



Press release

**First quarter 2006 sales:
Organic growth of over 7%**

Proposal to accelerate conversion of OCEANE bonds

Paris, April 26, 2006 - Nexans announces first quarter 2006 sales of **1,659** million euros (at current non-ferrous metal prices*).

*Sales at constant non-ferrous metal prices*** were **1,095** million euros, which at constant exchange rates represents:

- + **11.5%** compared with the first quarter of 2005 in the current scope of consolidation
- + **16.3%** on a comparable scope of consolidation
- + **7.3%** on a comparable scope of consolidation and number of working days***

This growth is accompanied by an increase in profitability in line with the Group's objectives for 2006 and 2007.

The economic environment in which the Group operates is however characterized by a sharp increase in non-ferrous metal prices, including copper which has increased, since 1 January 2006, by more than 2,200 euros a ton or over 57%. This increase, practically the whole of which is passed on to customers, has had a positive effect on net income (variation in the fair value of non-ferrous metal-based financial instruments (IAS 39), and should result in debt at the end of 2006 of close to 450 million euros, all other relevant factors unchanged.

In this context, the Company has already started negotiations with its customers to reduce payment terms in particular for bare wires, and is pursuing its strategic review of how to position those of its activities which are highly copper consumptive. Furthermore, in view of the sharp rise in the share price, the meeting of Nexans Board of Directors which was held on 29 March decided, in addition to the cancellation of 2 221 199 treasury shares, to call a meeting of the holders of its OCEANE bonds to propose an amendment to the early redemption clause at the option of the issuer. If this amendment is approved, Nexans will reduce its reported debt by 117 million euros (cf. the related press release published today).

* At current metal prices, first quarter 2005 sales were 1,143 million euros (IFRS5, see Appendix).

** To neutralize the effect of variations in the purchase price of non-ferrous metals and thus measure the effective underlying sales trend, Nexans also calculates its sales using a constant price for copper and aluminum.

*** Estimated.

In view of the above, the Company remains confident that it has the ability to limit the adverse impact of the evolution of non-ferrous metal prices on the indebtedness of the Group.

Consolidated sales by business sector

(in millions of euro)	At constant metal prices		At constant metal prices and exchange rates	
	Q ₁ 05	Q ₁ 06	Q ₁ 05	Q ₁ 06
Energy	632	710	650	710
Telecom	134	159	139	159
Electrical Wires	180	224	191	224
Other	2	2	2	2
Total	948	1,095	982	1,095

▪ Energy: positive environment in all markets

(main businesses – constant metal prices and exchange rates)

in millions of euro	Q1.05	Q1.06
Infrastructure	242	284
Building	254	247
Industry	142	161

The cable market for infrastructure confirmed the favorable trend in high voltage and umbilical cables. Demand for medium and low voltage cables was also stronger, particularly in the United States, driven by the need to maintain power grids.

The good trend for Building activity (after the disposal of the distribution businesses) reflects the significant improvement in volumes and margins both in Europe and North America.

There was also an improvement in speciality cables, thanks to strong demand for cables with high added value.

▪ Telecom: growth in private local area networks

(constant metal prices and exchange rates)

in millions of euros	Q1.05	Q1.06
Infrastructure	54	61
Private local area networks	55	64
Industry	30	34

The Telecom business is continuing its recovery.
Volume growth was strong in all three business sectors, particularly for private local area networks in the United States and Europe.

▪ **Electrical Wires: volumes which are not sufficiently profitable**
(constant metal prices and exchange rates)

in millions of euros	Q1.05	Q1.06
Bare wires (machine and electrical)	175	206
Winding wires	16	18

There was a clear rebound in electrical wire volumes, with profitability however remaining weak.

Sales by geographic zone

(in millions of euros)	At constant metal prices		At constant metal prices and exchange rates	
	Q ₁ 05	Q ₁ 06	Q₁ 05	Q₁ 06
Europe	691	742	689	742
North America	156	218	176	218
Asia	47	62	56	62
Rest of the World	54	73	61	73
Total	948	1,095	982	1,095

Quarterly sales in Europe were 742 million euros. Restructuring in this area is continuing, and there has been a noticeable increase in operating margin.

There was a significant increase in sales recorded in North America across all the business activities.

Activity in Asia, where the Group is seeking more profitable growth, was generally stable.

Growth in the Rest of the World was very strong due to continued high demand for electricity networks in developing countries.

Financial calendar

May 15, 2006: AGM of shareholders (on second call) at the Musée du Louvre
May 15, 2006: AGM of OCEANE bondholders at the head office of Nexans
May 19, 2006: payment of dividend
July 25, 2006: publication of first half 2006 sales and results
October 3, 2006*: information meeting for individual shareholders in Versailles
October 24, 2006*: information meeting for individual shareholders in Tours
November 13, 2006*: information meeting for individual shareholders in Lyon
December 7, 2006*: information meeting for individual shareholders in Montpellier

* *provisional dates*

About Nexans

Nexans is the worldwide leader in the cable industry. The Group brings an extensive range of advanced copper and optical fiber 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 2005 of 5.4 billion euros. Nexans is listed on the Paris stock exchange. More information available on <http://www.nexans.com/>

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Appendix

Consolidated sales by business sector at current metal prices

(in millions of euros)	At current metal prices	
	Q ₁ 05	Q ₁ 06
Energy	710	936
Telecom	142	178
Electrical Wires	289	543
Other	2	2
Total	1,143	1,659