



Press release

Innopower chooses Nexans technology for China's first High Temperature Superconducting power cable project

Paris, 17 April, 2003 - Nexans is participating in China's first High Temperature Superconducting (HTS) power cable project, led by Innopower Superconductor Cable Co., Ltd. The project is based at a power station in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province in southern China.

The 30-meter long three-phase HTS cable, rated at 35kV and 2kA, will be installed in spring 2004 in the Yunnan Electric Power Group Co Ltd's power grid. Nexans will supply both the electrical and the thermal insulations.

A CRYOFLEX[®] vacuum-insulated flexible cryogenic envelope will provide the thermal insulation required to maintain the cable core at its operating temperature of about -200°C.

Dr. Ying Xin, General Manager of Innopower, commented : *"We chose Nexans because it is a world leader in flexible cryogenic envelopes, in addition to its broad expertise in cable manufacturing. We have a corporate agreement with Nexans to collaborate in developing HTS cable technology and we look forward to further joint projects in this field. "*

Jean-Maxime Saugrain, Nexans' Superconductor Activity Manager added : *"Flexible cryogenic envelopes have been supplied by Nexans for more than 20 years and we have gained considerable experience through our participation in numerous projects involving cryogenic fluids. This technology is now available for providing the thermal insulation of HTS cables. "*

Note

A High Temperature Superconducting (HTS) cable can carry several times more current than a conventional copper cable with the same cross section. The current flows through HTS tapes which exhibit a zero resistance when cooled with liquid nitrogen at about -200°C. A flexible cryogenic envelope is required to maintain the cable core at this operating temperature. HTS cables are expected to be used in power transmission and distribution networks.

The Nexans CRYOFLEX[®] vacuum-insulated cryogenic envelopes consist of two flexible and concentric corrugated tubes made of stainless steel. The outer part of the inner tube is covered with layers of superinsulation. A spacer with low thermal loss centers the inner tube inside the outer tube and prevents any contact between the two metallic tubes. A molecular sieve guarantees a long-term vacuum. The outer tube may be protected with a polyethylene jacket. The envelopes, together with their associated terminations and hardware, are assembled, leak-tested and evacuated at the Nexans factory. This permits simple and cost saving installation at the customer's site. The flexibility of the cryogenic envelope enables it to be handled like a cable.

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 28 countries and commercial activities in 65 countries, Nexans employs 17,150 people and had sales in 2002 of euros 4.3 billion. Nexans is listed on the Paris stock exchange. More information on www.nexans.com

About Innopower

Innopower Superconductor Cable Co.,Ltd is the first HTS (High Temperature Superconductor) power cable manufacturer in China. It is currently focused on developing and manufacturing China's first HTS power cable system. In five years, it will manufacture HTS cables with greater length and higher capacity, develop other innovative devices, superconducting or otherwise, for power utility applications, and venture into other areas of superconductor technology. More information on www.innopower.com.

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