employs 19,000 people and had sales in 2000 of euros 4.8 billion. More information on www.nexans.com

***About Sercel**

Sercel has been a leading player in the seismic acquisition industry for over forty years, supplying the geophysical industry with a full range of high-tech integrated equipment to meet the requirements of current oil exploration projects. With its technological prowess and in-depth knowledge of client needs, SERCEL has over the years built up its reputation on equipment which offer an intrinsic combination of high-quality, reliability and flexibility. More information on www.sercel.com

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