



Press release

Nexans signs an exclusive cooperation agreement for plastic-metal composite pipe production

Paris, January 17, 2005 – Nexans announces that its Machinery unit based in Hanover in Germany has signed an exclusive cooperation agreement with the Austrian company Cincinnati Extrusion GmbH. This agreement concerns the sale of equipment used to manufacture plastic-metal composite pipes.

Through this partnership, the two companies will, from now on, operate as joint suppliers in the global market of gas and water composite pipe manufacturing lines for both residential and industrial purposes. Nexans and Cincinnati Extrusion expect strong demand for such high-performance equipment, especially in Eastern Europe and the United States.

The alliance of two experts

Each composite pipe manufacturing line will consist of a longitudinal welding line, from Nexans for the metal part, and of extrusion systems from Cincinnati Extrusion for the plastic part. Nexans is a renowned supplier of welding lines for cable and tube industries whilst Cincinnati Extrusion is one of the world's leading manufacturers of pipe and profile extrusion machinery. Thanks to the high technological standards of both companies, the turn-key manufacturing lines will provide customers with high-quality composite pipes, high production reliability, low maintenance requirements and an attractive price/performance ratio.

Continuous technological development, such as the fully continuous TwinTorch® TIG welding system as an alternative to more expensive laser welding, and automatic high-precision manufacturing of inner plastic pipes, will ensure that these turn-key production lines remain up to latest technological standards.

About the SMS group and Cincinnati Extrusion GmbH

Cincinnati Extrusion GmbH is a member of SMS Plastics Technology Group. The SMS group is internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering relating to the processing of steel, non-ferrous metals and plastics. The group is divided into the Business Areas of Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill Technology, Tube, Long Product and Forging Technology and Plastics Technology. In the year 2003 around 9500 employees worldwide generated a turnover of around EUR 2.20 bn.

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 in 65 countries, Nexans employs 17,000 people and had sales in 2003 of 4 billion euros. Nexans is listed on the Paris stock exchange. - <http://www.nexans.com>

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