

# IWMA INSIDER

THE OFFICIAL IWMA WIRE AND CABLE MEMBER MAGAZINE

JUNE 2026

The

# ORIGINAL



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- / wire Düsseldorf 2026: Highlights From the Show Floor and The Great Connection
- / Industry Insight: Middle East Risk, UK Steel Safeguarding and Market Pressure Points
- / Member Updates: PR, Launches and News From Across the IWMA Network

NETWORK / INNOVATE / DISCOVER

**IWMA**  
YOUR INDUSTRY INSIDER

**NEW**

**Zumbach**

SWISS PRIME MEASURING SINCE 1957



**300**

Line speed  
(m/min)



**2**

Min. object  
diameter (mm)



**108**

Max. object  
diameter (mm)



**140,000**

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(scans/s)

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#### Benefits:

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- ✓ Fast model recalibration
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- ✓ Statistical monitoring of defect frequency and distribution
- ✓ Identification of periodic or localised patterns
- ✓ Filtering of non critical defects based on class

# A Resilient Industry, A Stronger Future – Chairman’s Welcome

By Willibert Dautzenberg, IWMA Chairman

**One of the strongest impressions left by wire Düsseldorf this year was that our industry remains resilient, ambitious and ready to move forward, even in a world that continues to feel uncertain. Across the exhibition, there was clear evidence that businesses are facing pressure from many directions. Geopolitical instability, the ongoing effects of war, rising costs, trade uncertainty and changing government policies are all influencing decision-making across international manufacturing and supply chains.**

And yet, despite this, the mood in Düsseldorf was not one of retreat. It was one of determination. Companies were still investing in visibility, still travelling, still meeting customers and suppliers, and still looking for new partnerships and future opportunities. That’s an important message. It tells us that while businesses may be cautious, they’re not standing still. Our industry understands its importance and continues to respond with innovation, adaptability and international ambition.

This is one of the reasons why exhibitions remain so valuable. In more uncertain times, the importance of face-to-face connection becomes even greater. wire Düsseldorf once again reminded us that our industry is global, collaborative and deeply connected. It showed that progress is not made in isolation. It’s made through relationships, shared knowledge and the confidence to keep looking ahead. In our view, this was the best wire Düsseldorf yet, even if the airlines did their best to make attendance more difficult, and a very fitting way to celebrate 40 years of wire in Düsseldorf.

For IWMA, the week was a real success. It was a pleasure to welcome so many members to our stand, to see our hospitality and meeting facilities so well used, and to enjoy

another successful networking event in true IWMA style. Our FORUM Day also showed how much value there is in creating space not only for business meetings, but also for wider discussion, insight and industry exchange. We are very grateful to all those members who joined us and helped make the week such a strong one.

What Düsseldorf also confirmed for me is that the role of IWMA has never been more important. In a fast-changing market, members need more than a name on a list. They need opportunities to stay visible, to build relationships, to share news, to access markets and to remain part of the wider industry conversation. This is where IWMA can make a real difference. Our role is to connect, support and create opportunities for our members in practical ways that help businesses stay active and forward-looking.

That support continues as we now look ahead to wire China and wire India, where IWMA will once again be there in full force. Both exhibitions are important opportunities for our members to strengthen their presence in key international markets, and we’re looking forward to supporting them through our stand presence, hospitality, networking activity and pavilions. The second half of the year gives us more opportunities to keep that momentum going and to continue building strong international connections.

I’d also like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Lauren Lester to the IWMA office team as Membership and Office Administrator. Lauren joins us with strong administrative and organisational experience, and we’re very pleased to have her with us. I know she’ll be a valuable addition to the team and a great support to our members in the months and years ahead.

Later in the year, we’ll also look forward to another important highlight in the IWMA calendar when tickets for our Dinner Dance go on sale. We’re especially excited about this year’s venue, which promises a fantastic setting and a great view



for what I am sure will be another memorable evening for our members and guests. You can find out more on page 16.

As always, I would encourage every member to make full use of their IWMA membership. The members who gain the most are those who engage, participate and stay visible. Whether through exhibitions, events, networking, publications, training or editorial opportunities, IWMA is here to support your business. If you are joining us at our events, use them fully. If you are not travelling, there are still many ways to stay involved and benefit from being part of IWMA. The more actively you engage, the more value your membership can bring.

Our industry remains essential to the modern world, and the challenges around us only make strong industry communities more important. IWMA will continue to stand with our members, support them and create opportunities to help them move forward with confidence. I look ahead to the rest of 2026 with optimism and with a strong belief that, by working together, we can continue to strengthen both our businesses and our industry.

*With warm regards,*  
**Willibert Dautzenberg**  
**Chairman, IWMA**

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## INSIDER

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**China Edition**

Exhibitor Showcase: Meet the IWMA Members Heading to Shanghai

Market Focus: China and Asia-Pacific Opportunities

Shanghai Visitor Guide for the Wire and Cable Industry

**IWMA Member PR/editorial deadline: 5 August**

## On the cover

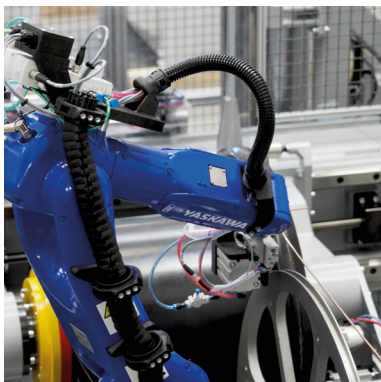
This issue's cover advertiser, SIKORA, has been developing advanced measuring and control technologies for the wire and cable industry for more than 50 years. The featured X-RAY 8000 ADVANCED reflects the company's focus on precision, quality assurance and process optimisation in cable production.

Find out more at [sikora.net](http://sikora.net).





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# Introducing IFSA: A New International Voice for the Fastener and Spring Industries

The IWMA is delighted to introduce the International Fastener and Spring Association (IFSA), a new trade association created to support, connect and represent businesses across the fastener and spring industries.

Launched in association with IWMA, IFSA has been developed to bring together manufacturers, suppliers, service providers and technical specialists working across two closely linked sectors that play an essential role in global manufacturing. From automotive and construction to energy, engineering, infrastructure and industrial supply chains, fasteners and springs are critical to the performance, safety and reliability of the products and systems the world depends on.



In a world shaped by rising costs, supply chain pressure, skills shortages, sustainability targets and increasing global competition, the need for strong industry networks has never been clearer. Businesses are being asked to adapt quickly, work smarter, build new relationships and stay close to changing market demands. IFSA has been created to help them do exactly that.

The association offers a platform for companies to connect, share knowledge, raise their profile and become part of a wider international



community. It's designed not simply as a member directory, but as an active network where businesses can build relationships, exchange ideas and contribute to the direction of their industries.

IFSA was officially launched at wire Düsseldorf 2026, one of the world's most important international trade fairs for wire, cable, machinery, fasteners, springs and associated manufacturing technologies. The event provided the ideal setting to introduce the association to a global audience, with many fastener and spring businesses already operating within or alongside the wire and machinery supply chain.

The launch included a meet and greet on the IWMA stand, giving companies the opportunity to hear more about IFSA, speak directly with those involved and understand how the association will develop. The response confirmed what many in the industry already know: there's a real appetite for a modern, international association that gives the fastener and spring sectors a stronger collective presence.

Jonathan Horsfall, who sits on the management committee for IFSA, explained the purpose behind the new association: ***"IFSA is here to support our industries. The purpose of the association is to create opportunities to connect with each other, learn from each other and strengthen businesses***

***in an increasingly complex and competitive world.***

***"For those not yet involved, it's a chance to be part of a network contributing to the direction of the industry. In an uncertain world, IFSA has a small but positive role to play in supporting our industry."***

Developed with the support and infrastructure of IWMA, IFSA benefits from immediate experience in international trade association management, exhibitions, events, member communications and industry engagement. This gives the new association a strong foundation from which to grow, while allowing it to build its own identity and programme shaped around the needs of the fastener and spring sectors.

Membership benefits include business visibility through the IFSA online member directory, PR and editorial opportunities, networking and social events, exhibition support, industry insight, technical knowledge-sharing and access to selected collaborative IWMA activities. Existing IWMA members are also being offered one year's free IFSA membership, creating an immediate opportunity to explore the benefits of the new network.

For companies working in fasteners, springs, machinery, materials, coatings, testing, services or related supply chain areas, IFSA offers a chance to be part of something from the beginning. Members will not only gain exposure, but also have the opportunity to help shape the conversations, priorities and future direction of the association.

The fastener and spring industries are built on precision, reliability and trust. IFSA aims to reflect those same values by creating a professional, international community where businesses feel represented, supported and connected.

As the association begins its journey, the message is simple: IFSA is here to help bring the industry together.

**Companies interested in becoming part of the new association can find out more by visiting [www.ifsa-online.org](http://www.ifsa-online.org).**



# IWMA x IFSA Golf Day & Summer Social

## Two Associations, One Unmissable Event

**Still thinking about joining us? With the IWMA x IFSA Golf Day & Summer Social now only a few weeks away, there's still time to secure your place at one of the industry's standout networking events of the summer.**

Join us on Thursday 2 July 2026 at the beautiful Shrigley Hall, Cheshire, as two industry associations come together for a full day of golf, networking, hospitality and summer socialising.

Bringing together members and colleagues from across the wire and cable, fastener and spring sectors, this year's event promises the perfect opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces, make new contacts and enjoy some well-earned time away from the day-to-day pressures of business.

Set within 262 acres of Cheshire countryside on the edge of the Peak District, Shrigley Hall provides a spectacular setting for the day. Its renowned 18-hole, par 71 championship course winds through woodland and open parkland, offering an enjoyable challenge for golfers of all abilities - and plenty of opportunities for conversations between holes.

For golfers, the day begins with breakfast on arrival, including bacon rolls, tea and coffee, before heading out for a traditional four-ball round with refreshments available throughout the day. After play, guests can celebrate the day's results with prizes for the winning team, best individual golfer, longest drive and nearest the pin.

Not a golfer? No problem. The Non-Golfers package includes opportunities to relax and connect with colleagues through golf lessons, foot golf and spa access before joining everyone for the evening Summer Social.

And for those who can't quite escape the office or factory floor for the full day, there is still the option to join us in the evening for the Summer Social Only package. With a BBQ, drinks, live music (that won't interrupt networking conversations)

and hopefully a little sunshine, it's the ideal way to unwind with industry peers from across both associations.

More than just a golf day, this event is all about bringing the industries together in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. From conversations on the fairways to drinks on the terrace, the IWMA x IFSA Golf Day & Summer Social offers the perfect mix of networking, hospitality and summer atmosphere.

With guests attending from across the UK and wider international industry community, this is shaping up to be one of the key networking occasions of the summer calendar.

Accommodation is also available at Shrigley Hall for guests wishing to stay overnight and make the most of the evening festivities.

### Pricing

- Golf Day + Summer Social - **£168 + VAT**
- Non-Golfer Day + Summer Social - **£136 + VAT**
- Golf Day Only - **£105 + VAT**
- Summer Social Only - **£65 + VAT**

Places are filling quickly, so now's the time to book your place!

To request your booking form or find out more, contact Olivia Pearce at [olivia@iwma.org](mailto:olivia@iwma.org).



### Put Your Brand in Play

#### Why not make your brand part of the day too?

A range of exclusive sponsorship opportunities are available across the IWMA x IFSA Golf Day & Summer Social, offering valuable visibility throughout one of the industry's key summer networking events. Sponsorship options include nearest the pin, longest drive, welcome drinks and other signage-led opportunities designed to keep your brand front of mind throughout the day.

**Each package is available to a single sponsor only and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To find out more or secure your preferred opportunity, contact Katie Houston at [katie@iwma.org](mailto:katie@iwma.org).**



# Recognising the Future of the Industry: Jooris Eickenbusch Named IWMA Young Employee of the Year 2026

**IWMA sat down with Jooris Eickenbusch and his manager, Michael Tieze, to discuss Jooris's recent IWMA Young Employee of the Year 2026 award, his career progression at iDEAL-Werk, and what his success means for the next generation of industry talent.**

When Jooris Eickenbusch of iDEAL-Werk was named the IWMA Young Employee of the Year 2026, it marked not only a proud personal achievement, but also a celebration of the next generation of talent shaping the wire and cable industry.

For Jooris, the award came as both a surprise and a great honour.

*"I was, of course, very happy and also a little surprised," he says. "It's a great honour to receive such an award. For me, it's a validation of my work so far and, at the same time, motivation to continue contributing with dedication."*

Jooris was nominated for the award by his manager, Michael Tieze, making the recognition particularly meaningful.

*"It meant a great deal to me," Jooris explains. "It shows that my efforts are noticed and appreciated. Recognition from one's own supervisor is particularly important for young employees because it provides additional confidence and motivation."*

For those early in their careers, that encouragement can play an important role in building self-belief.

*"Positive feedback and recognition help build self-confidence," he says. "They show that you're moving in the right direction and motivate you to take on new challenges and assume responsibility."*

## A Memorable Moment at Silverstone

Jooris received his award at the IWMA Industry Lunch, held at the Silverstone Museum earlier this year. The event brought together members, guests and industry colleagues from across the wire and cable sector offering the perfect setting to celebrate achievement and future talent.

For Jooris, it was his first IWMA event, and one that left a lasting impression.

*"The event was very special to me," he says. "The atmosphere was*



*fantastic, and it was an honour to receive the award in that setting. I really enjoyed the opportunity and had many interesting conversations."*

He also valued the opportunity to connect with people from across the wider industry.

*"I found the exchange with people from different companies and countries particularly interesting," he adds. "It allowed me to gain new insights into the industry and make valuable contacts."*

## From Apprentice to Team Leader

Jooris's career with iDEAL-Werk began in 2015, when he joined the company as an apprentice electrician. From there, he progressed into machine commissioning and customer training, gaining practical experience across different areas of the business.

*"My career at iDEAL-Werk began in 2015 with an apprenticeship as an electrician," he explains. "After completing my apprenticeship, I worked in machine commissioning and also conducted customer training sessions. This allowed me to gain a lot of practical experience and get to know different areas of the company."*

The technical variety and development opportunities within iDEAL-Werk quickly appealed to him.

*"I was particularly drawn to the technical challenges and the diverse development opportunities at iDEAL-Werk," he says. "The wire and cable*

*machinery industry is innovative and varied, so you can constantly develop your skills."*

Since joining the business, Jooris has continued to develop both technically and professionally. His experience in commissioning and customer-facing work has been especially valuable.

*"Practical experience in commissioning and working with customers has been particularly important," he says. "This allowed me to further develop my technical knowledge and problem-solving skills."*

Formal training, personal initiative and support from colleagues have also helped shape his progression.

*"Continuing education to become a technician helped me deepen my expertise," he adds. "Equally important were initiative, teamwork, and the support of experienced colleagues."*

## Leading Final Inspection

Today, Jooris holds the position of Team Leader for Final Inspection at iDEAL-Werk, working with his team to ensure machines and systems meet the company's quality standards before delivery.

*"In my current position as Team Leader for Final Inspection at iDEAL-Werk, I am responsible, together with my team, for ensuring that our machines and systems meet the high-quality requirements before delivery," he explains. "This includes planning and conducting final*

inspections, coordinating testing processes, and working closely with other departments.”

It is a role that reflects how far he has progressed since first joining the company.

“I am especially proud of my progression from trainee to team leader,” he says. “I am also pleased with successful commissioning projects where I was able to take on responsibility and contribute to their success.”

Jooris is quick to acknowledge those who have supported him along the way.

“I was fortunate to be supported by experienced colleagues and supervisors,” he says. “They shared their knowledge with me, guided me through new tasks, and gave me the opportunity to develop both professionally and personally.”

### A Manager’s Perspective

For Michael Tieze, the decision to nominate Jooris was straightforward.

“The decision to nominate Jooris for the IWMA Young Employee of the Year 2026 was an easy one for me,” he says. “He is one of the few young and highly motivated employees where you could see from an early stage that he wanted more, was capable of more, and was ready to take on responsibility. We recognised this potential early and wanted to actively support and encourage his development.”

Michael says Jooris’s drive quickly became clear, both inside the company and among customers.

“In his role within the service department for wire mesh welding systems, it quickly became clear, both internally and among our customers, that Jooris is a young professional with exceptional drive and energy. He faces challenges head-on, is not afraid of problems, and consistently impresses people with his positive and solution-oriented attitude.”

Over the past few years, that potential has developed into leadership.

“Jooris has grown into someone who takes ownership, shows leadership qualities, and remains calm and professional even in difficult situations, whether dealing with demanding service tasks or challenging customers,” Michael adds. “On top of that, he enjoys travelling and is always eager to

learn and improve. That combination makes him a truly outstanding employee.”

That progression will continue in July, when Jooris officially takes on a new role.

“As of July 1st, 2026, Jooris will officially take over as Head of the Service Department and begin an exciting new chapter in his career,” says Michael. “The entire iDEAL-Werk team wishes him all the best for this next step because employees like Jooris represent the future of our company.”

For iDEAL-Werk, the award also sends a positive message across the wider team.

“Winning this award means a great deal to iDEAL-Werk as well,” Michael says. “It is not only well-deserved recognition for Jooris personally, but also a strong message to our younger colleagues. It shows that commitment, hard work, and personal development are recognised and rewarded. At the same time, it strengthens confidence in the internal career opportunities within iDEAL-Werk and motivates the next generation to believe in their own future with our company.”

Michael adds that Jooris is still learning, but will continue to be supported by those around him.

“He’s not at the end of the road yet; there is still much to learn, but the old welding veterans, like me, are happy and eager to lend a hand,” Michael says. “Just as we say at iDEAL-Werk, we connect worlds – even across the generations.”

### Encouraging the Next Generation

Jooris’s story reflects the kind of career pathway the IWMA aims to celebrate through the Young Employee of the Year Award: talent recognised early, supported by experienced colleagues, and given the opportunity to grow.

Asked what he enjoys most about working in the industry, Jooris points to the combination of technology, innovation and international collaboration.

“The tasks are varied, and you work on solutions that are used in many important industrial sectors,” he says.

For young people considering a future in wire and cable, his message is clear.

“It combines modern technology with international perspectives and offers young people the chance to take on responsibility and continuously develop their skills,” he says.

He also believes the industry can do more to show young people the range of opportunities available.

“It is important to raise awareness of the diverse career opportunities and the innovative strength of the industry,” he explains. “In addition, young employees should be able to take on responsibility early on and be specifically supported through training and development opportunities.”

Looking ahead, Jooris is focused on continuing to grow, gaining new experience and contributing to the future success of iDEAL-Werk.

“I would like to further deepen my expertise, gain new experiences, and develop both professionally and personally,” he says. “At the same time, I would like to take on more responsibility and actively contribute to the company’s growth.”

Being named IWMA Young Employee of the Year 2026 is therefore both a proud milestone and a source of motivation.

“The award is a great honour for me and something I’m very proud of,” Jooris says. “It shows me that commitment and dedication are valued, and it motivates me to continue on my professional path with the same enthusiasm.”

And his advice to other young employees hoping to progress in the industry?

“Be curious, ask questions, and take every opportunity to learn. Those who show initiative and benefit from the experiences of others have many opportunities to grow.”

The next IWMA Young Employee of the Year Award will be announced shortly, with applications opening in **October 2026**.

The 2027 award will be presented at the **IWMA Industry Lunch**, taking place at **Anfield Stadium, Liverpool, on 11 February 2027**.

Further details, including entry criteria and nomination information, will be shared with IWMA members soon.

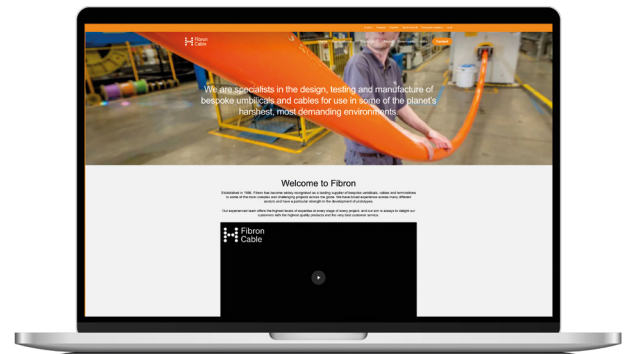
# Welcome to Our New IWMA Members



Established in 1986, Fibron has become widely recognised as a leading supplier of bespoke umbilicals, cables and terminations to some of the world's most complex and challenging offshore projects.

Their products have applications across a range of market sectors, including offshore energy, remotely operated vehicles, defence, diving, seismic, renewables, aquaculture, deep ocean research and more.

Fibron's experienced team offers high levels of expertise at every stage of every project, with a strong focus on delivering high-quality products and excellent customer service, with the aim of delighting their customers.

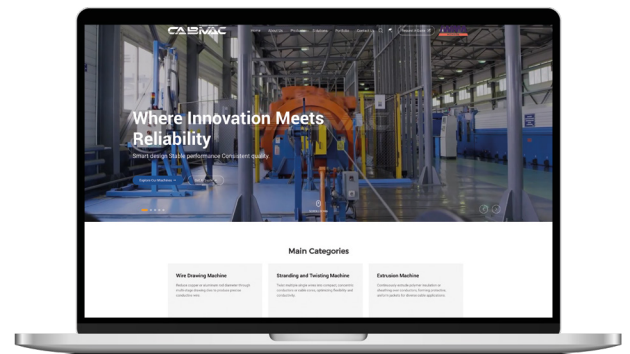


[www.fibron.com](http://www.fibron.com)



CABMAC (Changzhou) Automation Equipment Co., Ltd. has over 20 years of experience in the wire and cable industry, with strong technical expertise across the production process. The company operates its own manufacturing facility and offers a full range of equipment, including wire drawing machines, stranding and cabling machines, and extrusion lines, designed to provide efficient, stable and cost-effective solutions.

More than 70% of its products are exported worldwide, including to Korea, Brazil, Indonesia, Russia, Turkey, Italy and other countries, with a solid reputation for quality and reliability. Guided by the philosophy "Where Innovation Meets Reliability", CABMAC focuses on combining advanced technology and practical engineering to deliver durable and reliable cable production solutions.



[www.cabmac.com](http://www.cabmac.com)



HAEHNE has been providing solutions for force and tension force measurement, including in the wire industry, since 1977.

The company develops, manufactures and distributes sensors and evaluation electronics "Made in Germany" to make machines and systems more efficient. Whether for applications in wire drawing, wire coating, winding or in rotating stranding machines for wire rope production, HAEHNE offers a wide range of solutions for process analysis and automation.

In addition to its standard solutions and products, the company works with its customers to develop custom solutions to ensure production quality.

In addition to the wire and cable industry, HAEHNE also serves the rolling mill industry, the paper industry and the converting industry worldwide.

HAEHNE, headquartered near Düsseldorf, is home to a motivated team of specialists and is constantly growing to meet the challenges of its customers.



[www.haehne.de](http://www.haehne.de)



## Connex Consultancy Limited | UK

### 'Bridging Companies - Building Futures'

Connex Consultancy Limited delivers a differentiated value proposition at the convergence of technical expertise, commercial strategy and global market access within the wire and cable sector. Leveraging more than 25 years of experience across Europe, the Middle East and Africa, the company provides clients with actionable insight, supply chain optimisation and access to high-value partnerships across complex international markets.

Connex Consultancy Limited's specialist knowledge in bimetallic conductor technologies, combined with extensive understanding of telecommunications, low voltage (LV), medium voltage (MV) and high voltage (HV) applications, enables the company to support critical infrastructure and performance-driven projects with precision and credibility. The company operates with a results-oriented approach, aligning technical capability with commercial outcomes to maximise efficiency, mitigate risk and accelerate market penetration.

Through its established network of manufacturers, suppliers and distribution channels, Connex Consultancy Limited acts as a strategic enabler - bridging capability gaps, unlocking new market opportunities and driving measurable business performance. The company is committed to delivering scalable and trusted global connections.



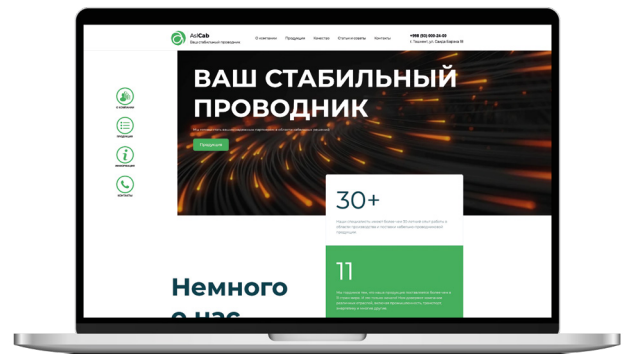
## AslCab | Uzbekistan

AslCab

AslCab is a leading manufacturer of cable and wire products based in Uzbekistan, specialising in power, control, installation and special cables for a wide range of industrial and infrastructure applications.

With more than 30 years of industry experience, the company combines modern production technologies with strict quality control to ensure reliable, durable and high-performance cable solutions.

AslCab supplies both domestic and international markets, with all products manufactured to GOST standards, supporting safe and efficient power and data transmission across diverse sectors.



[www.aslcab.uz](http://www.aslcab.uz)

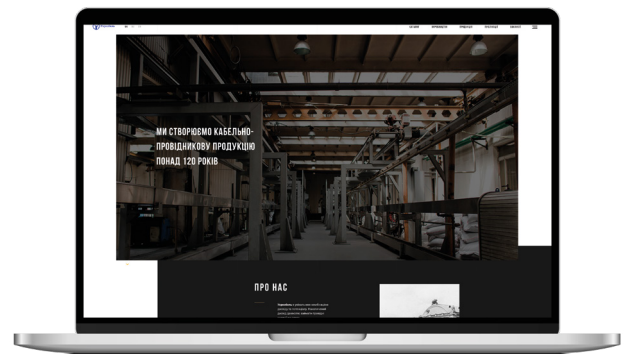


## Ukrkabel | Ukraine

Ukrkabel has more than 120 years of experience in the manufacture of cables and electrical conductors, tracing its origins back to 1900 with the establishment of the first Ukrainian factory dedicated to electrical conductor production. Originally founded by Genchke, Oislander, Polit and Straus, the company later became the Joint-Stock Company of Kiev Cable Factory and has continued to evolve into one of the industry's established cable manufacturers.

Today, Ukrkabel combines long-standing industry expertise with modern production technologies, manufacturing a wide range of cable products under its own brand in accordance with GOST standards. The company regularly updates its production equipment and processes to ensure high-quality, reliable products and continued growth across international markets.

Quality remains a key focus throughout all stages of production, with products certified by the UkrSEPRO state system and subject to rigorous testing and measurement control procedures in line with DSTU ISO 10012:2005 requirements.



[www.ukrcable.com.ua](http://www.ukrcable.com.ua)





**alfanar | Saudi Arabia**

alfanar is a Saudi Arabian company headquartered in Riyadh and established in 1976. The company operates globally as an integrated manufacturer of electrical products, a leading EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) contractor and a project developer focused on sustainable infrastructure, smart cities and renewable energy projects across Asia, Europe and Africa.

alfanar delivers efficient energy systems and solutions through a comprehensive portfolio of high-quality products, including wiring accessories and home solutions, power distribution and control systems, industrial grid equipment, and e-mobility and future technologies.

The company's cables and wires division manufactures a wide range of products, including low, medium, and high-voltage power cables, as well as specialised control and building wires. Its portfolio also includes fire-resistant wires and cables designed to perform reliably in demanding and harsh environmental conditions.

[www.alfanar.com](http://www.alfanar.com)



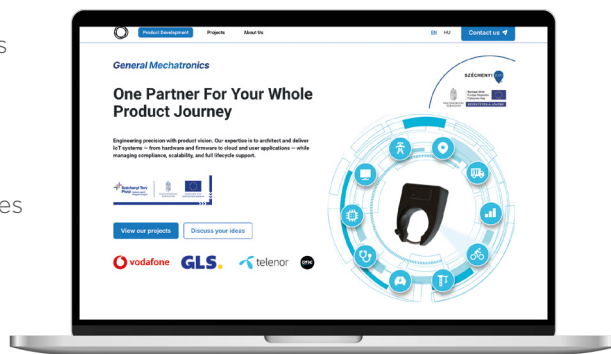
**General Mechatronics | Hungary**

General Mechatronics Kft. is the developer of the NaBi IoT devices and the related General Track IoT platform. The company specialises in the development and serial production of connected industrial devices, combining in-house hardware, embedded software, cloud infrastructure and web-based data services.

For the cable industry, General Mechatronics has developed NaBi Drum, a smart tracking solution for cable drums. The system provides drum-level visibility and traceability, helping cable manufacturers, distributors and logistics partners reduce losses, speed up drum returns, monitor stock in the field and access reliable data on cable usage and remaining cable length. NaBi Drum combines rugged, long-life IoT tracking devices with the General Track online platform and mobile access.

Data can also be integrated into customers' existing ERP or logistics systems via API, allowing companies to digitalise drum management without replacing their existing workflows. Beyond the cable industry, General Mechatronics supports partners with end-to-end IoT product development, including electronic design, embedded software, industrialisation, certification support, serial manufacturing and long-term product lifecycle management.

[www.generalmechatronics.com](http://www.generalmechatronics.com)



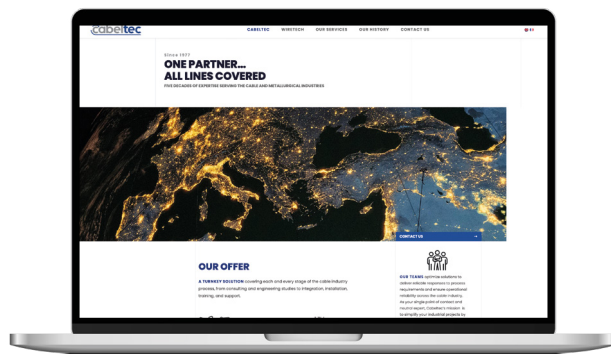
**Cabeltec | Switzerland**

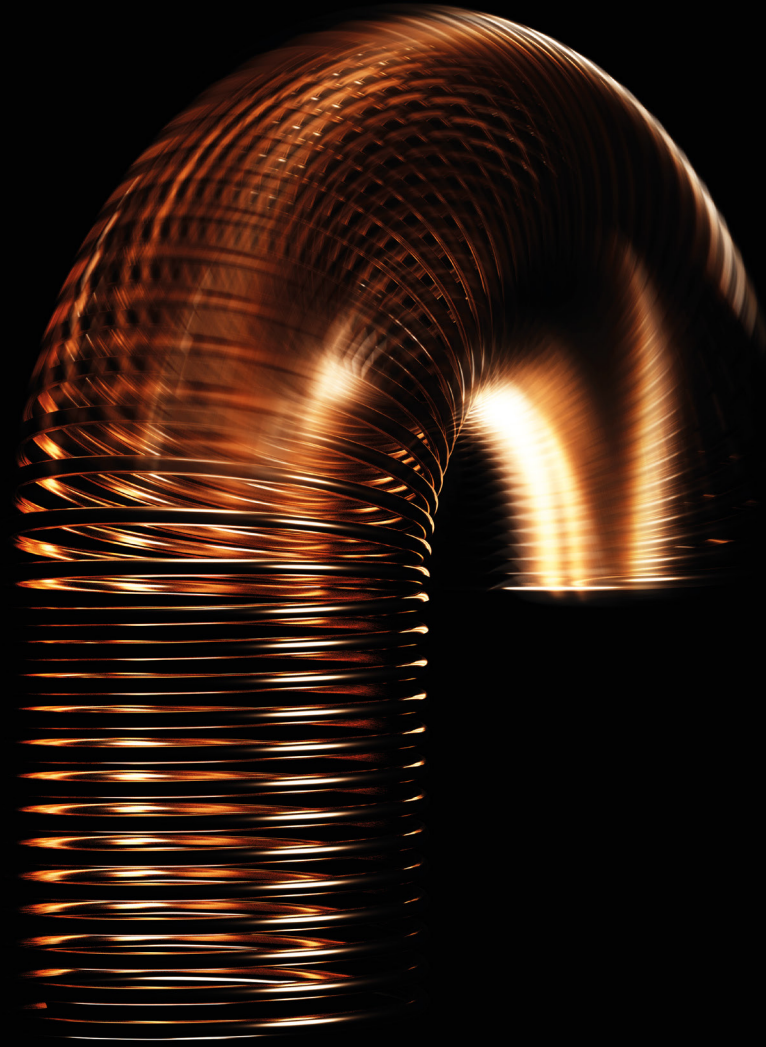
For more than 50 years, Cabeltec SA has been a trusted partner to leading companies across the cable industry on three continents. Over the decades, the company has built a strong reputation as a specialist in integrated industrial solutions, supporting customers at every stage of their projects.

Cabeltec provides a complete turnkey service, encompassing consulting, engineering studies, system integration, installation, training and ongoing technical support. Its comprehensive portfolio includes high-quality services and tailored industrial solutions, from equipment selection and project planning through to commissioning and final handover. Acting as a single point of contact and independent expert, Cabeltec simplifies complex industrial projects by coordinating and managing every phase of the process. This streamlined approach enables customers to benefit from efficient project delivery, reduced complexity and solutions designed to meet their specific operational requirements.

Today, Cabeltec continues to support cable manufacturers worldwide with the expertise, experience and commitment that have defined the company for over half a century.

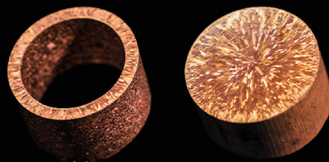
[www.cabeltec.com](http://www.cabeltec.com)





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## Where Connections Came to Life: *The Great Connection* at wire Düsseldorf

**There are some events that capture the spirit of an industry particularly well, and IWMA's *The Great Connection* at wire Düsseldorf 2026 was certainly one of them.**

Held during one of the wire and cable sector's most important international exhibitions, the evening brought together IWMA members, colleagues, customers and industry friends from across the world. It was also a fitting way to mark a major milestone for the wider wire and cable community, as wire Düsseldorf celebrated 40 years since the exhibition first moved to Düsseldorf.

IWMA was also proud to use the occasion to celebrate our colleagues and partners at Messe Düsseldorf. In recognition of their 40-year milestone, the Messe Düsseldorf team was presented with a celebratory cake, followed by a speech from IWMA President Bernd Lohmüller. It was a heartfelt moment in the evening and a fitting tribute to a partnership that has helped

shape the international wire and cable exhibition landscape over four decades.

But while the anniversary gave the evening a sense of occasion, it was the people in the room who made it what it was.

From the start, the atmosphere was exactly what IWMA had hoped for: busy, warm, relaxed and full of conversation. Welcome drinks and canapés helped ease everyone into the evening, while the antipasti station quickly became a natural meeting point, with guests gathering, chatting and reconnecting after long days in the exhibition halls.

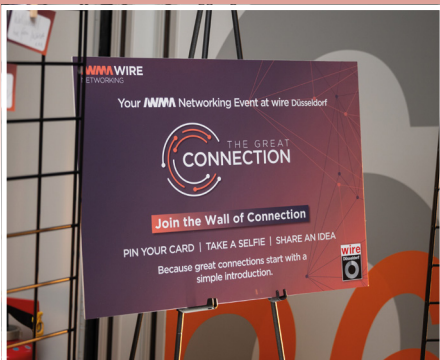
And then, of course, there was the Aperol Spritz.

IWMA's signature Aperol Spritz, complete with its own branded touch, added a splash of colour and a little humour to the evening. It quickly became one of those small details that people noticed, commented on and remembered.

After a week on the IWMA stand where the Aperols had been flowing and had already become something of a talking point, it felt only right that they made an appearance at *The Great Connection* too.

This year's event was IWMA's largest networking event to date, and the room certainly felt it. There was a real buzz throughout the evening, with conversations happening in every corner, introductions being made and people moving easily between old friends, new contacts and familiar faces from across the industry. It was a reminder of just how much value there still is in being together in person, especially in an industry built so strongly on relationships.

The interactive Wall of Connection also added a lovely personal touch to the evening. With Polaroid photos, business cards and handwritten messages, it gave guests a simple way to leave their mark and helped capture some of the faces and connections in the room. It's an idea IWMA would love to build on



at future events, creating an even bigger snapshot of the people, conversations and shared moments that bring the industry together.

Adding to the atmosphere, live entertainment brought an element of surprise and creativity. The magician was a real highlight, moving through the room and sparking those brilliant moments where groups of guests stopped, laughed, stared in disbelief and then immediately called someone else over to watch. The comments afterwards said it all, with so many guests telling us how fantastic he was and how much they enjoyed that unexpected touch.

The DJ also judged the evening perfectly. He set exactly the right tone, keeping the atmosphere upbeat without taking away from the conversations that were still happening around the room. As the night went on, the music lifted the energy even further, and by the end, the last few guests were still dancing while the IWMA team was beginning to clear up around them. We can

think of worse signs of a successful evening.

The feedback we received reflected the feeling in the room. Pirita Olli of Maillefer described the event as a great opportunity for “good discussions and new contacts,” while Aaron Heath of Bekaert praised the venue, atmosphere and entertainment, noting that IWMA events are consistently well organised and ones he will continue to attend. Dave Troy of REELEX Packaging Solutions Inc. also highlighted the importance of connecting with industry peers and customers, reinforcing exactly why events like this matter.

For IWMA, those comments mean a great deal. We hope everyone enjoyed the evening as much as we did, and judging by the smiles, the conversations, the full room and the last guests on the dance floor, it certainly felt like a night that people were glad to be part of.

Of course, an event of this scale would not have been possible

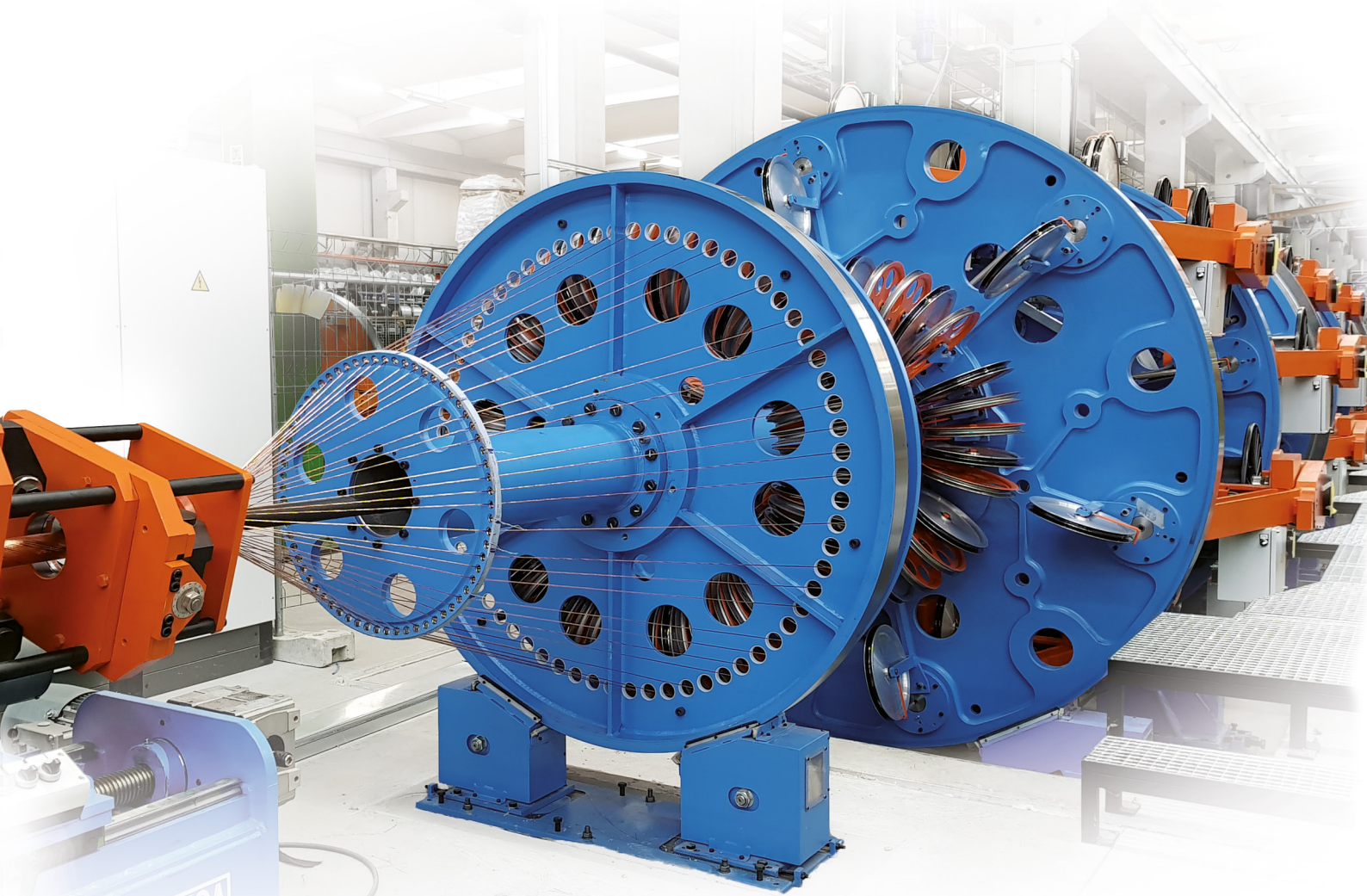
without the generous support of our sponsors. IWMA extends sincere thanks to Maschinenfabrik NIEHOFF GmbH & Co. KG, Bar Sponsor for the event; SKET Verseilmaschinenbau GmbH and BHAG Digital, Catering Sponsors; GMM Cable Machinery, Entertainment Sponsor; and Temco Wire Products Ltd, Welcome Beer Sponsor. Their support helped us create an evening that felt polished, welcoming and memorable, while still keeping the relaxed IWMA spirit at its heart.

As wire Düsseldorf celebrated four decades as a cornerstone event for the sector, *The Great Connection* offered its own reminder of what continues to drive this industry forward: people, partnerships and the willingness to come together. Exhibitions may showcase the technology, innovation and expertise behind the wire and cable sector, but evenings like this show the relationships behind it.

And for one night in Düsseldorf, those connections really did come to life.

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# IWMA Industry Networking Lunch UK 2027 at the Home of Legends

**Did you know that Anfield has been home to Liverpool FC since 1892, has hosted some of football's most unforgettable moments and is recognised around the world for one of sport's most powerful atmospheres?**

In 2027, IWMA members will have the opportunity to experience that atmosphere for themselves as the IWMA Industry Networking Lunch UK heads to one of the most iconic stadiums in world football.

Liverpool is a city built on connection, creativity and global influence. From its historic waterfront and maritime heritage to its world-famous music scene, sporting success and unmistakable character, it's a destination that offers far more than a meeting place. It's a city with energy, history and personality, making it the perfect setting for an IWMA event designed to bring people together.

Following the success of the sold-out IWMA Industry Networking Lunch UK in 2026 at the Silverstone Museum, preparations are already underway for another standout industry event in 2027. The continued strong demand for IWMA lunches reflects the importance members place on combining high-quality networking with access to unique venues that encourage meaningful industry engagement.

The IWMA is delighted to confirm that the next UK Industry Networking Lunch will take place at the iconic Anfield Stadium, home of Liverpool FC and one of the most historic and recognisable sporting venues in the world. With a legacy spanning more than a century, Anfield is synonymous with atmosphere, heritage and unforgettable sporting moments, making it a fitting backdrop for an industry that also prides itself on tradition, innovation and global reach.

Set within the legendary home of one of football's most celebrated clubs, Anfield offers a distinctive setting where industry connections meet world-class football heritage. Bringing together professionals from across the wire and cable sector, the event will provide another valuable opportunity for networking, conversation and market insight in a memorable and engaging environment.

Lunch will be served overlooking the famous Anfield pitch, giving guests the chance to enjoy a unique view of one of football's most recognisable settings. The day will also include drinks, networking opportunities and behind-the-scenes stadium tours, allowing delegates to experience more of the history and character of Anfield during their visit.

These additional experiences have become a hallmark of IWMA networking events, offering

delegates not only time to connect professionally but also the opportunity to engage with the story and atmosphere of each venue. Further details regarding the event programme and guest speakers will be announced in the coming months.

The popularity of recent IWMA Industry Networking Lunches has continued to grow, with previous events held at unique venues including the Silverstone Museum, Dr. Thompson's Seifenfabrik in Germany and the Concorde Conference Centre in Manchester. By combining professional networking with iconic locations, IWMA aims to create events that leave a lasting impression long after the day itself.

Following overwhelming demand for the 2026 event, early interest in the 2027 Industry Networking Lunch is expected to be high. With tickets and sponsorship opportunities set to become available in the coming weeks, members are encouraged to save the date and stay tuned for further information.

The IWMA looks forward to welcoming delegates to Liverpool for what promises to be another memorable and engaging industry gathering.





## IWMA Dinner Dance 2026: Tickets On Sale Soon

**Following the recent announcement of its return this year, the IWMA is delighted to confirm that tickets for the 2026 Dinner Dance will be going on sale in the coming weeks.**

A longstanding highlight of the wire and cable industry calendar, the Dinner Dance brings together colleagues, partners and friends from across the global sector for an evening of dining, dancing and celebration. With strong member support behind its return, the event continues to be a firm favourite among the IWMA community. This year, the IWMA is also pleased to welcome members of its sister association, IFSA (International Spring and Fastener Association), who will be joining the evening as part of the wider industry gathering.

The 2026 IWMA Dinner Dance will take place on Friday 13 November at Tower Suites by Blue Orchid, London Bridge. Set within the venue's impressive rooftop space, guests will enjoy panoramic views overlooking the world-famous Tower Bridge and the Tower of London, providing a memorable backdrop for the evening.

The evening will begin at 18:00 with a welcome drinks reception and canapés, followed by an opening address from the IWMA Chairman. Guests will then enjoy a three-course dinner with table wine, before the evening continues with a live band and dancing. Once the main event concludes, celebrations will carry on at the IWMA after-party, where a DJ will keep the energy going into the night.

Tickets are priced at £195 per person, with tables of up to 10 available at £1,950, offering an ideal opportunity for companies to host clients or attend as a group.

For those wishing to extend the occasion, a limited number of bedrooms have been secured at Tower Suites by Blue Orchid, London Bridge, at preferential rates. Rooms are available from £280 for one night on Friday, or £590 for a two-night stay across Friday and Saturday, based on double occupancy and including breakfast.

Whether attending for the first time or returning for another enjoyable evening, the IWMA Dinner Dance continues to receive strong feedback from members, with many highlighting it as one of the most

anticipated and recommended events in the industry calendar.

With tickets due to go on sale soon, members and industry colleagues are encouraged to save the date and be ready to secure their place at another memorable evening with the global wire and cable community.

[www.iwma.org/event/iwma-dinner-dance-2026/](http://www.iwma.org/event/iwma-dinner-dance-2026/)

### **A Night to Remember – A Brand to Remember**

A limited number of exclusive sponsorship packages are available for the 2026 IWMA Dinner Dance, offering valuable exposure before, during and after the event.

Packages will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Further details, including how to secure your preferred sponsorship package, will be announced soon.

For any sponsorship enquiries, please contact Katie Houston at [katie@iwma.org](mailto:katie@iwma.org).



## 2026-27 Event Schedule

**IWMA**  
GOLF AND  
SUMMER SOCIAL

**IWMA x IFSA Golf Day and Summer Social | Cheshire, UK**  
Thursday 2 July 2026

**IWMA WIRE**  
NETWORKING  
CHINA

**wire China Networking Event | Shanghai, China**  
Wednesday 23 September 2026

**IWMA**  
TRAINING  
FUNDAMENTALS

**IWMA Training Fundamentals | TBC**  
TBC October 2026

**IWMA**  
DINNER DANCE

**IWMA Dinner Dance | London, UK**  
Friday 13 November 2026

**IWMA WIRE**  
NETWORKING  
INDIA

**wire India Networking Event | Mumbai, India**  
Tuesday 1 December 2026

**IWMA**  
INDUSTRY LUNCH UK

**IWMA Industry Networking Lunch UK | Liverpool, UK**  
Thursday 11 February 2027

**IWMA WIRE**  
NETWORKING  
MEXICO

**wire Mexico Networking Event | Monterrey, Mexico**  
Wednesday 24 February 2027

**IWMA**  
TRAINING  
FUNDAMENTALS

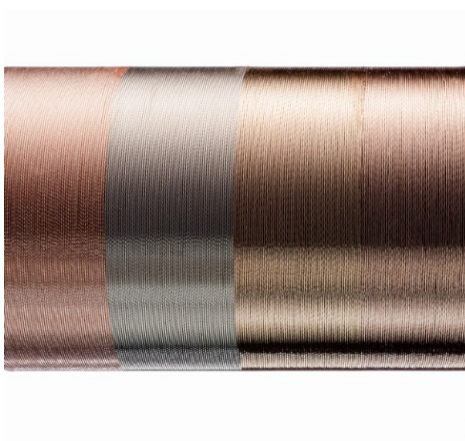
**IWMA Training Fundamentals | TBC**  
TBC March 2027



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 For more information visit <https://temco-wire.com>

# An Industry Ready for the Future: Compelling Solutions for New Global Applications

Written by Petra Hartmann-Bresgen, Messe Düsseldorf

**Massive geopolitical challenges, disrupted supply chains, high tariffs and scarce raw materials. Yet the Düsseldorf fairgrounds were buzzing with activity. People were discussing, developing and rethinking. Here, an entire industry demonstrated its unwavering determination to actively shape the future and break new ground.**

Resilient materials are needed, including for the defence industry; the market requires reliable producers and is relying on new supply chains. This is where wire and Tube, as powerful industry platforms, came in at just the



right time. The defence sector is gaining in importance; new visitor groups flocked to the exhibition stands, finding concrete solutions for high demands on materials and quality. Added to this was a supporting programme featuring exciting premieres. The trade fair as a vibrant industry event: tradition and the future go hand in hand in Düsseldorf. 2,600 exhibitors from

65 countries – proof of international appeal and a clear claim to leadership.

Alongside this, the entire value chain was showcased across some 119,000m<sup>2</sup> in 16 exhibition halls. The focus is always on the future: artificial intelligence, robotics, renewable energies and the energy transition were not just buzzwords but lived reality.

Trade fair visitors came to Düsseldorf from 130 countries, with traditional and entirely new target groups flocking to the exhibition halls in equal measure. What remains is more than just a successful trade fair event; it's a feeling: this is where the future is taking shape. From 3 to 7 April 2028, wire and Tube are ready to continue their success story in Düsseldorf.

[www.wire.de](http://www.wire.de)

**IWMA**  
2026–28 Exhibition Dates

**wire**  
**CHINA**  
21–24  
September  
2026

**wire**  
**India**  
30 November–  
2 December  
2026

**wire**  
**Mexico**  
23–25  
February  
2027

**wire**  
**Eurasia**  
6–9  
April  
2027

**INTERWIRE**  
CONFERENCE & TRADE EXPOSITION  
by The Wire Association International  
**Interwire, Atlanta, USA**  
4–6 May 2027

**wire**  
**Middle East Africa**  
6–8  
September  
2027

**wire**  
**Southeast Asia**  
15–17  
September  
2027

**wire**  
**Düsseldorf**  
3–7  
April  
2028



## wire Düsseldorf 2026: A Week of Connection, Innovation and Industry Momentum

**wire Düsseldorf 2026 proved to be an incredibly successful and rewarding week for IWMA, bringing together members, partners and industry colleagues from across the world for one of the association's busiest and most active editions of the exhibition to date.**

This year's event carried particular significance, marking 40 years since wire first took place in Düsseldorf in 1986. Four decades on, the continued dedication and expertise of the Messe Düsseldorf team has helped shape wire Düsseldorf into one of the most important international meeting points for the wire and cable industry, creating a world-class platform for technical exchange, business development and global collaboration.

For IWMA, the week was defined by energy, positivity and connection. Even with airline strikes, delays and

cancellations affecting travel for some attendees, the momentum of this year's exhibition was impossible to dampen. The halls were busy throughout, conversations flowed across the show floor, and the IWMA stand became a true hub of activity for members, visitors and partners alike. Against a wider industry backdrop of geopolitical challenges, changing supply chains, raw material pressures and evolving market demands, wire Düsseldorf once again demonstrated the resilience and ambition of the global wire and cable sector.

According to Messe Düsseldorf, the wire side of the 2026 exhibition welcomed 1,490 exhibitors from 55 countries, covering 66,978m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space across nine halls, with visitors travelling from 124 countries. But beyond the figures, what stood out most for IWMA was the atmosphere: a busy, buzzing week shaped by meaningful conversations, new opportunities and a shared commitment to the future of the industry.

### **IWMA at the heart of the exhibition**

Located in Hall 11, the IWMA stand quickly became a central meeting point, offering a professional and welcoming base for members throughout a busy exhibition week. Meeting tables provided space for member conversations and client discussions, while the IWMA team was on hand to offer guidance, facilitate introductions and share information on the association's latest initiatives, from pavilion opportunities and networking events to wider ways companies can engage with IWMA and make the most of their membership.

Hospitality remained central to the stand experience, helping to create a relaxed and sociable environment throughout the week. Refreshments, member lunches and the now-infamous IWMA Aperol Spritz – affectionately known as “the drink of the IWMA” – added to a welcoming atmosphere, while copies of *IWMA Insider*, association literature and a wider library of information were available to members and visitors.



Several new members were also welcomed during the exhibition, many of whom had heard from industry peers about IWMA's role in supporting networking, visibility and international connection. It is always a pleasure to see the IWMA network continue to grow, and the association was delighted to welcome **alfanar, AslCab, Brightrod Engineering India Pvt Ltd, Cabeltec SA, Connex Consultancy Limited, General Mechatronics Ltd., HAEHNE - Force Measurement Technology, Meshco and UKRCABLE GROUP** as new members during the week.

This year, IWMA also introduced a new hydration initiative as part of its efforts to make the stand more sustainable. At wire Düsseldorf 2024, 1,027 single-use plastic water bottles were used to keep members, visitors and staff hydrated. For 2026, these were replaced with branded reusable rPET water bottles, made from previously used and recycled plastic, with members and visitors encouraged to refill them at on-stand filtered water dispensers throughout the week. The change helped reduce the need for single-use plastic bottles, while supporting a more responsible approach to hospitality during the exhibition.

**Supporting members across the show floor**

IWMA's activity extended well beyond the stand itself. Across the halls, the team visited all 153 IWMA member companies exhibiting at wire Düsseldorf, delivering exhibitor packs filled with IWMA information, goodies and useful resources.

These visits provided an important opportunity to connect with members at their own stands, hear about their exhibition experience and learn more about their latest developments.

wire Düsseldorf continues to be a major platform for IWMA members,



offering visibility on a global stage and direct access to international customers, suppliers, partners and peers. For IWMA, being present across the exhibition was an important part of ensuring members felt supported, recognised and connected during the week.

**Bringing members together at The Great Connection**

*The Great Connection*, IWMA's evening networking event, took place on Tuesday 14 April at the CCD Congress Centre and brought together more than 200 members after a busy day at the exhibition. As part of the evening, IWMA was delighted to present a special celebration cake to the Messe Düsseldorf team, marking 40 years of wire in Düsseldorf and recognising the show's continued importance to the global wire and cable industry.

A full look back at the event, including more photos from the evening, can be found on page 12. As part of the wider IWMA programme at wire Düsseldorf, *The Great Connection* provided a memorable opportunity for members to reconnect away from the show floor, enjoy the evening and celebrate the strength of the international wire and cable community.

**Introducing IFSA to the industry**

During wire Düsseldorf, IWMA was proud to launch its new sister association, IFSA – the International Fastener and Spring Association. Developed in association with IWMA, IFSA is a new international trade association designed to unite businesses across the fastener and spring industries.

At a time when the sector lacks a dedicated global voice, IFSA provides a cohesive platform for visibility, connection and practical support. It brings together manufacturers, suppliers and specialists in an active, professional

community where businesses can collaborate, share expertise and strengthen industry relationships.

Throughout the exhibition, IWMA spoke with members and new businesses about IFSA's purpose, future role and the opportunities it can create for the sector. An informal Meet & Greet was also held on the IWMA stand on Wednesday 15 April, offering a relaxed opportunity for introductions, early conversations and idea-sharing.

The response received during the week was extremely encouraging, with several new members joining and positive conversations helping to build early momentum for the association's future. IWMA members working in this part of the industry, or with customers, suppliers or partners across the fastener and spring sectors, are encouraged to get involved – 2026 IFSA membership is free to IWMA members.



**Knowledge sharing at the IWMA x CRU FORUM Day**

Alongside networking and member support, IWMA also placed a strong emphasis on knowledge-sharing during the week through the IWMA x CRU FORUM Day – Bundled Expertise.

Held in Hall 13, the FORUM provided members and visitors with a dedicated opportunity to hear from experts on some of the most important themes shaping the wire and cable industry. Designed to offer something different during show week, the programme explored broader market, commercial, sustainability, communication and energy transmission issues currently affecting the sector.

The programme opened with a welcome from IWMA Chairman Willibert Dautzenberg, before Aisling Hubert of CRU delivered

'Global Cable Outlook - Tech, Transmission and Tariffs', exploring global cable trends and the market forces shaping the industry. This was followed by Miguel Lombardi, Digital Director, and Ashley Curtlin, Head of User Experience, of Denfield, who presented 'Are You and Your Website Ready for AI-Driven Search?', which highlighted the growing impact of AI on digital presence and online visibility.

Larissa Koster, Sustainability Coordinator at Maschinenfabrik NIEHOFF GmbH & Co KG, then presented 'Sustainability from New Perspectives', offering fresh insight into how sustainability is influencing industry thinking and future priorities.

The afternoon continued with Chi Lee, Wire & Cable Analyst at CRU, presenting 'High Voltage Cables - Powering the Future of Electricity Transmission', before Aaron Heath of Bridon Bekaert shared 'Bridging the Industry Gap - My Educational Journey Through the IWMA Network', bringing a personal perspective on skills, education and career development within the sector.

From global cable trends and AI-driven search to sustainability, energy transmission and real-world industry challenges, the programme highlighted just how dynamic and interconnected the wire and cable sector has become.

With strong attendance and engagement throughout the day, the FORUM demonstrated the value of creating space during a busy exhibition week for learning, discussion and wider industry perspective. IWMA would like to thank all speakers and contributors for sharing their expertise and helping to deliver such a valuable programme. Following the success of this year's FORUM, IWMA looks forward to exploring opportunities

to bring a similar programme to wire Düsseldorf 2028 in partnership with CRU.

### Supporting the next generation through the IWMA Wire Education Award

One of the most meaningful and rewarding elements of IWMA's week at wire Düsseldorf 2026 was the IWMA Wire Education Award programme, which welcomed seven young professionals from across the international wire and cable industry to experience the exhibition firsthand.

The 2026 awardees were Jamie Fagg, Development Engineer at BWE Ltd; Christopher Blampied, Operations Controller at Cable Tapes UK Ltd; Enise Çevik, Sales Support Specialist at GMM Cable Machinery; Caitlin Kerfoot, Trainee Management Accountant at Pentre Group; Mathieu Schwoerer, Electronics & Software Engineer at AESA SA; Justin Green, Trainee Engineer at Cape Gate (Pty) Ltd; and Dominic Tasker-Meachen, Apprentice at Bekaert.

Designed to help young professionals grow their knowledge, build valuable connections and gain a broader understanding of the industry, the award programme combined technical learning, company visits, presentations, networking and cultural experiences across the week.

The awardees began the programme on Monday 13 April with a welcome dinner alongside the IWMA team and members of the IWMA Executive Management Committee. The formal schedule opened the next day with a warm welcome from IWMA Chairman Willibert Dautzenberg, followed by the start of the awardee presentations - a key part of the programme that saw each participant deliver a company presentation, speak about their role

and learn more about one another's areas of the industry.



For Enise Çevik, this was a particularly valuable part of the experience:

***"Presenting my company and explaining my role within the business in front of an international audience helped improve my confidence and communication skills."***

This confidence-building element is a key part of the programme, giving awardees the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and develop professionally while sharing their own perspectives with the wider industry.

Throughout the week, the awardees were introduced to a wide range of companies and technologies across the wire and cable supply chain. Visits and introductions included IWMA member companies such as AESA, Bekaert, Rautomead, MFL, Webster & Horsfall, Maillefer, Niehoff, Esteves, Proton Products and Rosendahl, giving the group insight into areas including wire production, cable manufacturing technology, machinery, testing and measurement, process solutions and specialist manufacturing expertise.

The programme also included the ecoMetals Trail, which highlighted innovations in environmentally friendly products, sustainable production methods and resource-saving processes. As part of the trail, the awardees visited IWMA member company Traxit, who delivered a presentation on their company and the steps they are





taking to help reduce waste and improve sustainability across the wire drawing process. This gave the awardees a valuable opportunity to explore how sustainability is influencing product development, manufacturing methods and future industry priorities.

The awardees also attended the IWMA x CRU FORUM Day, which added an important wider-industry dimension to the programme. Through sessions on market outlooks, high voltage cables, electricity transmission, sustainability, AI-driven search and industry realities, the FORUM helped the group look beyond their immediate roles and consider the commercial, environmental and strategic issues shaping the future of wire and cable.

Networking was another key part of the experience. From IWMA's evening networking event, *The Great Connection*, to the IFSA Meet & Greet and a social evening in Düsseldorf's historic Altstadt, the programme gave the awardees several opportunities to meet people from different companies, countries and areas of the industry.

Christopher described the networking element as "a key highlight", noting that *The Great Connection* evening event created excellent opportunities to meet new people, as well as speak face to face with those he regularly communicates with over email.

***"Being able to speak face to face and meet the people you converse with daily is invaluable."***

He added, "A personal highlight of this was meeting one of our main

*suppliers from China. As well as suppliers, we were also able to network with new potential customers."*

The final day brought the programme to a close with further member introductions, a fun scavenger hunt and recognition for the strongest company presentation. Caitlin Kerfoot and Christopher Blampied were announced as the winning team for the scavenger hunt, while Justin Green received the award for strongest company presentation. Presented by IWMA Executive Management Committee member Amanda Shehab, the award recognised Justin's in-depth presentation and the level of detail he shared about his company, role and area of the industry.

The week concluded with a formal presentation of certificates of completion and a gift, presented by Daniel Ryfisch, Director Metal Forming & Fabrication Technologies at Messe Düsseldorf GmbH.

Sharing his thoughts on the experience, Dominic said the programme offered "a variety of activities and events that were both educational and engaging". He added: "Opportunities such as the Wire Education Award play an important role in helping young people view the industry in a broader context, beyond just their immediate workplace."

For IWMA, the programme once again demonstrated the importance of investing in the next generation of wire and cable professionals, giving awardees the opportunity to build confidence, broaden their understanding and make valuable connections across the international industry. Christopher summed up the awardee experience well: "It was a great week with lots of exposure to the industry. I would recommend the award to anyone who is eligible."

**Looking back on a successful week**

Reflecting on wire Düsseldorf 2026, IWMA's week was shaped by connection in every sense: connection between members, companies and customers, established industry leaders and the next generation, and different international communities across wire, cable, fasteners and springs.

From the busy IWMA stand to the launch of IFSA, from the IWMA x CRU FORUM Day to the Wire Education Award programme, the week demonstrated the breadth of IWMA's role within the industry. The association was able to support members, create opportunities for learning and collaboration, welcome new companies, celebrate long-standing relationships and contribute to the wider international conversation around the future of the sector.

wire Düsseldorf 2026 was an incredibly successful and rewarding week, and one that clearly demonstrated the strength, resilience and ambition of the international wire and cable industry. We sincerely appreciate the dedication, professionalism and support shown by the Messe Düsseldorf team throughout, and are proud to be part of an event that continues to deliver a truly world-class experience for all.



**Looking ahead, we are pleased to continue our support for future editions of wire Düsseldorf, starting with the next event from 3 to 7 April 2028, as the global wire and cable community continues to connect, evolve and grow.**



# BHAG Digital: Making Smart Manufacturing Practical, Fast and Profitable

wire Düsseldorf 2026 clearly demonstrated one important reality: manufacturers are no longer looking simply for 'digitalisation'. They are looking for measurable business results: higher output, better operational control, lower production losses, improved planning accuracy, faster decisions and, most importantly, profitability growth.



At BHAG Digital, this is exactly the philosophy behind our Smart Factory solutions.

During wire Düsseldorf 2026, we successfully introduced our latest platforms, BEEDIGIT and factory.online, developed based on years of practical experience working with leading cable and wire manufacturers and other industrial companies worldwide.

From the very beginning, our focus was not on building another complicated IT system.

Our focus was to create practical tools that help manufacturers improve operational performance quickly, with minimal implementation complexity and without massive CAPEX investments.

## From 'black box' manufacturing to real operational visibility

One of the biggest challenges many manufacturers still face today is the lack of trusted real-time operational data. Production reports often arrive too late, losses remain hidden inside processes, planning becomes disconnected from actual shopfloor reality and management teams spend too much time reacting instead of improving.

This creates a dangerous situation where companies may believe operations are performing efficiently, while significant hidden potential remains untouched. Our solutions were designed specifically to solve this problem.

BEEDIGIT and factory.online help manufacturers transform operations from reactive management into data-driven operational control.

## Designed for business results

The goal of digital transformation should never be technology itself; the goal should always be operational and financial improvement. That is why BHAG Digital solutions are focused on helping manufacturers achieve:

- Higher production output
- Better OEE and machine utilisation
- Reduced unplanned downtime
- Improved delivery performance
- Faster operational decision-making
- Better planning synchronisation
- Reduced inventory pressure
- Greater accountability and transparency across operations

Most importantly, these improvements are based on real production data collected directly from manufacturing processes.

## Industry 4.0 must become affordable for everyone

For many years, advanced manufacturing technologies were available mainly to very large enterprises with significant IT budgets and long implementation timelines. We believe this model must change.

At BHAG Digital, we are strongly focused on making Industry 4.0 technologies accessible for manufacturers of any size. Our Plug & Play approach, SaaS architecture, ready-to-use workflows and fast onboarding methodology significantly reduce implementation barriers.

Companies can start with practical operational improvements first and then scale further based on achieved business value. This approach opens new opportunities not only for large industrial groups, but also for medium-sized and

growing manufacturers that previously considered Smart Factory technologies too expensive or too complex.

## Fast time-to-value matters

One of the key priorities during the development of BEEDIGIT and factory.online was the speed of achieving results. Manufacturers today cannot afford multi-year digital transformation projects before seeing value.

That is why our onboarding programmes are focused on rapid implementation and operational adoption, with go-live timelines starting from as little as 90 days.



The objective is simple: deliver visibility fast, identify hidden operational losses quickly and create measurable business improvements from the earliest stages of implementation.

## A new generation of manufacturing leadership

wire Düsseldorf 2026 showed that the future of manufacturing will belong to companies capable of making faster and better decisions based on trusted operational data.

The winners of the next industrial decade will not necessarily be the companies with the biggest factories. They will be the companies with the highest operational transparency, agility and ability to continuously improve.

At BHAG Digital, we are proud to support manufacturers on this journey.

**Be like BEE. Be like WE.**

BEEDIGIT | factory.online

[www.bhagdigital.com](http://www.bhagdigital.com)

# Strong Visitor Engagement for Metalube at wire Düsseldorf 2026

**Metalube reports a highly successful presence at wire Düsseldorf 2026, where its team welcomed a strong flow of international visitors to its stand at Messe Düsseldorf.**

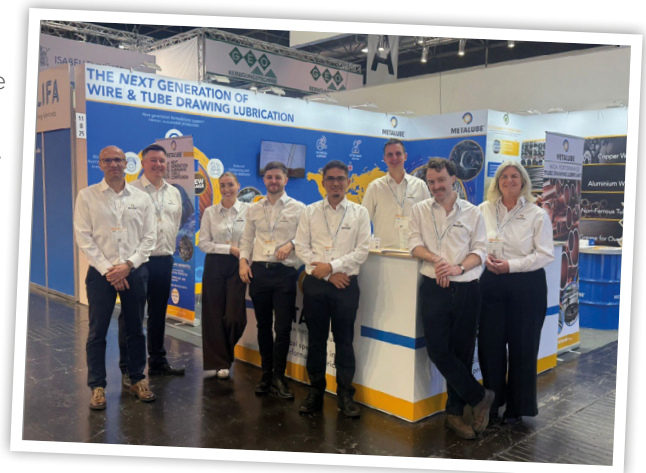
The show coincided with Metalube announcing its next-generation fully synthetic product, **Lubricool™ 960**. This release focuses on the broader success of the event and the strength of customer engagement across the entire product portfolio.

Throughout the exhibition, the stand remained busy, with customers and industry professionals engaging with Metalube's technical experts to discuss the company's latest innovations and full range of non-ferrous wire drawing lubricant solutions.

The strong attendance reflected significant global interest in Metalube's technologies and

reaffirmed the company's position as a trusted partner to the wire drawing industry. Visitors particularly valued the opportunity to speak directly with Metalube's full technical and commercial team, gaining insights into process optimisation, sustainability improvements and performance efficiency across a wide range of applications.

Speaking about the exhibition, Commercial Director Douglas Hunt says: ***"We were delighted by the level of interest and the quality of discussions throughout the show. Having a full team on the stand allowed us to engage meaningfully with visitors from around the world and reinforce our commitment to***



***technical excellence and customer support."***

Metalube extends its sincere thanks to all customers, partners and visitors who attended the stand and contributed to a highly productive and successful event.

[www.metalube.co.uk](http://www.metalube.co.uk)

# Pressure Welding Machines Celebrates Successful Brand Launch at wire and Tube Düsseldorf

**What a fantastic few days we had at wire and Tube Düsseldorf, one of the leading international trade fairs for the wire, cable and tube industries.**



The event was a brilliant opportunity for our team at Pressure Welding Machines Ltd to officially showcase our new brand and connect with people from across the industry. The response to the rebrand has been incredibly positive, and we are proud to have launched it at such an important international event in Düsseldorf.

It was great to welcome both familiar faces and new contacts to the stand throughout the exhibition. We had some really valuable conversations about the future of the industry, emerging technologies and the challenges businesses

continue to face across the sector. Our team were also pleased to demonstrate a range of PWM machines, including the BM10, M101, EP500 and the TR45, during the exhibition, giving visitors the opportunity to see the quality, reliability and performance of the equipment first-hand. The level of interest across the show was fantastic to see and reinforced just how strong and forward-



thinking the industry continues to be.

A huge thank you to everyone who visited our stand and supported the launch of our new brand. We look forward to continuing the conversations and building new relationships across the industry in the months ahead.

Carole Cole, Senior Export Sales Manager, added: ***"wire and Tube Düsseldorf 2026 has been our best exhibition yet. We were incredibly proud to unveil our new brand at such a prestigious international event and the response we received throughout the show was fantastic. It was brilliant to reconnect with familiar faces, meet new contacts from across the industry and showcase what the future of PWM looks like."***

[www.pressureweldingmachines.com](http://www.pressureweldingmachines.com)

# Traxit: Oil- and VOC-Free Inline Corrosion Protection Meets Strong Market Response

Increasing ecological and economic requirements are placing growing pressure on the wire industry. Manufacturers are expected to deliver reproducible surface quality, high process stability and reduced downtime as well as fewer downstream process steps. Against this background, a new corrosion protection process has been developed that is applied directly inline after wire drawing and operates completely without oil and without volatile organic compounds (VOC). The aim is to establish corrosion protection as an integral part of the production process rather than relying on external protective measures or complex packaging solutions applied downstream.

For users, the added value lies primarily in a stable, homogeneous protective film that's applied immediately after the drawing process and before rewinding. This makes it possible to eliminate additional process steps, reduce cleaning effort and significantly lower the need for special corrosion-protective packaging. At the same time, the oil- and VOC-free approach noticeably improves working and environmental conditions, as emissions, odours and disposal efforts are significantly reduced compared with oil- and solvent-based solutions.

The core idea for this new process originated at Traxit Wire Lubrication, a brand of Klüber Lubrication, and was consistently developed together with long-standing industry partners. Within the project, chemistry, application technology, and machine and line integration interlock seamlessly. Traxit contributes its extensive expertise in wire drawing processes and application-oriented consulting. The partners Maschinenfabrik NIEHOFF GmbH & Co. KG and EJP WIRE Technology GmbH provide the machine technology and integration know-how required for precise and controlled inline applications.



Bild - Box

The result is a coordinated overall system in which medium and application technology are precisely matched to each other, ensuring reproducible results.

The system is designed for both new installations and existing production lines. In existing lines, approximately two metres of space are typically required between the wire drawing machine and the take-up unit for the installation of the two machine modules; in new installations, integration can be carried out directly as part of the overall line planning. The focus is on clean mechanical integration and precise process coordination, ensuring that the protective film is applied in a controlled manner and integrated inline into the ongoing production process.

The primary target customers are wire manufacturers with high requirements for corrosion prevention, consistent surface quality and process stability. The current focus is on spring wire, while the transfer of the process to further wire types is already being prepared.

This globally new corrosion protection process is currently undergoing patent application and was presented exclusively at wire 2026 in Düsseldorf. The response at the trade fair was very positive: numerous discussions with interested parties resulted in clearly defined customer projects, refined requirements and the agreement of initial tests. EJP WIRE Technology acts as the central point of contact for test runs, line analyses

and integration consulting. Entry typically begins with a technical line check and the joint definition of key target parameters such as wire type, line speed and requirements for protective film performance and handling. Following the test run and evaluation, the system is integrated into the production line with dedicated support through to commissioning.

***“We are experiencing strong interest in this globally new technology. At wire 2026, we were able to concretise several customer projects and directly agree on tests,”*** emphasises Lothar Köppen, Managing Director of EJP WIRE Technology GmbH.

In the long term, the project aims to establish a future-ready industry standard:

- Fewer emissions through the consistent elimination of oil and VOC
- Greater process reliability through controlled application
- A solution that can be integrated worldwide into modern wire drawing lines

In this way, the new inline corrosion protection combines sustainability, quality and economic efficiency in a single, continuous process step.

[www.traxit.com](http://www.traxit.com)

## Innovation in Motion: Ajax & Turner Advances Conductor Drawing with Enhanced TW Die Technology

Following a successful week at wire Düsseldorf, Ajax & Turner Wire Technologies extends its sincere thanks to the prospective customers, industry partners and visitors who connected with the team at Hall 11, Stand A-51. The exhibition provided a valuable platform to discuss evolving industry needs and showcase the company's latest tooling developments.

### Engineering to exacting ASTM standards

As a global fixture in the wire and cable tooling sector since 1962, India-based Ajax & Turner continues to focus on high-precision solutions for overhead conductors. The company's Trapezoidal Wire (TW) and Sector Conductor Dies

are specifically engineered to draw aluminium strands for high-performance conductors, including ACSR, ACCC, ACSS and various localised configurations such as AMSTERDAM, CASABLANCA and ECO PANTHER. These designs align with strict ASTM standards and carry approvals from major global power grid corporations.

Available in PCD, VNT Nano and tungsten carbide, the dies focus on maintaining tight quality parameters. The design ensures aluminium strands are shaped with an ultra-smooth outer surface, maximising compacting efficiency and enhancing the physical properties of the finished conductor.

### Overcoming material challenges

A key technical capability of Ajax & Turner's trapezoidal-shaped dies is their ability to address diameter constraints. To resolve the issue of

smaller-diameter conductors, the die geometries can be enlarged to increase the cross-sectional area of the aluminium. This allows manufacturers to match the exact outer diameter of conventional round conductors while optimising current-carrying capacity.

### AI-driven design

In its manufacturing process for dies and extrusion tooling, Ajax & Turner utilises predictive digital modelling to calculate hot and cold dimensioning values. By accurately accounting for tooling shrinkage at the design stage, the system predicts final product geometry in advance. This data-driven approach allows cable manufacturers to achieve right-first-time quality and minimise material waste.

[www.ajaxturner.com](http://www.ajaxturner.com)

## FUHR Highlights Process Solutions at wire Düsseldorf 2026 with New FAS150 Accumulator System

wire Düsseldorf 2026 once again confirmed its position as the leading meeting point for the international wire and cable industry, and for FUHR Rolling Mills, this year's exhibition proved particularly valuable. Throughout the week, the company's stand in Hall 9 attracted a steady stream of visitors, many of them decision-makers and technical specialists looking for practical solutions to current production challenges.



Instead of exhibiting one of its rolling mills, traditionally the core of FUHR's product portfolio, the company deliberately chose to focus on the new FAS150 wire accumulator system. The compact storage solution became one of the main talking points at the stand.

**"The response to the FAS150 was exceptionally positive,"** said FUHR Managing Director Volker Gerth. **"We had a large number of highly focused technical discussions with customers from all major markets. What stood out this year was the quality of the conversations."**

The FAS150 was developed for applications where production space is limited but continuous process flow remains essential. Despite its compact footprint, the system can store substantial quantities of wire or other long products, allowing discontinuous operations to be integrated into continuous production lines.

According to Gerth, the decision to present the accumulator rather than a rolling mill was intentional.

**"Rolling mills remain our core business, of course,"** he explained. **"But with the FAS150, we wanted to demonstrate that FUHR is not only a machine builder. We see ourselves as a partner for complete process solutions."**

This broader approach appeared to resonate strongly with visitors at wire 2026. Many discussions focused less on individual machines and more on topics such as line efficiency, production flexibility, automation and optimised material flow within increasingly space-constrained factories.

For FUHR, the exhibition was not only an opportunity to present new technology, but also to strengthen existing partnerships and initiate concrete follow-up projects with customers worldwide. Several discussions initiated during the show are already continuing beyond Düsseldorf.

[www.fuhr-wire.com](http://www.fuhr-wire.com)

# An Evening Above the Bund: *The Great Connection* at wire China

**After a busy day on the exhibition floor, there are few better places to continue the conversations than above one of the world's most recognisable skylines.**

On Wednesday 23 September, IWMA will welcome members, colleagues and industry friends to *The Great Connection* at CHAR Bar, the rooftop venue at Hotel Indigo, Shanghai.

Located at the southern end of the Bund, CHAR Bar enjoys one of the most impressive vantage points in the city. Its unique riverside location offers uninterrupted views across the Huangpu River towards Pudong's famous skyline, while the historic architecture of the Bund unfolds in the opposite direction. From the rooftop terrace, guests can take in both sides of Shanghai's story in a single glance.

As guests arrive after a busy day at the exhibition, IWMA's signature Aperol Spritz will once again be waiting to welcome them. Familiar, vibrant and unmistakably IWMA, it's become more than just a drink – it's a small but recognisable moment that signals the start of an evening dedicated to bringing the industry together.

Following the welcome drinks, guests will hear a short address from IWMA Chairman, Willibert Dautzenberg, officially opening the event and offering a warm welcome to everyone attending.

As drinks continue to flow, a selection of light bites will be served, providing the perfect accompaniment to a night above the Bund.

As always, the real focus will be the people in the room. IWMA events thrive on that blend of familiar faces and new introductions, where conversations move easily between business, innovation and the shared experiences of a fast-moving global industry.

IWMA members will receive two complimentary tickets to attend *The Great Connection*. Additional guests are welcome and will be invoiced back to the member company at £50 per person, which includes complimentary drinks until 22:30 and a finger food buffet.

*The Great Connection* has become a valued part of the exhibition calendar, offering an opportunity to step away from the exhibition floor and spend time with colleagues, peers and friends from across the global wire and cable community. It reflects the collaborative spirit that continues to drive the industry forward.

By the time the evening draws to a close, the skyline will still be shining, the river still moving and the conversations still flowing – a reminder that in this industry, connections do not end when the exhibition hall closes.

Instead, in Shanghai, they simply rise to the rooftop.

**Sponsorship opportunities are available for *The Great Connection* at wire China. Members interested in supporting the event and increasing their visibility are invited to contact [katie@iwma.org](mailto:katie@iwma.org).**

## Rise to the Rooftop

Tickets for *The Great Connection* at wire China will be released in July and are bookable through the IWMA website.

Places will be available on a first come, first served basis, so members are encouraged to keep an eye out for booking details and secure their place early.

# First Look: IWMA Members Heading to Shanghai

As wire China 2026 draws closer, we are delighted to showcase the IWMA member companies currently confirmed to exhibit,\* highlighting the continued strength, reach and expertise of our international membership.



\*Correct as of 20 May 2026

# Hub Spotlight: Meet the Companies Joining the Wire & Cable Hub at wire China 2026

Developed in partnership between IWMA and Messe Düsseldorf Shanghai, the new Wire & Cable Hub is set to make its debut at wire China this September, creating a dedicated destination for innovation, networking and industry engagement.

Combining exhibition space with a built-in presentation and networking zone, the Hub will bring together exhibitors, technical knowledge-sharing and business networking within one dedicated feature area. Designed as a high-visibility platform, it will give participating companies the opportunity to showcase expertise, share ideas and connect with visitors from across the global wire and cable industry.

With exhibitor space now fully booked, IWMA is delighted to welcome the following companies as part of this exciting new feature at wire China 2026:



## AFH-Antriebstechnik GmbH

AFH-Antriebstechnik specialises in customised haul-off belts, drive belts and process belts for the wire and cable industry. With decades of experience, AFH supports manufacturers with durable, application-specific solutions for demanding production environments.



## HAEHNE Force Measurement Technology

HAEHNE develops force measurement, web tension control and monitoring systems used throughout wire and cable production. Its technologies enable precise process control, helping manufacturers maintain product quality and optimise production performance.



## TEMCO Wire Products Limited

TEMCO Wire Products manufactures specialist copper and aluminium conductors, serving customers across the telecommunications, energy and infrastructure sectors. Known for technical expertise and product quality, TEMCO works closely with customers to meet specific requirements.



## Bar Products & Services Ltd

Bar Products & Services supplies tungsten carbide drawing dies, extrusion tooling and associated products for the wire, rope and cable industries. Its wider offering includes specialist equipment, technical support and die management services.



## Bhag Digital

Bhag Digital delivers digital transformation solutions tailored to industrial manufacturers, combining automation, software development and data analytics. Its technologies help businesses harness operational data to improve visibility, decision-making and manufacturing performance.



## GMM Cable Machinery

GMM Cable Machinery designs and manufactures machinery for cable production and processing. Serving customers worldwide, GMM focuses on reliable equipment solutions that support productivity, quality and long-term operational performance.



## InnoVites B.V.

InnoVites develops software solutions specifically for the cable and wire industry, helping manufacturers manage operations, streamline processes and accelerate digitalisation. Its industry-focused platforms support improved visibility, efficiency and informed decision-making.



Join us at the Wire & Cable Hub during  
wire China 2026, 21-24 September,  
Shanghai New International Expo Centre.

# Market Insight and Technical Expertise Come Together at wire China

**As preparations continue for wire China, IWMA is working in collaboration with Messe Düsseldorf Shanghai to deliver a dedicated Wire & Cable Hub, creating a focused space for members and visitors to connect, share expertise and discuss the key issues shaping the global wire and cable industry.**

A central part of the hub will be a seminar programme bringing together technical presentations, market insight and practical industry discussion across a day and a half of content. Members have already begun submitting their presentations, with the programme developing into a valuable platform for exploring new approaches, shared challenges and the opportunities ahead for the sector.

The sessions will focus on four key topic areas:

- Sustainable Materials and Greener Cable Manufacturing
- Smart Manufacturing, AI and Digital Transformation
- Resilient Global Supply Chains and Cost Pressures
- Future Cable Demand and High-Performance Applications

IWMA is also pleased to confirm that its Data Insight Partner, CRU, will be part of the programme. CRU will provide market insight during the sessions and support the panel discussions, helping to place the technical content into a wider commercial and global context.

Alongside the member presentations, two panel discussions are planned as part of the programme. These discussions will give speakers and industry representatives the opportunity to explore the issues currently influencing business decisions, manufacturing priorities, investment and future demand across the wire and cable sector.

The panel discussions will explore two key themes:

- Digital Transformation in Practice: How AI and Smart Manufacturing Are Changing Cable Production
- Voices from the Field: Market Realities Across the Wire & Cable Industry

The IWMA is currently working to finalise the speaker and panellist line-up, with further information expected to be confirmed in early August.

There are also still opportunities available to sponsor the Wire & Cable Hub and seminar programme at wire China. For more information, please contact [katie@iwma.org](mailto:katie@iwma.org).



Taking place within one of the industry's most important international exhibitions, the Wire & Cable Hub at wire China will provide a timely opportunity to bring together technical knowledge, commercial insight and global perspectives. More than simply a meeting point, the hub will create a space for meaningful conversation, practical learning and stronger international connections throughout the show.

## Lunch & Link at wire China

**To mark the opening day of wire China and celebrate the launch of the first Wire & Cable Innovation Hub, IWMA is inviting all members visiting or exhibiting at the show to join us for Lunch & Link on Monday 21 September.**

Taking place between 12:00 and 14:00, the complimentary event offers members a relaxed opportunity to meet, reconnect and look ahead to the week. Whether you're exhibiting, visiting customers, exploring new opportunities or simply trying to navigate a busy first day, we'd be delighted to welcome you.

We know that exhibition schedules can be full, especially on the opening day, but even if you only have time to stop by for a quick bite to eat, say hello and make a few new connections, we'd love to see you there.

Lunch & Link will also provide the perfect opportunity to explore the new Wire & Cable Innovation Hub, meet the companies exhibiting within the space and pick up information about the activities, presentations and networking opportunities taking place throughout the week.

As always, IWMA events are designed to bring people together in a friendly and informal setting. The first day of a major international exhibition is always full of energy, anticipation and opportunity, and Lunch & Link offers members the chance to pause, connect and start the week with familiar faces and new introductions. The event is complimentary for all IWMA members visiting or exhibiting at wire China. To help us cater for the correct number of guests in the final weeks leading up to the show, members are asked to register their interest via the IWMA website.

**Join us on Monday 21 September between 12:00 and 14:00 for Lunch & Link. Whether you stay for the full event or simply drop in for a quick hello, we look forward to seeing you there.**



## Eyes on Mumbai: Only Two Spaces Remain in the IWMA Pavilion!



Visit us:

**Hall 6, Stand E40**

30 November – 2 December 2026  
Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai

**With less than six months to go until wire India 2026, anticipation is building for one of the industry's key events, and demand for the IWMA Pavilion continues to be strong. Following an excellent response from members, just two exhibitor opportunities now remain available within the Pavilion: one pod-style space and one 9m<sup>2</sup> stand package.**

The next edition of wire India will take place from 30 November to 2 December 2026 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, with the IWMA Pavilion located at Hall 6, Stand E40.

Following its successful debut at wire India 2024, the IWMA Pavilion will once again serve as a central meeting point for members and visitors, bringing together companies from across the global wire and cable sector and showcasing the strength, expertise

and international reach of IWMA membership.

Joining the Pavilion this year are confirmed member companies RichardsApex, Conoptica, AFH, BWE and BHAG Digital. Together, they will present a broad range of products, technologies and services to visitors from across India and beyond.

The IWMA stand will once again be a hive of activity, offering a welcoming environment for networking, business discussions and industry engagement. Visitors will be able to take advantage of IWMA hospitality, refreshments, Wi-Fi connectivity and shared meeting facilities, while also accessing information on IWMA membership, events, exhibitions and industry initiatives.

A dedicated IWMA Member Presentation Day will take place on Tuesday, 1 December 2026, providing exhibitors and members with a platform to share technical expertise, industry insight and company developments with visitors to the Pavilion. Applications for presentation slots are expected

to open in July 2026, with more information to be announced in the coming weeks.

The evening of 1 December will also offer an opportunity to continue the conversation beyond the exhibition hall, with plans well underway for a spectacular Mumbai-style networking event, co-hosted once again by IWMA, Mikrotek Machines and Niehoff India. Further details will be announced in due course, so keep an eye on [iwma.org](http://iwma.org) for updates.

Whether visiting the Pavilion to meet existing contacts, discover new technologies or learn more about the benefits of IWMA membership, we look forward to welcoming industry partners, members and guests during what is set to be the most successful wire India yet.

**With only two exhibitor opportunities remaining, members interested in joining the IWMA Pavilion are encouraged to contact Jessica Bennett at [jessica@iwma.org](mailto:jessica@iwma.org) as soon as possible.**

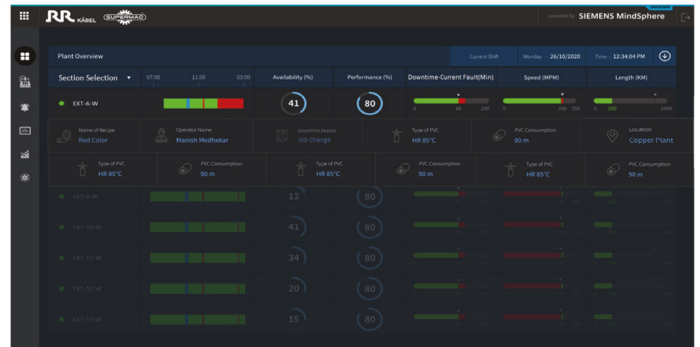
# Supermac – Global Solution Provider in Extrusion and Process Technology along with IIOT applications

Supermac Industries established in the year 1974 is a leader in manufacturing of high end systems and process technology for the wire & cable in Power and telecom sector and related Industries.

The ISO 9001 and CE certified company specializes in offering customized and tailor made solutions to fulfil specific needs of the variety of customers all across the globe.

With a highly skilled design team, with the best of manufacturing and highly talented commissioning team, trained experts in cable processes and technology, we offer design to process expertise to bring in the best product for you.

Supermac has expertise providing on line commissioning from remote. Post commissioning customer service support is provided



IIOT screen



High speed building wire line

from both on site as well as from remote. In our endeavour to conform to industry 4.0 norms, Supermac has taken strong strides forward in implementing several digital initiatives and can provide IIOT enabled extrusion lines supported by Siemens Mind sphere software

The company has three established and running units near New Delhi and are adding another unit under our expansion program.

The state-of-the art facilities are equipped with international and indigenous machinery to carry out the process of manufacturing as per the customer's requirements.

Supermac has strategic partnership with German Company – M/S Scholz to cover CCV Lines, and Simpack USA for Coiling machines and Solutions.

## Supermac specializes in the following areas:

- State of the art CCV Line with Scholz Vulcanization system for Power Cables up to 132 KV XLPE and 33 KV for Rubber
- Specialized Medical Tubing extrusion lines
- Proven Triple Extrusion Line for SIOPLAS (XLPE) cables
- High speed Insulation Line and Sheathing Line for House Wiring & Control Cables and medical equipment sector.
- High output and best in class Insulation Line and Sheathing Line for Power and Optical fiber Cables.
- HCV insulation and sheathing line
- Hybrid and composite CCV lines for both XLPE and Rubber.
- Rubber extruders for Insulation and sheathing materials
- Silicone extrusion lines with infrared vulcanization system
- Cat 5.6 and 7 Lines
- FTTH drop cable lines
- Fluoropolymer – FEP, PTFE /ETFE Lines
- Loose tube/Secondary coating lines for fibre optics
- Extruders for variety of applications – up to 175 mm
- Cross-Head Single/Dual/Triple Haul-Off Caterpillar
- Capstan
- Take-up and pay-off of all types and sizes and as per requirement above 4.5 meters and 40 MT



Supermac CCV Line

## SUPERMAC INDUSTRIES (INDIA) LIMITED

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# IWMA Pavilion Set to Return to wire Mexico in 2027

Following the success of IWMA's first pavilion at wire Mexico, the association is pleased to confirm that the IWMA Pavilion is set to return for the 2027 edition of the exhibition.

Taking place from 23 to 25 February 2027 at Cintermex in Monterrey, wire Mexico will once again bring together key players from across the Latin American wire and cable supply chain, providing an important platform for international business, technical exchange and industry networking.

Mexico continues to represent a significant and growing market for the global wire and cable industry. As one of the largest economies in Latin America, with continued investment in modernisation, manufacturing and infrastructure, the country offers valuable opportunities for companies looking to strengthen their presence in the region and connect with new customers, suppliers and industry partners.

For 2027, the IWMA Pavilion will build on the strong foundations established in 2025, once again offering members a shared platform to exhibit, connect and showcase



their expertise under the IWMA banner.

IWMA will once again offer flexible exhibitor options that proved so valuable at the previous edition, providing members with a professional, practical and cost-effective way to take part in the exhibition as part of a wider group presence. Alongside exhibition space, members can expect IWMA hospitality, practical support and shared networking opportunities, with the pavilion serving as a central meeting point for members, visitors and industry contacts throughout the show.

In addition to the exhibition presence, IWMA is also planning to host an evening networking event during the show on 24 February. Following the success of the previous member networking evening in Monterrey, the event will offer members and industry colleagues the chance to connect

after the exhibition day in a relaxed setting, helping to strengthen relationships and create new opportunities within the international wire and cable community.

Further information on pavilion options, pricing, availability and networking event details will be shared with members in due course. In the meantime, IWMA encourages members interested in exhibiting at wire Mexico 2027 to register their early interest with Jessica Bennett at [jessica@iwma.org](mailto:jessica@iwma.org).

wire Mexico continues to grow as an important meeting point for the industry in Latin America, and IWMA looks forward to returning to Monterrey in 2027 to support members, build connections and strengthen IWMA's presence in this dynamic market.



**IWMA WIRE**  
NETWORKING



Your **IWMA** Networking Event at wire Mexico

**Save the Date: Wednesday 24 February 2027**



# US Utility Market Plays Catch-Up To Data Centre Load Growth

**Author: Aisling Hubert, CRU**

**Commodity: Wire and Cable**

## Developers scramble for interconnection, leading to double counting of projects by utilities

In 2025, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) was forced to revise its forecast data centre pipeline downwards by roughly 400MW – equivalent to 25 data centres or 250,000 homes. This write-down was due to the double, triple and sometimes quadruple counting of data centres, as developers seek to hedge their bets due to lengthy and uncertain electricity interconnection queues. Similarly, AEP Ohio cut its list of pending projects by 30%, removing data centre developers with only speculative financial strength from its queue.

Interconnection challenges have emerged as one of the most significant risks to the pace of data centre expansion. Google's Head of Sustainability and Climate Policy, Marsden Hanna, stated that: *"Transmission barriers are the number one challenge we're seeing on the grid."* He added: *"We have utilities in many markets telling us four or five, sometimes ten years to interconnect."* Currently, it takes on average seven years for project interconnection in the US.

Challenges with interconnection have already stunted data centre rollout in other countries such as Ireland, where the application accounts for roughly 22% of the country's electricity consumption, more than all residential use in the country. This figure has risen by 531% since 2015. As a consequence, in 2021, Ireland instated a temporary moratorium on new data centre rollouts until new legislation was passed in December 2025. Now, any data centre seeking a grid connection must install on-site generation or battery systems capable of meeting its full electricity demand, with 80% coming from renewable energy. Operators will also be required to provide power back to the national grid when needed.

## US ratepayers' electricity bills are up by as much as 16% year-on-year in data centre heavy states

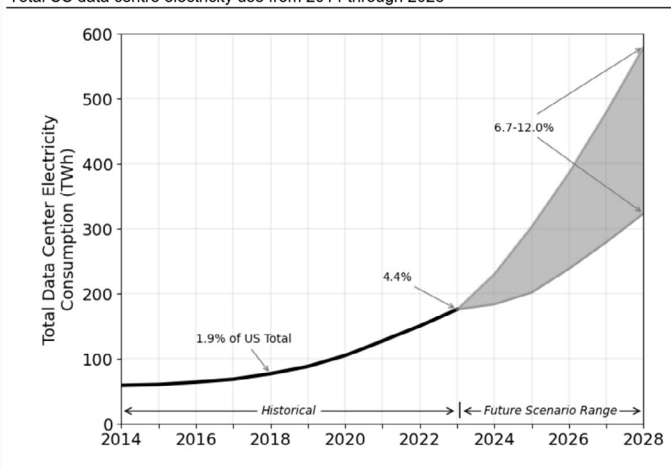
The current system of US ratepayers footing much of the bill for data centres has had ramifications on average electricity prices, which rose by 7% on average from October 2024 to October 2025 – even more in states with high data centre loads, such as Illinois, which rose by 16% year-on-year.

Electricity prices are already a politically sensitive issue in the US, with residential tariffs rising meaningfully since 2021. Against that backdrop, hyperscale data centres, which are often highly visible, water-intensive and tax-advantaged, have become focus areas for public concern. The core fear is that utilities will be forced to overbuild generation, substations and transmission to serve uncertain large loads, with the costs spread across all customers. Several utilities and regulators have explicitly acknowledged this risk, prompting new

tariff structures that require large loads to underwrite upgrades or commit to minimum take-or-pay volumes, sometimes as high as 85% of contracted demand.

The US Department of Energy now forecasts 20GW of incremental data-centre load by 2030 and estimates that data centres could account for 6.7% to 12% of total US electricity consumption by 2028, up from 4.4% in 2023. For a three-year horizon, that range is extraordinarily wide and highlights the scale of uncertainty utilities are being asked to plan against. The main question is who will take on the costs associated with planning for this uncertainty.

Total US data centre electricity use from 2014 through 2028



DATA: 2024 United States Data Center Energy Usage Report, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

## ERCOT introduces stricter interconnection criteria

With the scale of the challenge against the historically slow-moving grid institutions, changes are being implemented at a policy level to try and get power generation and interconnection planning up to speed. At the federal level, proposals have emerged to accelerate permitting and explore new procurement mechanisms that force large loads to "pay their way". PJM, under direction from federal regulators, is developing new frameworks for connecting large loads that bring their own generation, accept curtailment risk or rely on flexible interconnection arrangements rather than firm capacity.

In Texas, ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas) serves 90% of the state. This independent system operator is responsible for managing the grid reliability, generation and power pricing. In early 2026, ERCOT announced "Batch Zero", a new planning system for large load interconnection. With this, developers with loads over 75MW will face stricter eligibility criteria and maturity requirements, ensuring projects are prioritised effectively and delays are reduced. It will also prioritise projects that bring their own generation – a move being seen across global energy markets.

## Gas turbine demand has spiked as data centres try to circumnavigate the grid

Alongside regulatory reform, data-centre operators are increasingly turning to technical solutions that reduce



reliance on traditional grid expansion. One approach is co-location with power generation, allowing data centres to connect “behind the meter” and limit their net withdrawals from the grid. Another is the expanded use of on-site generation, including gas turbines originally designed for aviation, to bridge multi-year interconnection delays.

The demand for gas turbines has risen dramatically, and with average wait times of five years at present, demand has also fuelled a substantial secondary market. Going forward, nuclear small modular reactors could provide an optimal solution, though regulation renders it an unfeasible solution for now.

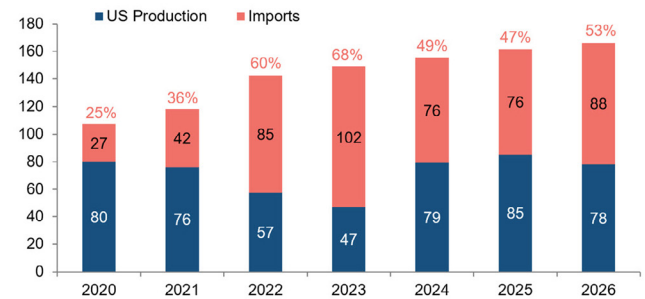
**Aluminium overhead cable demand has risen by roughly 9% CAGR from 2020-2026**

CRU has written previously on the demand for wire and cable within data centre campuses themselves. Here, we attempt to understand the changing demand to the wider electricity grid which, in the US, is mainly comprised of aluminium overhead conductors in the form of ACSS (Aluminium Conductor Steel Supported) and ACSR (Aluminium Conductor Steel Reinforced).

Historically, a large portion of the aluminium overhead conductors used in the US has been imported. This percentage share of imports rose to a record high of 68% in 2023, when challenges with domestic US production prompted utilities to look overseas to fulfil their grid obligations. Since then, production has normalised – meanwhile, demand for aluminium overhead lines has risen by an average of 9% CAGR between 2020 and 2026, rising from 107kt conductors used to 166kt conductors, respectively. CRU understands that roughly half of cable procurement is used for ongoing maintenance and reconductoring, with the other half being used for new transmission and distribution projects.

Imports of aluminium overhead lines constitute a major part of US cable use

US aluminium bare overhead conductor use by source, kilotonnes conductor



DATA: CRU Wire and Cable Market Outlook

**Expansion of aluminium conductor production from existing players is likely as demand grows and tariffs take effect**

The rapid expansion of data centre demand is reshaping not only utility planning but also the structure and urgency of investment across the US wire and cable supply chain. As interconnection delays lengthen and regulators tighten eligibility criteria, “bring your own power” solutions and greater on site generation will increasingly become the norm for hyperscalers driving demand for behind-the-meter power, including wind, solar and battery storage solutions.

At the same time, Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminium will benefit the investment attractiveness for US based aluminium overhead line production, which has been neglected in recent years due to lower margins commanded compared to high-voltage insulated cable products and EPC projects. CRU expects that this convergence of structural load growth, policy intervention and shifting procurement strategies will spur further cable manufacturing capacity additions and localisation efforts among US producers.

# Strait of Hormuz: Why a Distant Shipping Chokepoint Matters to the Cable Industry

**As this issue of IWMA Insider goes to print, the situation in the Strait of Hormuz remains fast-moving, fragile and highly significant for the global wire and cable supply chain.**

This article has been prepared just 48 hours before print in an effort to give readers the most up-to-date and factual information available at the time of writing. Even in the last 24 hours, the position has changed. What had been described as an effective closure of one of the world's most important energy and shipping chokepoints has now moved towards cautious reopening, following reports of a US-Iran agreement or framework intended to end the conflict and allow commercial shipping to begin returning.

However, for industry, the announcement of political progress does not mean an instant return to normal. Shipping lines remain cautious, operational details are still emerging and it may take time for vessel schedules, insurance markets, freight rates and customer confidence to stabilise. For cable manufacturers and suppliers, the key issue is not only whether the Strait is technically open, but how quickly the whole trade route can begin functioning reliably again.

For IWMA members, the concern is not only the reopening of a shipping lane, but the knock-on effect on cable exports, polymers, freight, insurance and project lead times.

## Why Hormuz matters to cable

The Strait of Hormuz is the narrow sea passage connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and wider international shipping lanes. For countries inside the Gulf, it's a critical route to global markets. Producers in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE, Iraq, Iran and the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia depend on vessels being able to pass through the Strait to move goods internationally.

When access through Hormuz is restricted, the effect is immediate. Ships can be delayed, held at port, rerouted where possible or subject to higher risk premiums and

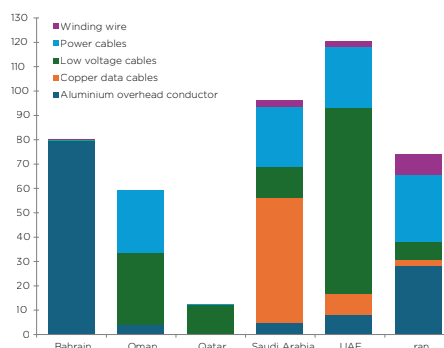
insurance costs. Even when limited traffic continues, uncertainty can slow down bookings, delay contracts and make buyers more cautious about relying on affected routes.

For the wire and cable sector, this matters because the Gulf region is not only a major energy and petrochemical hub. It is also connected to important cable and conductor trade flows, including aluminium overhead conductors, power cables, low voltage cables, power cables, low voltage cables, copper data cables and winding wire.

During her presentation at the IWMA x CRU FORUM Day at wire Düsseldorf, Aisling Hubert, CRU Analyst, presented data showing the exposure of Gulf cable exports to disruption through the Strait of Hormuz. The graph, which was correct as of April 2026, highlighted how cable exporters located inside the Persian Gulf are particularly vulnerable because vessels must pass through Hormuz before reaching global shipping routes.

In her presentation, Aisling showed exposure across several cable product categories. Bahrain showed significant exposure in aluminium overhead conductors. The UAE was strongly represented in low voltage cables. Saudi Arabia showed exposure in copper data cables and power cables, while Iran, Oman, the UAE and Saudi Arabia all featured in the power cable data. Iran also appeared in the winding wire figures.

Estimated 2025 cable exports from Persian Gulf countries



Presented by Aisling Hubert, CRU Analyst, at the IWMA x CRU FORUM Day at wire Düsseldorf, this CRU/GTT data shows Gulf cable export exposure linked to the Strait of Hormuz. Correct as of April 2026, it's a structural exposure snapshot, not a live measure of shipment delays.

It's important to read this graph correctly. The data presented by Aisling Hubert at the IWMA x CRU FORUM Day should be treated as a structural exposure snapshot, correct as of April 2026. It does not show live vessel movements, current delays or individual customer orders. Instead, it helps identify which product categories and exporting countries are most likely to be affected when shipping through Hormuz is disrupted.

That distinction matters. Even if the Strait reopens, the exposure shown in the graph remains relevant because the underlying trade routes have not changed. Gulf-based exporters still rely on Hormuz as the gateway to overseas markets. Any renewed disruption, delay, increased cost or insurance restriction would continue to have an impact on those same trade flows.

## Why reopening does not mean recovery

The most immediate risk for cable exports is delay. Producers inside the Gulf may face difficulty moving finished goods to customers in Europe, the US, Asia and other international markets. Even where contracts remain in place, delivery schedules may need to be reviewed if vessels are delayed, freight capacity is restricted or insurers continue to treat the route as high risk.

For project-led sectors, this can be particularly challenging. Power cables, conductors and infrastructure-related cable products are often tied to construction programmes, utility upgrades, renewable energy projects and grid investment schedules. If a shipment is delayed by several weeks, the impact may be felt beyond the cable producer. Contractors, installers, utilities and end customers may all face knock-on disruption.

There may also be commercial pressure. Freight costs, insurance premiums, storage costs and vessel availability can all affect margins. In some cases, suppliers may not be able to pass those costs on immediately, particularly where pricing has already been agreed. Buyers may also seek alternative sources of supply if they are



concerned about continuity, even if the disruption proves temporary.

Recent political developments have raised hopes that the Strait can reopen more fully and that regional tensions may begin to de-escalate. Markets have responded quickly, particularly oil and energy markets, which moved lower on expectations that flows through Hormuz could resume.

However, trade routes do not recover at the same speed as headlines. Shipping companies must assess security, navigational safety, insurance conditions and port backlogs before returning to normal operations. If vessels have been delayed, diverted or held outside the Gulf, schedules will need to be rebuilt. If mines, military activity or damaged infrastructure remain a concern, some operators may wait for clearer assurances before resuming normal transit.

The Strait of Hormuz is the focal point of this disruption, but the impact should be understood as part of a wider Gulf logistics issue. Even if access through the Strait improves, exporters may still face vessel backlogs, port congestion, higher insurance costs, revised sailing schedules and cautious decision-making from shipping lines.

For cable exporters, this means supply chains do not restart instantly. Finished cable, conductors, polymers and feedstocks may all be affected by the same practical questions: whether vessels are available, whether insurers are comfortable with the route, whether freight rates have stabilised, and whether customers are confident that delivery dates can be met.

For producers inside the Gulf, the commercial effect of the disruption may continue after the initial political risk appears to ease. For customers outside the region, it may mean longer lead times, more conservative project planning and closer scrutiny

of where cable and insulation materials are being sourced.

For the cable industry, the practical message is simple: reopening is positive, but it is not the same as normalisation.

### **Beyond finished cable: polymers, pricing and planning**

The effects of Hormuz disruption are not limited to finished cable exports. The cable industry also relies heavily on polymer-based materials used in insulation and sheathing, particularly polyethylene.

The Middle East is a major petrochemical region, and many Asian polymer producers are also linked to Middle Eastern feedstocks such as naphtha. When shipping through Hormuz is restricted, the impact can move beyond Gulf cable exporters and into the wider materials supply chain.

This is particularly relevant for polyethylene, which is widely used in cable insulation. Disruption to feedstock supply, polymer exports, vessel availability or freight costs can all influence availability and pricing further down the cable value chain. Even cable manufacturers outside the Gulf may therefore feel the impact if polymer supply tightens or prices rise.

PVC may prove somewhat more resilient in some markets, particularly where recycled content or alternative supply routes reduce dependence on primary feedstocks. However, it would be wrong to assume that any material category is completely insulated from wider energy, petrochemical and freight market disruption.

The Strait of Hormuz crisis is a reminder that the cable industry is deeply connected to global events. A political or military development in one region can quickly affect raw materials, freight, insurance, customer pricing, project delivery

and export competitiveness elsewhere.

For IWMA members, the issue is not only whether they trade directly with the Gulf. Many businesses may be exposed indirectly through material supply, customer projects, freight markets, energy costs or competitor movements. A cable manufacturer in Europe or Asia may not export through Hormuz, but could still be affected by polymer pricing, delayed components, higher shipping costs or shifting customer demand.

Over the coming weeks, the key indicators will be the speed and stability of any reopening, the response of major shipping lines, the movement of insurance premiums and whether vessel traffic returns to normal levels. Members should also monitor polymer pricing, polyethylene availability, freight rates and any changes to delivery expectations from Gulf-based suppliers.

Where businesses are relying on cable, conductor, polymer or feedstock movements linked to the Gulf, it may be sensible to review lead times, contract terms and customer communications. Clear, realistic updates may be more valuable than optimistic delivery promises in a market that is still adjusting.

The current position is more hopeful than it was, but it remains uncertain. At the time of writing, the Strait of Hormuz appears to have moved from acute closure risk towards cautious reopening. The immediate risk may be easing, but the operational disruption has not disappeared.

For the cable industry, the lesson is clear. Resilience is not only about manufacturing capacity. It is about routes, materials, logistics, geopolitical awareness and the ability to respond quickly when global conditions change.

### **Editor's note:**

*This article was prepared 48 hours before print. The situation in the Strait of Hormuz remains fast-moving, and political, shipping and insurance conditions may change after publication. The CRU/GTT exposure data referenced in this article was presented by Aisling Hubert, CRU Analyst, during the IWMA x CRU FORUM Day at wire Düsseldorf and was correct as of April 2026.*

# Risk Radar: The Geopolitical Pressures Shaping the Wire and Cable Supply Chain

**As IWMA Insider goes to print, the global risk radar is looking rather crowded. The Strait of Hormuz may be taking the headlines, but shipping routes, tariffs, steel measures, metals duties and carbon regulation are all making a strong case for attention. For IWMA members, these are not just political talking points. They can influence raw material availability, freight costs, customer pricing, project lead times, export competitiveness and long-term investment decisions.**

In a sector built around global supply chains, events that appear distant can quickly become commercial realities.

## Shipping routes remain vulnerable

The Strait of Hormuz remains the most immediate concern because of its direct connection to Gulf exports, energy flows, petrochemicals and polymer supply. A US-Iran framework agreement has raised hopes that the Strait can reopen more fully, but global shipping operators remain cautious. Maersk has welcomed the agreement but, at the time of writing, has not changed its Middle East operations, saying details remain limited.

The caution is understandable. Reuters reports that only limited traffic has resumed, with safety, mine clearance and insurance normalisation still key concerns. Maritime experts have warned that clearing naval mines could take weeks, while an estimated 155 to 215 tankers remain stuck in the Gulf. Hormuz has previously handled around 20% of the global oil and liquefied natural gas trade, so any disruption has implications well beyond the region.

However, Hormuz sits within a wider pattern of maritime risk. The Red Sea and Suez Canal route has also remained under pressure. The Suez Canal has historically handled around 12% to 15% of global trade and around 30% of global container traffic, making disruption there

highly significant for Asia-Europe and wider global freight flows.

Although some shipping services have been testing or gradually returning to Suez routes, operators have continued to respond cautiously to instability in the region. Any renewed escalation can quickly affect vessel routing, transit times and freight costs, particularly for cargo moving between Asia, Europe and the US.

For wire and cable businesses, this matters because freight disruption is rarely isolated. Longer routes can absorb vessel capacity, delay containers, increase insurance costs and create uncertainty around delivery schedules. Rerouting vessels around the Cape of Good Hope can add significant time to journeys, with some estimates putting the additional transit time at up to two weeks.

Even where a company is not directly shipping through the affected region, it may still feel the effect through higher freight costs, slower lead times or reduced schedule reliability. The practical lesson is that maritime chokepoints are no longer background geography. Hormuz, Suez, the Red Sea and other critical routes are now part of procurement, logistics and customer planning.

On the previous page, we take a closer look at the conflict in the Gulf and the disruption caused through the Strait of Hormuz, exploring what it could mean for cable exports, polymer supply, freight, insurance and project lead times.

## Tariffs are becoming a strategic risk

Trade policy is another area where uncertainty remains high. The EU and US appear to be working towards a more stable trade position, but the current environment remains fragile. Tariff reductions and negotiated frameworks may offer some reassurance, but businesses are still operating against a backdrop of changing deadlines, political pressure and the possibility of retaliatory measures.

For the wire and cable industry, tariff uncertainty can be particularly difficult because materials, machinery, components and finished products often cross borders multiple times. A change in tariff treatment does not simply affect one transaction. It can alter sourcing decisions, customer pricing, contract margins and the competitiveness of one region against another.

Steel, aluminium and copper are especially sensitive areas for the sector. The US continues to apply a broad 15% tariff on many EU goods, while steel and aluminium tariffs have remained a major point of contention. European steel exports to the US have reportedly fallen by around 34% since Washington increased tariffs to 50%, showing how quickly trade measures can affect volumes and market access.

Even where a tariff is not applied directly to a specific cable product, duties on metals, derivatives or related goods can influence the wider cost base. Manufacturers may face higher input costs, customers may delay projects, and exporters may find themselves competing in markets where pricing has shifted suddenly.

The result is a more cautious commercial environment. Businesses may need to think more carefully about contract terms, quote validity, origin rules, alternative sourcing and the ability to pass on unexpected cost increases.

## Steel measures are under the spotlight

Steel policy is a particularly important issue for UK and European members. From 1 July 2026, the UK is introducing new steel trade measures that will limit tariff-free steel imports and apply higher duties above quota levels.

Under the new UK measure, overall tariff-free quota volumes will be reduced by 60% compared with the current steel safeguard arrangements. Imports above those quota levels will face a 50% tariff. The measure applies to imports of steel products that can also be made in the UK, with Make UK noting



## What this means for IWMA members

The common thread across all these issues is uncertainty. Shipping disruption, tariffs, steel measures and carbon rules may seem like separate subjects, but they all affect the same commercial questions: where materials come from, how reliably goods can move, what they cost and how confidently businesses can price and deliver.

For IWMA members, the priority is not to predict every political development. It's to build enough visibility and flexibility into the business to respond when conditions change.

That may mean reviewing freight routes, understanding exposure to metals tariffs, checking contract terms, monitoring steel availability, improving supplier communication or strengthening data around material origin and carbon reporting. It may also mean having more open conversations with customers about lead times, cost volatility and risk-sharing.

The wire and cable industry has always been international. What's changing is the speed at which geopolitical events can affect day-to-day business. The companies best placed to manage the next phase will be those that treat trade routes, tariffs, materials and regulation as connected risks, rather than isolated issues.

As this issue goes to print, the message is clear: resilience is no longer just about production. It's about supply chain intelligence, commercial agility and the ability to respond quickly to a world that continues to change.

that the system will operate across defined steel product categories.

The intention is to support domestic steel production, but downstream manufacturers have raised concerns about the possible impact on cost and availability. This is especially relevant where businesses rely on steel products that are not readily available domestically, or where supply chains are already under pressure.

For the wire and cable sector, steel is relevant in several ways. It can affect steel wire rod, steel wire, armouring, reinforcement, machinery supply chains and infrastructure-related products. If steel availability tightens or costs rise, the impact may move through the supply chain into pricing, margins, lead times and customer competitiveness.

The challenge for policymakers is balance. Measures that support steel production may also create pressure for downstream manufacturers if they reduce flexibility or increase costs. For IWMA members, this will be an area to monitor closely, particularly during the first months of implementation.

Over the following page, we look more closely at the UK steel tariff situation, including what has changed, why it matters and what the potential consequences could be for downstream manufacturers in the wire and cable sector.

### Carbon rules are moving downstream

Alongside tariffs and trade measures, carbon regulation is becoming an increasingly important part of international competitiveness.

The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, known as CBAM, is

designed to place a carbon cost on certain high-emission imports entering the EU. The system initially focuses on sectors such as steel, aluminium, cement and fertilisers, but policymakers are already looking at ways to close loopholes and extend coverage further downstream.

This matters because wire and cable businesses sit within complex supply chains that use metals, polymers, machinery and components from multiple regions. If carbon costs expand to more finished or semi-finished products, importers may face greater reporting requirements, documentation demands and potential cost exposure.

The Council of the European Union agreed its position on strengthening CBAM on 12 June 2026, with the new framework intended to extend the mechanism's scope to new products and close loopholes that may be used to circumvent the system. Separately, recent tax and trade analysis suggests that the proposed expansion from 1 January 2028 could cover around 180 steel- and aluminium-intensive downstream products.

Even where a company is not directly covered today, customers may begin asking more questions about embedded carbon, supplier origin, material traceability and emissions data. Over time, carbon reporting may become not just a compliance issue, but a commercial expectation.

For members supplying into Europe, CBAM and related carbon policies should be viewed as a medium-term strategic issue. The companies that can understand and evidence their material flows, emissions data and supplier base will be better placed as regulation develops.

# Steel Safeguards and the Hidden Impact on Fastener and Spring Manufacturers

**The introduction of revised steel safeguard quotas in the UK from 1 July has brought trade protection measures back into sharp focus. While these safeguards are usually introduced to protect domestic steel producers from import surges, their impact is often felt much further down the supply chain.**

For fastener and spring manufacturers, the issue is not simply about where steel comes from. It is about access to the right material, at the right specification, at the right time.

Businesses in this sector rely on a consistent supply of specialist steel wire rod, wire, bar and strip products. When that supply becomes more expensive, restricted or uncertain, the consequences can be significant. Yet the voice of downstream manufacturers is not always fully heard when trade measures are discussed.

Although the latest developments relate to the UK market, the issues behind them are global. Manufacturing supply chains are increasingly connected, and a policy decision in one country can quickly influence pricing, sourcing and investment decisions across several regions.

## The global nature of manufacturing supply chains

Modern manufacturing rarely begins and ends in one place. Raw materials may be produced in one country, processed in another and then used in products that are sold around the world.

Fasteners and springs may be small components, but they're essential to the global economy. They're found in vehicles, construction products, industrial machinery, renewable energy systems, consumer goods and critical infrastructure. Without them, many finished products simply cannot be made.

That's why secure and predictable access to raw materials matters so much. A disruption in the availability or cost of steel wire rod, wire, bar or strip products can have

consequences that ripple through the wider supply chain.

When safeguard quotas are introduced, the impact is not limited to importers or steel mills. It can affect procurement decisions, supplier relationships, stock planning and long-term investment throughout the manufacturing sector.

## The challenge for fastener and spring manufacturers

A common assumption is that if tariffs or quotas make one supply route less attractive, manufacturers can simply find another supplier.

In reality, it's rarely that straightforward.

Fastener and spring manufacturers often require highly specialised grades of steel wire rod, wire, bar and strip, with tightly controlled mechanical and metallurgical properties. These are not always standard commodity products. In many cases, they are engineered inputs developed over many years between steel producers and manufacturers.

Performance characteristics such as tensile strength, fatigue resistance, surface quality, dimensional tolerances and consistency of supply are critical, particularly for fasteners and springs used in automotive, industrial and infrastructure applications.

This challenge is especially clear in the automotive sector, where manufacturers operate under strict quality management systems and Production Part Approval Process (PPAP) requirements.

Changing the source of steel can trigger a lengthy and expensive requalification process. This may involve material testing, production trials, process validation, customer audits and formal approval. These exercises can take months and may cost significantly more than any saving made by moving to a new supplier.

For manufacturers supplying safety-critical components, changing raw material sources is often not just a commercial decision. It may be controlled by the

customer, governed by contractual obligations and linked to regulatory requirements.

As a result, even where alternative tariff-free material is available elsewhere in the world, many manufacturers have limited ability to switch suppliers quickly.

Where safeguard quotas restrict access to approved material sources, businesses can therefore face a double burden: higher raw material costs and the cost of requalification.

These challenges are particularly relevant to fastener and spring manufacturers serving the automotive, aerospace, rail, energy and industrial engineering sectors, where quality, traceability and consistency are essential.

***“The proposed safeguard changes risk penalising UK manufacturing businesses that rely on specialist steel products which are simply not available from UK producers. Where domestic supply does not exist, reducing import quotas and imposing punitive tariffs increases costs without delivering any benefit to the UK steel industry.”***

***For companies such as Webster and Horsfall Ltd, these measures undermine competitiveness, particularly when there are no corresponding tariffs on imported finished goods. UK manufacturers face higher raw material costs while overseas competitors can continue to supply finished products into the UK market without equivalent barriers. The result is a policy that protects neither UK manufacturing jobs nor UK exports, but instead disadvantages value-added British industry.”***

Jonathan Horsfall – Managing Director, Webster & Horsfall

## Uncertainty has a cost

One of the less discussed consequences of safeguard measures is the uncertainty they create for manufacturers.

Investment decisions are often made years in advance. Businesses need confidence in future raw material availability, pricing and supply conditions before committing to new machinery, automation, additional capacity or workforce development.

When there is uncertainty around steel supply, tariff exposure or quota availability, those decisions can be delayed.

For fastener and spring manufacturers competing internationally, uncertainty can be just as damaging as increased costs. Delayed investment can slow productivity improvements, weaken competitiveness and affect future growth.

At a time when manufacturers are already dealing with rising energy costs, labour shortages and increasing regulatory requirements, further uncertainty in the raw material supply chain can have a real impact on business confidence.

#### Unintended consequences

Trade safeguards are usually designed to support upstream steel production. However, policymakers also need to consider the wider industrial ecosystem.

In many economies, downstream manufacturing sectors employ significant numbers of people and generate substantial value through engineering, innovation and exports.

Trade policy can sometimes assume that manufacturers are able to adjust sourcing strategies quickly in response to changing market conditions. In reality, many fastener and spring manufacturers work within tightly controlled approval frameworks that make supplier changes costly, time-consuming and commercially difficult.

If safeguard measures increase costs or reduce competitiveness for downstream manufacturers, there's a risk that economic activity simply moves elsewhere. In those circumstances, the benefits gained in one part of the supply chain may be offset by losses in another.

This is not an argument against safeguarding measures themselves. It's a reminder that their impact must be assessed across the full manufacturing value chain.

***“The new steel quota and tariff regime risks putting UK downstream manufacturers at a structural disadvantage. Our raw steel costs are rising sharply, yet European competitors face far smaller increases – and can still ship fabricated products into the UK without any equivalent quota or tariff. We have seen this first-hand on a recent major contract tender, where our UK input costs moved significantly higher than our European equivalent. Left unaddressed, this disparity risks pushing fabrication offshore and, over time, may erode the very domestic supply base the policy is meant to protect. We urge policymakers to look urgently at the impact on downstream manufacturers, not just primary steel production.”***

Duncan Grosvenor –  
Commercial/Financial Director,  
Pentre Group

#### A global issue

Although recent attention has focused on the UK, similar trade measures exist across the world.

Tariffs, quotas, anti-dumping duties and safeguard mechanisms are increasingly being used by governments seeking to protect strategic industries and respond to global overcapacity concerns.

The result is a more complex international trading environment.

A safeguard introduced in one market can redirect trade flows elsewhere. Changes in one region can influence steel availability and pricing in another. What may appear to be a domestic policy decision can quickly have international consequences.

For globally active manufacturers, these effects are becoming harder to ignore.

The challenge for policymakers is to balance the need to support domestic steel production with the equally important need to maintain strong, competitive downstream manufacturing industries.

#### Looking ahead

The global steel market is likely to remain under significant political

and economic pressure in the years ahead. Industrial resilience, sustainability, geopolitical tensions and international competitiveness will all continue to shape trade policy.

For fastener and spring manufacturers, access to competitively priced, technically approved raw materials will remain essential to long-term success.

Effective industrial policy should strengthen whole supply chains, not individual segments in isolation. Protecting steelmaking capacity is important, but so too is preserving the competitiveness of the manufacturers that transform steel into high-value products, support employment, drive innovation and contribute to export growth.

As governments continue to review safeguard measures and wider trade policy, the experience of downstream manufacturers must form part of the conversation. Only by understanding the needs of the full value chain can policymakers support sustainable industrial growth in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

#### Call to action

At the International Fastener and Spring Association (IFSA), we're committed to providing a collective voice for the industry and ensuring that the interests of fastener and spring manufacturers are properly represented in discussions with policymakers and trade authorities.

That representation is only effective when businesses across the supply chain share their experiences.

By contributing your views, you can help decision-makers better understand the practical impact that trade measures can have on downstream manufacturing, competitiveness, investment and employment.

If you'd like to learn more about this initiative, share your views or support our ongoing work on behalf of the industry, please follow the link below or scan the QR code.

**Together, we can help ensure that the voice of the fastener and spring industry is heard.**



# Industry Snapshot: Views from the IWMA Executive Management Committee

As the wire and cable industry continues to navigate rapid change, we asked members of the IWMA Executive Management Committee to share their views on the opportunities, challenges and trends shaping the sector. From electrification, AI and sustainability to skills shortages, supply chain pressures and global uncertainty, their answers offer a concise snapshot of where the industry is heading and why there's plenty of reason to be optimistic about its future.

Across the responses, several clear themes emerged. The greatest opportunities lie in electrification, infrastructure investment and long-term demand for wire and cable across energy, data, transport and industrial applications. The biggest pressures remain material supply, cost volatility, skills shortages and geopolitical uncertainty. India was highlighted as a key market to watch, while AI-powered automation, smart manufacturing, advanced materials and digitalisation were seen as technologies that will shape the next phase of industry development.

Sustainability was also a recurring theme, with members pointing to the growing importance of circular, low-carbon manufacturing and more resilient supply chains. For the next generation, digital and data literacy, adaptability and resilience will be essential. Above all, the committee's outlook remained positive: despite global challenges, strong long-term demand drivers continue to place the wire and cable industry at the centre of future infrastructure, energy transition and connectivity.

## Key takeaways

**Opportunity:** Electrification, energy transition and infrastructure investment

**Challenge:** Raw material volatility, skills shortages and global uncertainty

**Market to watch:** India and Southeast Asia

**Key trend:** Electrification, digitalisation and connected infrastructure

**Sustainability impact:** Low-carbon growth, renewable energy and more sustainable manufacturing

**Game-changing technology:** AI, automation, Industry 4.0 and smart manufacturing

**Essential skill:** Digital literacy, adaptability, resilience and continuous learning

**Reason for optimism:** Wire and cable remain essential to future energy, infrastructure, transport and data needs

**Biggest threat:** Material shortages, cost volatility, geopolitical instability and war

**Innovation focus:** Smart manufacturing, advanced materials and customer-focused product development

**Competitive advantage:** Innovation, quality, technology, talent, customer relationships and agility

**Value of collaboration:** Faster innovation, stronger supply chains and shared problem-solving

## Jonathan Horsfall – Managing Director, Webster & Horsfall

### Q1. Biggest challenge facing the sector?

The biggest challenge facing the wire industry is maintaining international competitiveness while dealing with increasing cost pressures, supply chain complexity and regulation. Policies intended to protect upstream industries can sometimes have unintended consequences for downstream manufacturers, particularly where specialist products are no longer available domestically. Remaining competitive while maintaining investment in people, equipment and innovation will continue to be a major challenge.

### Q2. Region or market to watch?

Southeast Asia continues to be a region to watch, particularly in medical products, infrastructure and advanced manufacturing. More broadly, I think businesses should watch where manufacturing investment is going rather than simply where manufacturing exists today. We are increasingly seeing opportunities develop in areas that combine advanced manufacturing capability with growing domestic demand.

### Q3. Reason to be optimistic about the future?

Despite the challenges, I remain optimistic because our industry is remarkably adaptable. Wire products remain fundamental to countless applications, from medical devices and energy infrastructure through to transportation and engineering. The businesses that embrace innovation, collaborate internationally and remain technically focused will continue to find opportunities for growth.





## **Kamal Babu Batchu – Chairman and Managing Director, Mikrotek Machines**

### **Q1. Biggest opportunity for the wire and cable industry?**

The global wire and cable industry entered 2026 with solid fundamentals, supported by irreversible trends such as energy transition, electrification and digital infrastructure expansion – with high voltage power cables, optical fibre cables and EV-related cables outperforming the industry average.

Beyond renewable energy projects, significant investments in grid modernisation, interconnectors, smart cities and hyperscale data centres are creating sustained demand for advanced cable solutions. As nations strengthen energy security and accelerate decarbonisation targets, the industry is positioned at the centre of critical infrastructure development. Companies that can deliver high-performance, sustainable and technologically advanced cable systems will be best placed to capture long-term growth opportunities in both developed and emerging markets.

### **Q2. Technology that will change the industry the most?**

The wire and cable industry in 2025 is no longer a traditional sector – it's a technology-centric, performance-driven ecosystem supporting the future of energy, mobility and connectivity. Industry 4.0 integration – from AI-driven quality control to IoT-enabled production lines – combined with XLPE (Cross-Linked Polyethylene), HVDC (High Voltage Direct Current) and sensor-embedded cables, defines the technology frontier. By 2027, IoT-enabled cables are expected to reduce maintenance costs in automated plants by 25%, while Europe already leads with 52% of enterprises integrating Industry 4.0-ready cabling systems.

Equally important is the emergence of intelligent and connected cable networks capable of real-time performance monitoring, predictive maintenance and enhanced operational reliability. Digital manufacturing technologies are enabling unprecedented levels of process optimisation, traceability and quality assurance. These advancements are not only improving production efficiency but are also redefining customer expectations for cable performance, lifespan and sustainability across wire and cable applications.

### **Q3. Biggest challenge facing the sector?**

Raw material volatility is the defining pressure. Copper prices have shown 30% annual fluctuations, with labour strikes, geopolitical tensions and environmental regulations in mining regions leading to supply shortages and global copper inventories at multi-year lows. Layered on top are tightening environmental regulations, rising sustainability compliance costs and intensifying global competition – all demanding simultaneous strategic responses.

The challenge extends beyond cost management to ensuring supply chain resilience and maintaining profitability in an increasingly uncertain global environment. Manufacturers must also navigate growing customer expectations for sustainable products, reduced carbon footprints and greater transparency throughout the value chain. Success will depend on a balanced approach that combines operational efficiency, technological innovation, strategic sourcing and long-term investment in sustainable manufacturing capabilities.



## **Willibert Dautzenberg – CEO, ACOTEQ**

### **Q1. One skill the next generation will need?**

One of the most important skills the next generation will need in the wire, cable and rope industry is adaptability. As digitalisation, automation and sustainability continue to transform the industry, professionals must be able to learn new technologies, embrace innovation and respond quickly to changing customer and market demands. Combining technical expertise with a willingness to continuously develop new skills will be essential for future success.

### **Q2. Reason to be optimistic about the future?**

There are many reasons to be optimistic about the future of the wire, cable and rope industry. The global transition to renewable energy, electrification, digital infrastructure and smart technologies is driving strong demand for advanced cable solutions. As industries and societies become increasingly connected, the wire and cable sector will continue to play a critical role in enabling innovation, sustainability and economic growth.

### **Q3. Best way to stay competitive?**

The best way to stay competitive in the wire, cable and rope industry is to continuously focus on innovation, quality and customer needs. Companies should invest in advanced manufacturing technologies, improve operational efficiency and develop sustainable products that meet evolving market and regulatory requirements. Building strong customer relationships, ensuring reliable delivery and adapting quickly to industry trends are also key factors for maintaining a competitive advantage in a rapidly changing global market.



## Steve Smith – Group Lead Laboratory Services & Metallurgy, Bekaert

### Q1. Biggest challenge facing the sector?

Attracting young people into the steel wire industry is a significant challenge facing the sector. Wire manufacture is often perceived as a traditional, mature sector with limited innovation or career excitement compared to more visible, “high-tech” industries.

The reality is very different – modern wire production involves advanced metallurgy, automation and digital technologies – but this is not always well communicated.

Combined with outdated perceptions of industry, concerns about working environments and competition from sectors like tech and renewables, the industry struggles to present itself as a forward-looking, purpose-driven career choice. Bridging this perception gap is key to securing the next generation of talent.

### Q2. Best way to stay competitive?

To remain competitive in the steel wire industry, companies must move beyond simply meeting specifications and instead develop a deep understanding of how their products perform in the customer’s application. This means getting closer to the customer – engaging directly with their challenges, operating environments and performance expectations, whether in offshore lifting, mining or infrastructure. By building strong technical relationships, gathering real-world feedback and translating it into product and process improvements, manufacturers can deliver tailored solutions rather than commoditised products. In a mature industry, this customer-centric approach becomes a key differentiator, enabling faster innovation, stronger partnerships and ultimately a more resilient, value-driven business.

### Q3. One skill the next generation will need?

In the steel wire industry, the most important skill for the next generation is not mastering a single discipline but developing the ability to learn and combine multiple skills. Modern wire production sits at the intersection of metallurgy, data analysis, automation, and customer application knowledge, meaning future engineers must be comfortable moving between these areas rather than specialising too narrowly. In a complex and evolving industry, those who can connect different skill sets and continuously learn will be far better equipped than those relying on one area of expertise alone.



## Brian Cutts – Managing Director, TEMCO Wire Products

### Q1. Key trend shaping the future?

The convergence of electrification and digitalisation. Energy systems, transportation, factories and data networks are becoming more connected, intelligent and power-intensive.

### Q2. One skill the next generation will need?

Data and digital literacy. Future engineers and operators will need to understand automation systems, analytics, AI tools and connected manufacturing environments.

### Q3. Most important area for innovation?

Advanced materials and smart manufacturing. This includes higher-performance conductors, lightweight solutions, digital quality systems and automated production technologies.



## Don Neville – Consultant, IWMA

### Q1. Biggest opportunity for the industry?

The structured development and adoption of AI tools. Used properly, AI can support production efficiency, quality control, predictive maintenance and better decision-making. The opportunity is to apply it in a practical way that solves real industry challenges, rather than simply adopting technology for the sake of it.

### Q2. Biggest challenge facing the sector?

The availability of skilled people. Many companies are finding it harder to recruit and retain talent, particularly in technical and engineering roles. The industry needs to do more to promote itself as an exciting long-term career choice and ensure knowledge is passed on to the next generation.

### Q3. Reason to be optimistic about the future?

The world will always need wire, machinery and cables. From energy and infrastructure to transport, communications, data centres and renewables, our industry remains essential. The applications may evolve, but demand for reliable wire and cable solutions will continue.

## Richard Johnstone – Managing Director, Pentre Group



### Q1. Biggest opportunity for the industry at this present time?

At present, the industry is facing a number of significant cost and supply chain pressures, including pending steel quotas into the UK, rising freight costs from China and sharp increases in virgin plastic prices. These pressures create challenges, but also underline the importance of resilience, careful sourcing, operational efficiency and strong customer relationships.

### Q2. One skill the next generation will need?

The next generation will need to be confident with computers, digital systems and AI. Just as importantly, the industry needs to do more to attract young people into a sector that can sometimes be perceived as traditional or even boring, despite being fundamental to how the modern world develops, operates and reduces its carbon footprint.

### Q3. Best way to stay competitive?

Businesses will need to remain lean, use their time constructively and develop a deeper understanding of their customers' needs. Staying competitive means focusing investment carefully, listening to what customers value, and continuing to improve in areas such as design, cost, carbon reduction, service and quality. Companies cannot afford to stand still.

## David Robinson – Managing Director, XL Technologies



### Q1. Biggest opportunity for the industry?

To embrace sustainability. There are vast opportunities worldwide, which include wind farms, solar power, hydroelectric schemes, etc. These are often in remote locations and require extensive cable networks to transmit the power generated to the grid. Electric vehicles will require a vast charging network and force governments to reinforce grid network infrastructure. If the wire and cable industry can be seen to be promoting sustainability, others will follow, which in turn will promote cable sales worldwide, therefore creating a strong demand for wire and cable machinery.

### Q2. Region or market to watch?

The Indian sub-continent. The signs are that growth in the region will surpass all our expectations.

### Q3. Biggest threat to industry growth?

Political instability and war both make potential investors nervous. Without investment, the demand for wire and cable machinery is suppressed. However, one could argue that warfare generates income for those based in that sector.

## Bernd Lohmüller – Managing Director, Maschinenfabrik NIEHOFF GmbH & Co. KG



### Q1. Biggest opportunity for the wire and cable industry in the next 10 years?

Demand for wire and cable will grow significantly over the next decade, driven by electrification, renewable energy, data centres and electric mobility. This will create substantial opportunities across power, data and speciality cables. To succeed, we must position ourselves in the right markets at the right time, build strong partnerships, and stay open to new technologies and applications.

### Q2. Technology that will transform the industry?

Digitalisation and automation combined with AI-driven process control and advanced materials will transform the wire and cable industry by making production more efficient, flexible and sustainable.

### Q3. One thing every young engineer should learn early in their career?

In order to maintain the competitiveness of European manufacturing, young engineers must learn to embrace innovation, think in terms of continuous improvement and persevere even when change is difficult or slow.

# AWI Targeting £2m Reaction After Securing Major Nuclear Quality Accreditation

**Successful accreditation to a prestigious quality standard is set to create £2m of global opportunities for Alloy Wire International (AWI).**

The UK's leading manufacturer of precision drawn, flat and profile wire has taken just nine months to gain ISO 19443, the international benchmark for supplying critical components and material to the nuclear sector.

AWI recorded zero non-conformities during the assessment, with the business praised for its strong quality management systems, employee culture and enhanced communications strategy that was integral to the successful application.

The firm's 62-strong range of exotic alloys is in growing demand from the sector, with sales to this market increasing to 10% of the firm's annual £16.5m turnover.

***"We pride ourselves on delivering world-class manufacturing performance for the best part of eight decades, so we knew we had a lot of things already in place,"***

explained Kevin Guest, Head of Quality, Health & Safety and Environmental Management at Alloy Wire International.

***"Culture was a critical part of the review, and we had to create a special questionnaire that proved all our 33-strong workforce understood their roles and how they impact on the finished part that is heading to clients in the nuclear industry."***

He continued: ***"This has proved to be an excellent introduction. It's opened new dialogue within different parts of our business and has further enhanced an already impressive 'people first' culture."***

***"Securing ISO 19443 will ensure we not only retain existing turnover, but importantly, it will open up new doors for us both in the UK and overseas. In fact, we're already quoting for an additional £1m of new work."***



AWI (Nuclear L2): (L-R) Andrew du Plessis, Kevin Guest, Andy Tomlinson and Tom Mander (all AWI).

Material manufactured at AWI's state-of-the-art facility in the West Midlands has high temperature- and corrosion-resistant properties ideal for end-use applications and components destined for nuclear reactors, development of new mini reactors and in the complex world of decommissioning.

Inconel 718, Inconel X750, Alloy 400, Nimonic 90, Alloy 80A and Stainless Steel 316 are the six most popular alloys being requested by the company's global client base and all are currently available in just three weeks from placing the order.

***"Traceability is a major pre-requisite and the ability to prove the authenticity of the materials (traced back all the way to the mills) we process at our factory,"*** added Kevin.

***"A close working relationship with our suppliers ensures we get their original data that we can then build into our management system, a management system that now meets the stringent demands of ISO 19443."***

Alongside this, AWI has invested more than £400,000 into its in-house testing department so it can retain as much control as possible,

not to mention speed of turnaround with the well-documented backlog being seen at testing houses.

Testing equipment – including tensile testers, a Micro-Vickers Hardness tester and the purchase of new lab furnaces to support heat treatment – means the firm can offer 90% of all mechanical tests at its factory.

The newly refurbished and updated metallography lab has also benefited from the purchase of new automatic mounting and polishing machines to enhance macro, micro, metallography and visual inspection capabilities.

Tom Mander, Managing Director of Alloy Wire International, concluded: ***"More and more countries are returning to nuclear as a viable power source moving forward. Sizewell C is a big project getting underway in the UK and Rolls-Royce has developed a strong reputation in mini reactors. Our material is often at the very start of these supply chains and that's a big opportunity for us."***

[www.alloywire.com](http://www.alloywire.com)

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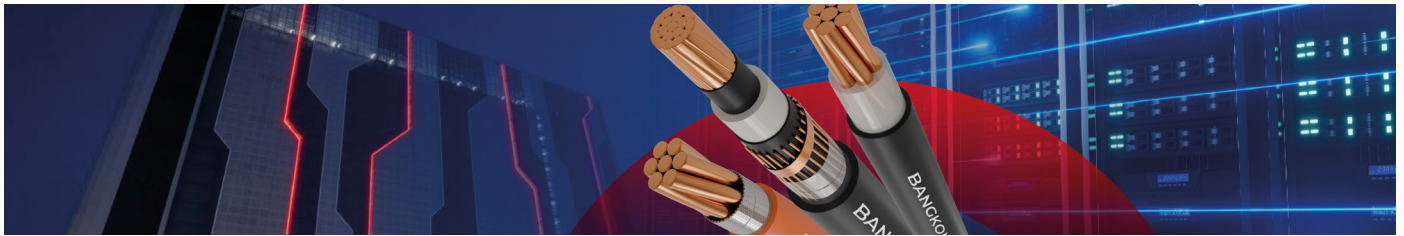


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# Bangkok Cable Powering Thailand's Data Centre Infrastructure

## Market and infrastructure context

Data centres are becoming essential infrastructure for the digital economy, driven by AI, cloud computing, high-performance computing and enterprise digital transformation. Thailand is gaining momentum as a data centre location in Southeast Asia, supported by regional connectivity, AI-ready infrastructure and rising demand for digital services.

For this growth to scale, power reliability is critical. Data centres require electrical architecture that supports high load, continuous operation, safety and scalability, with cable systems forming a key layer for current capacity, insulation performance, short-circuit protection, fire safety and long-term reliability.

## Bangkok Cable's role

With more than six decades of experience across Thailand's electrical infrastructure, Bangkok Cable (BCC) delivers cable solutions for demanding projects where reliability, technical compliance and long-term performance are essential. In data centre environments, BCC supports the electrical backbone behind reliable facility operations, covering power distribution, grounding, control, monitoring and safety-critical systems.

## Cable systems for data centre reliability

Cable selection for data centres is driven by voltage level, system function, safety and reliability. BCC supports key cable systems across data centre power infrastructure, including:

- **MV/HV cable systems**  
Optimised cable design, high-purity compounds and precision-controlled manufacturing ensure superior dielectric performance, lower power losses and reliable resistance to partial discharge in high-voltage stress.

- **Low voltage power cables**  
Engineered for critical power distribution, with cross-linking polyethylene insulation supporting electrical reliability, efficient thermal performance, low power losses and stable operation under continuous current loading.
- **Flame retardant PVC sheathed power cables**  
Flame retardant polyvinyl chloride sheath helps limit flame propagation and provide reliable mechanical protection for critical indoor installations. It offers a balance of fire safety, durability and cost-effectiveness, making it suitable for general applications.
- **Low smoke halogen-free power cables**  
Advanced insulation and sheath materials design significantly reduce smoke emission and eliminate corrosive halogen content during fire conditions, helping to protect people, maintain clear visibility for safe evacuation and safeguard sensitive electronic equipment.
- **Control cables with metallic shield**  
The cable is designed with metallic shielding to enhance mechanical durability and effectively reduce electromagnetic interference (EMI) in data centre environments. This ensures stable signal integrity, improved control accuracy and consistent performance across high-density power and data installations. It supports reliable monitoring and mission-critical operations where uptime, precision and system stability are essential.

## STT Bangkok 1

STT Bangkok 1 is one of several major data centre projects supported by Bangkok Cable.

**Project type:** Hyperscale, carrier-neutral data centre

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Scale:** Seven-storey facility, approximately 30,000m<sup>2</sup> 20MW available power capacity, part of a planned 40MW campus.

**Core requirements:** Continuous operation, high power demand, safety, resilience, sustainability and long-term reliability.

**BCC contribution:** Electrical cabling solutions for critical data centre systems, covering power transmission and distribution, internal electrical infrastructure, grounding, fire safety, monitoring and control coordination.

**Cable solutions:** End-to-end cable solutions for high-availability data centre operations covering MV/HV cable systems for reliable power distribution, low voltage power cables for efficient distribution, flame-retardant PVC-sheathed power cables to enhance fire safety, low-smoke halogen-free power cables for reducing smoke/toxic gases, and metallic-shielded control cables to ensure stable monitoring and control. All cables are designed to strengthen uptime, safety and long-term reliability for data centre facilities.

## Supporting Thailand's digital infrastructure

BCC has supported selected data centre and digital infrastructure projects for global technology platforms, hyperscale operators and major infrastructure providers in Thailand. With local manufacturing strength, engineering capability, international standards and proven large-scale project experience, Bangkok Cable is positioned to support the electrical infrastructure behind Thailand's growing data centre landscape.

[www.bangkokcable.com](http://www.bangkokcable.com)

# CONDAT: Sustainable Lubrication for Real Savings



**At Wire Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, CONDAT reaffirmed its position as a leader in sustainable performance solutions for the wire drawing industry. With over 170 years of expertise, the international lubricant group continues to innovate to reduce environmental impact while improving productivity and working conditions.**

Established in the United States in 1996, CONDAT Corporation will celebrate 30 years of manufacturing in America in 2026. Its production facility in Saline, Michigan – near Detroit – combines global expertise with a strong local presence, ensuring fast supply across North America and close technical collaboration with customers.

### A comprehensive sustainability approach

CONDAT's commitment extends from its industrial operations to its product design. The company develops eco-designed lubricants, limits substances of concern and supports customers in optimising lubricant consumption. This approach enables reduced waste, improved working conditions and a lower overall environmental footprint.

With CONDAT's sustainable lubricants, end users benefit from real savings:

- LESS consumption → lower dosage, optimised use, extended lifetime
- LESS die wear → high lubricating power, longer tool life
- LESS waste and residues → cleaner processes, easier cleaning
- LESS carbon footprint → reduced environmental impact, use of renewable raw materials
- LESS energy consumption → high lubricating performance with lower friction

This CSR commitment was recognised once again with the EcoVadis Platinum Medal in March 2026, placing CONDAT Group among the top 1% of best-rated companies worldwide for the third time.

The company is also certified as a Great Place to Work in the USA, highlighting its strong workplace culture and commitment to employee engagement.

### A complete lubrication partner

At Wire Expo, CONDAT highlighted its close collaboration with wire drawing plants to deliver tailored lubrication solutions that optimise processes, reduce total drawing costs, minimise dust and improve overall performance.

As a true multi-specialist, CONDAT offers a complete and consistent

lubrication portfolio covering the entire wire drawing process and beyond:

- For wire mechanical operations → internationally recognised soaps and surface treatments, such as the SUMAC, VICAFIL and STEELSKIN ranges
- For electrical and immersed wire drawing and patenting operations → soluble and neat oil lubricants
- For maintenance and workshop needs → greases (for capstans, cassettes and bearings), hydraulic fluids, gearbox and gear oils
- For protection → corrosion protection solutions
- For tube and bars → fluids for cold and hot processes, bending gels, graphite lubricants
- For cold heading → dual-purpose vegetable-based oil to eliminate incompatibility between process and machine fluids
- For heat treatment → safer, cost-efficient Group III and polymer quenching fluids

This single point of contact approach enhances responsiveness and simplifies supplier management, reducing coordination time across operations through fewer interfaces, less complexity, reduced administrative effort, shorter lead times, less downtime and a lower environmental footprint.

[www.condatcorp.com](http://www.condatcorp.com)





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# Drawn to Quality: Offshore Stainless & Alloys Joins the Langley Alloys Group

**Offshore Stainless & Alloys became part of the Langley Alloys group earlier this year, joining a specialist group of businesses focused on high-performance corrosion-resistant alloys with operations in the UK and USA.**

The company supplies cold drawn stainless steel and nickel alloy bars, with dimensional accuracy and tight mechanical property control central to its operation – qualities that matter to spring makers and other precision engineering sectors.

The company holds substantial stock of both standard round bar and cold drawn bar, available in round, hexagonal, flat and square sections across stainless steel, super duplex and nickel alloy grades, with access to significant group inventory.

## **Cold drawing capability**

The draw benches handle round bar from 7.925mm to 99.44mm diameter, with the capability to draw stainless steel, super duplex and nickel alloys above 2.5", a capability not widely available within the UK market. Bar-to-bar draw benches produce lengths up to 16 metres, with rod coil capability to 10.8 metres. Square, hexagonal and flat sections are also produced, with hexagonal bar to 55mm A/F and flat bar to 88.90 x 44.45mm across these sections.

Cold drawn bar is produced to a comprehensive range of international standards, including A2/A4 fastener grades, ASTM A193/A320 B8/B8M Class 2 and 2B, BS 4882 and NACE MR0175.

Bespoke mechanical properties are a particular strength. Where tensile or hardness specifications are critical, as they invariably are in spring, fastener and valve applications, the team works to achieve the precise property profile the application demands. For spring makers, this means cold drawn bar supplied to a defined tensile range, reducing in-process variables and supporting consistent spring performance.

## **NORSOK accreditation**

A significant recent milestone is the company's NORSOK accreditation, approved to produce UNS 32760 super duplex strain hardened bars for fasteners to MDS D59/D59L Rev 3. The qualification process is verified by AKER and requires stringent mechanical testing of finished cold drawn bars, with repeatability at its core.

## **Added-value services**

Value-added services include finishing for enhanced surface finish and roll marking for permanent bar identification during the manufacturing process. A fast-track service is also available for situations where lead time is critical, whether AOG, machine breakdown or urgent spring production schedules, delivering cold drawn material faster than standard turnaround.

Free-issue drawing is offered for customers who hold a special grade and require it processed to a smaller size or precise specification. Wire or bar can be converted to exact customer requirements, a service suited to spring makers working with proprietary or tightly specified alloys.

## **Group investment and market reach**

As part of the Langley Alloys group, Offshore Stainless & Alloys continues to invest in its cold drawing machinery, production facilities and stockholding, expanding

capability and service to customers across offshore oil and gas, nuclear, marine, chemical processing, aerospace, pharmaceutical, power generation and precision spring manufacturing sectors, supplying to more than 50 countries worldwide.

## **PRODEC extended to cold drawn**

Most recently, the company has extended its cold drawing operation to include PRODEC, Marcegaglia Sheffield's enhanced-machinability grade of stainless-steel bar, becoming a dedicated UK stockholder for the material across 316, 304 and 303 grades. PRODEC is now supplied as standard across the full stainless round bar and cold drawn range.

PRODEC's tightly controlled inclusion chemistry and enhanced surface requirements place exacting demands on the cold drawing process, precisely the kind of work Offshore Stainless & Alloys is designed to handle. For spring makers, the combination of PRODEC's machinability characteristics and cold drawn mechanical precision opens new options in high-volume component production.

[www.offshorestainless.com](http://www.offshorestainless.com)



# Esteves Group Opens New Manufacturing Plant in Querétaro, Mexico

**Esteves Group has inaugurated a new manufacturing plant, reinforcing its long-term commitment to the wire and cable industry in Mexico, the United States and Central America.**

The new facility replaces the company's previous plant, which had served the region for 30 years, and represents a strategic investment to increase capacity, expand capabilities and strengthen customer support.

With over 30% increase in production capacity, the new

plant provides a solid platform to support continuing market growth, ensuring tooling availability to growing customers' demand. The facility also broadens Esteves Group's offering, including large PCD die repair services for power cable production.

In addition to expanded manufacturing capabilities, the new site reinforces Esteves Group's service model through enhanced local technical support and customer training programmes in die maintenance, helping customers improve tool performance and extend die life.



The investment strengthens the company's regional presence while supporting the evolving needs of wire and cable producers in high-growth sectors such as automotive, electronics and energy infrastructure.

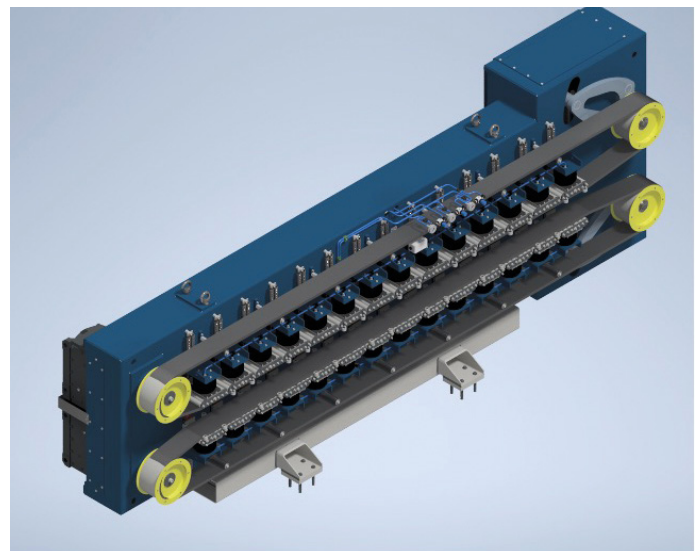
With this new plant, Esteves Group continues to position itself as a close technical partner to the industry, combining precision tooling, specialised services and local support across Mexico, the US and Central America.

[www.estevesgroup.com](http://www.estevesgroup.com)

# Maillefer: Powering the Future of Cable Manufacturing

**As cable sizes and weights continue to grow, the demand for stronger, more efficient pulling solutions is on the rise. Maillefer is meeting this challenge head-on. Two new BCA models are on their way.**

Currently, our caterpillar pullers offer up to 50kN of pulling force. It's not enough for the heaviest jobs and often requires two units to handle the load. Heavyweight clamping power is on its way, with the launch of two high-performance BCA models announced. The BCA 33 HD boosts traction force up to 60kN, while the BCA 42 HD reaches up to 80kN of traction force. Both are robust solutions designed from the ground up to handle the heaviest cable applications with ease. Now one machine can outweigh the capacity needed from two smaller ones.



## Benefits

- Streamline your cable production process with fewer pullers and greater pulling power.
- Higher traction means fewer machines, less maintenance and lower operational costs.
- Confidently run larger, heavier cables – opening new possibilities for your product range.

[www.maillefer.net](http://www.maillefer.net)

# Mikrotek Diamond Coated Dies – High-Performance Solution for Modern Wire Drawing

**In modern wire drawing operations, the demand for higher productivity, consistent wire quality and longer tool life has led to the development of advanced die technologies. Among these, Diamond Coated Dies have emerged as a reliable solution for manufacturers working with ferrous and non-ferrous wires.**

Diamond coated dies are produced by coating a thin layer of nano polycrystalline diamond (PCD) over a precision-finished tungsten carbide. This coating provides extremely high hardness, superior wear resistance and low friction characteristics, making the dies suitable for high-speed and continuous wire drawing applications.

One of the major advantages of diamond coated dies is their significantly longer life compared to conventional tungsten carbide and PCD dies. Under normal operating conditions, these dies can provide 20 to 30 times longer life than that of TC Dies for copper, aluminium cable stranding and low carbon steel drawing, and around 20 times for high- and medium-carbon steel subject to standard drawing conditions. The advantages are reduction in downtime, die replacement frequency, higher surface quality, higher productivity and decreasing overall production cost. The nano diamond layer also improves the surface finish of the drawn wire, ensuring better dimensional accuracy and consistent quality.

Diamond coated dies are available in a wide range, typically from 0.500mm up to 150mm. These dies are suitable for drawing steel



wire, stainless steel wire, welding wire and cable armouring wire, and are also widely used in bunching, stranding and compacting in cable manufacturing. Due to their high wear resistance, they are especially recommended for applications involving high tension, high speed or abrasive materials.

Another important benefit of diamond coated dies is the reduction of friction during the drawing process. Lower friction helps in reducing heat generation, improving lubrication performance, and minimising wire breakage. This results in smoother operation and improved efficiency.

[www.mikrotek.in](http://www.mikrotek.in)

## TROESTER Expands Its Company Portfolio with TROESTER Robotics

**TROESTER GmbH & Co. KG acquired the Turkish company SC OTOMASYON, based in Istanbul, in 2025. The company now operates under the name TROESTER Robotics and is integrated into the TROESTER Group structure.**



Over the past few years, the company has established itself as a reliable partner for leading international industrial companies and is known for high-quality automation solutions, innovative robotic systems and the successful implementation of complex production processes. Since launching its first major automated line for the tyre industry in 2019, the company has delivered unique industrial automation solutions. Its technology is considered 'proven technology' - the applications have been running reliably for years and enjoy a high level of customer satisfaction.

This strategic investment strengthens TROESTER's position in

automation and robotics solutions and creates additional synergies for future growth. It also marks an important step in TROESTER's long-term strategy of developing autonomous production systems that enable fully integrated and low labour manufacturing processes. Through this acquisition, TROESTER gains access to robotic applications across the entire tyre factory - from individual process stations to fully networked production lines. Demand for robotic solutions is growing worldwide, as manufacturing companies in regions such as Europe, China and North America are increasingly affected by workforce shortages. With TROESTER Robotics, TROESTER is now able to meet this demand in the

future with integrated solutions from a single source.

***"The company brings start-up spirit, agility and strong innovative capabilities, while TROESTER contributes decades of experience, established commercial structures, a global sales network and long-standing customer relationships. Together, this creates a clear competitive advantage and a USP that sets us apart in the market,"*** says Thomas Holzer, CEO of TROESTER GmbH & Co. KG.

The teams look forward to working together and jointly advancing technologically leading automation solutions.

[www.troester.de](http://www.troester.de)



## NIEHOFF Celebrates 75 Years with Global Industry Gathering in Schwabach

**Maschinenfabrik NIEHOFF GmbH & Co. KG is a leading manufacturer of machinery and equipment for the wire and cable industry. Headquartered in Schwabach, Germany, the company has numerous branches and representatives worldwide. This year, NIEHOFF is celebrating its 75th anniversary.**

On 11 April, ahead of wire 2026, the biennial flagship trade fair for the wire and cable industry in Düsseldorf, nearly 300 international guests gathered in Schwabach amid spring-like temperatures and bright sunshine to celebrate with NIEHOFF.

This perfectly organised event attracted an impressive guest list, including some of the industry's most prominent figures, as well as representatives from all NIEHOFF subsidiaries and agencies worldwide.

In a relaxed yet festive atmosphere, Managing Director Bernd Lohmüller

– who has been part of the NIEHOFF family for 38 years – welcomed guests who travelled from 45 countries to attend the celebration.

In his speech, Lohmüller spoke about company founder Walter Niehoff, who started small but whose vision has become a reality. Today, NIEHOFF employs 1,300 people worldwide, and cables are the lifelines of the modern world. Cables are indispensable for energy generation and distribution at low, medium and high voltage, whether the energy is renewable or conventional. They are used in the wiring of cars with internal combustion engines, electric vehicles and charging stations, as well as massive data centres that power AI. Wherever energy flows and data is transmitted, cables and NIEHOFF machines play a key role. The managing director emphasised that NIEHOFF's goal has remained the same for 75 years: to serve customers to the best of its ability. ***“NIEHOFF fulfils this commitment with technical expertise, a strong customer focus, and global support and service –and will continue to***

***do so in the future,”*** said Bernd Lohmüller.

The interesting and entertaining speeches by keynote speakers from the ranks of the most important international wire and cable manufacturers all conveyed a similar message. Decades-long business relationships with NIEHOFF are characterised by trust and reliability. The speakers emphasised that NIEHOFF is the technology leader with “the best machines in the world” and praised their reliability and durability.

After the festive meal, guests embarked on an elaborately designed journey through NIEHOFF's past, present and future as part of a tour of the NIEHOFF plant. At numerous information booths, NIEHOFF provided details about the most important machines built in Schwabach, as well as modernisations and services. In a specially designed area, all NIEHOFF branches worldwide presented themselves, and a fascinating holographic show depicted the company's journey from the past to a visionary future. The guests responded enthusiastically, showing great interest.

At the event's conclusion, Bernd Lohmüller bid farewell to the international guests, assuring them that NIEHOFF would remain a reliable and innovative partner to the wire and cable industry in the future.

[www.niehoff.de](http://www.niehoff.de)



## Fukase and Hakusan Launch Advanced High-Carbon Steel Wire Welding Machine with Automated Features

**Following their joint introduction of the BFHA-10 copper rod welding machine, T. Fukase & Co., Ltd., in partnership with its parent company, Hakusan, will introduce a new welding machine for high-carbon steel wires.**

As manufacturers of wire rod welding machines, they are set to unveil their latest model, which utilises heat pressure welding methods. These methods, known for their proven welding performance and durability, have been employed in Japan and internationally for over 50 years.

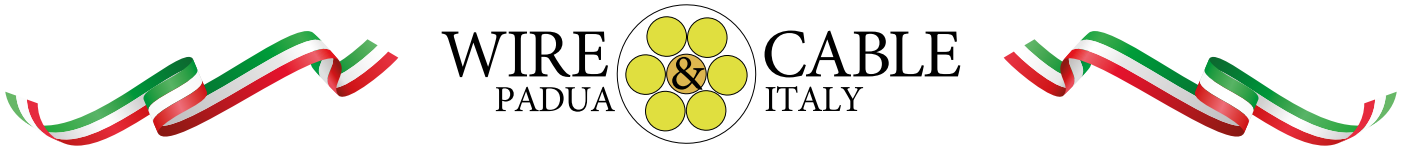
Hakusan has recently developed the new HBS-518 model, which features fully automatic setting of welding parameters, thus eliminating errors and reducing set-up time. This model is compatible with the existing BSH series welding tips.

[www.fukase-eng.jp](http://www.fukase-eng.jp)

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# Padua | Italy

SAVE THE DATE - 18 OCTOBER 2027



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# Rosendahl: Sharper Geometry, Stronger Performance

## Extrusion of rectangular conductors for e-mobility

**Round or rectangular? In everyday life, it may be a matter of taste, but in vehicle engineering, it's rapidly becoming a question that shapes the future. More and more manufacturers rely on rectangular conductors – especially busbars and hairpins, which play a central role in modern electric vehicles.**

Busbars are flat aluminium or copper conductors used for efficient electrical power distribution. They provide a compact, space-saving alternative to round cables. Hairpins, on the other hand, are pre-formed rectangular copper rods used in the stators of electric motors. Their geometry enables precise, automated winding while increasing power density and overall efficiency.

### The challenge: going beyond standard extrusion

While polymer extrusion around round conductors has been refined in countless variations over the past decades, rectangular profiles place significantly higher demands on the manufacturing process. The most critical challenges include:

### Ensuring uniform and consistent insulation wall thickness

Even the slightest rotation or lateral movement of the conductor inevitably results in uneven wall thickness distribution of the insulation layer.

### Achieving strong adhesion of the insulation – despite mechanical stress and high temperatures

Because rectangular conductors have a larger surface area, meticulous cleaning and pre-treatment of the metal prior to extrusion are essential. The cooling process immediately after extrusion also plays a crucial role in achieving the desired adhesion.

And the difficulties do not end there: even the take-up of the finished insulated product is far from trivial. Layer by layer, the rectangular conductor must be wound without tension and without twisting.

So why go rectangular when round would be so much easier?

Quite simply, the flat design offers hard engineering advantages. Rectangular conductors require less installation space, integrate well into automated processing steps and improve thermal dissipation. Given the rising energy density in vehicles, these are decisive arguments for improved safety and performance.



High-precision extrusion die specifically developed for hairpin production.

### Proven and tested solutions

Rectangular conductors are not merely a technical niche – they are a key enabler for the next stage of electric mobility. With the right technology partner, even demanding extrusion processes can be executed efficiently and economically.

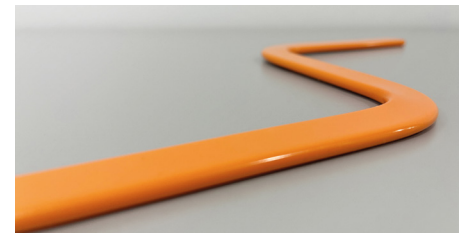
In 2023, Rosendahl became the first supplier worldwide to introduce a turnkey extrusion line for hairpins. Extruding high-performance polymers such as PEEK, TPI or others brings numerous advantages: compared with traditional enamel-coating processes, production speeds can be significantly increased. Scrap rates are also reduced substantially, mainly due to the shorter conductor length required for the extrusion process. The product characteristics speak for themselves: extruded hairpins offer greater flexibility, improved heat resistance and superior electrical properties – even with just a single insulation layer. Since its market launch, multiple Rosendahl hairpin lines have been installed globally. A dedicated team continues



In 2023, Rosendahl launched the first extrusion line for hairpin wire.

to advance technology with a focus on automation, continuous production and alternative materials.

Rosendahl's first busbar insulation line was commissioned back in 2011. Since then, the Austrian company has accumulated extensive experience in this product segment as well. Product requirements have evolved considerably: the range of busbar dimensions has expanded, and manufacturers are no longer producing only small batches. Increasingly, customers require tailored manufacturing solutions for continuous serial production. This approach minimises material waste – a crucial cost factor when processing valuable raw materials. Aluminium has become the standard conductor material, although copper busbars are also handled reliably.



The insulation layer on busbars must remain perfectly

Currently, Rosendahl reports growing demand for production equipment in both categories – from established extrusion specialists and from newcomers looking to expand value creation or vertically integrate their business models.

The configuration of each production line depends heavily on the customer's specific product requirements. Sales Manager Karl Mörath emphasises: **“We adapt precisely to the product specifications of our customers and can offer them fully customised solutions. Every complete project contributes valuable experience to new developments. Everyone involved benefits from this.”**

With comprehensive process know-how and high-quality machinery, Rosendahl supports the continued advancement of e-mobility. The result: tailor-made solutions master even the most complex challenges.

[www.rosendahlnextrom.com](http://www.rosendahlnextrom.com)

# Introducing ZUMBACH's New AI-Driven SIMAC® Surface Testing System

**Zumbach Electronic is advancing surface inspection technology with the launch of the next-generation SIMAC® Surface Testing System, now empowered by AI-driven intelligence. Designed for cables, tubes and hoses, the new SIMAC® solution delivers a breakthrough in accuracy, adaptability and on-line quality assurance. Built on deep-learning innovation, the system moves beyond traditional defect detection to provide manufacturers with actionable insights, continuous learning capabilities and an unprecedented level of process transparency.**

## On-line detection: identifying defects at full production speed

At the core of the new SIMAC® platform is its artificial intelligence-based high-performance detection engine, developed to recognise surface abnormalities instantly and reliably, with the following benefits:

- Detects surface defects inline at full production speed
- Requires no defect labelling, because it's trained entirely on defect-free images
- Provides adaptive behaviour, automatically compensating for process drift
- Allows fast model recalibration for new production conditions
- Includes adjustable sensitivity, enabling a configurable precision/recall balance depending on customer requirements

This means that operators no longer need to manually tune thresholds or define defect rules. Instead, the deep-learning engine continuously evaluates the product surface, flagging any deviations from expected patterns.

## Intelligent classification: knowing exactly what is wrong

Detection is only the first step. With SIMAC®'s new intelligent classification module, users also gain clarity about what type of defect has occurred. The system can:

- Automatically assign defects to predefined types
- Provide precise defect localisation on the product
- Support the introduction of new defect types, when combined with model retraining
- Offer adjustable sensitivity for enhanced precision or broader coverage
- Apply a 'one-for-all' model, meaning a single trained model can serve multiple products
- Identification of periodic or localised patterns
- Filtering of non-critical defects based on type

With these capabilities, factories can trace recurring issues back to root causes, such as tooling wear, material inconsistencies or periodic mechanical vibration. The provision of filtering and statistical visualisations highlight how operators can quickly isolate relevant defect categories.

This unique AI-driven defect classification tells us exactly what is wrong, enabling engineers to better understand production issues rather than just reacting to alarms.

## Continuous improvement: a system that evolves with production

One of the most forward-looking capabilities of the new SIMAC® is its ability to evolve. The system's continuous improvement framework allows it to become increasingly accurate, consistent and adapted over time. Key features include:

- Fast recalibration of the detection model
- Reclassification and correction of misdetected defects
- Incremental enrichment of training datasets
- Full retraining when introducing new defect categories
- Ongoing optimisation of thresholds and system behaviour

Because the new SIMAC® is not based on fixed rules, it evolves with production, positioning itself as a future-proof solution that grows alongside customer processes, raw materials and quality requirements.

## Advanced process analysis: turning data into insights

Beyond detection and classification, the SIMAC® introduces a powerful process analysis module that helps manufacturers understand not only what defects occur, but why. The module offers:

- Statistical monitoring of defect frequency and distribution
- Trend analysis over production length and time
- Correlation between defect type and position

## From detection to decision, instantly

The combination of AI-based detection, intelligent classification, continuous learning and deep process insights transforms SIMAC® from a traditional inspection tool into a comprehensive decision-support system. Operators can react faster, engineers can analyse more effectively and production managers can gain reliable data for optimising output quality.

Zumbach's next-generation SIMAC® Surface Testing System sets a new benchmark for the industry: smarter detection, deeper understanding and adaptive performance that keeps pace with the dynamic environment of wire, cable, tube and hose manufacturing.

[www.zumbach.com](http://www.zumbach.com)



## Rhenania Modernises Core Systems with InnoVites' cableERP on Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central to Follow Its Evolution Process

### A structured transition to a more connected and reliable system landscape

Kabelwerk Rhenania GmbH, a German manufacturer of special fibre-optic cable solutions, has signed an agreement with InnoVites to implement cableERP on Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central across its operations.

The decision reflects Rhenania's goal to modernise its core systems and create the conditions required for the next phase of digital development. A key objective is to enable the structured use of digitalisation and AI across planning, decision-making and operational processes.

Rhenania has partnered with InnoVites since 2010 and has been using cableERP as part of its operations. In this next step, the company is transitioning from its current Dynamics AX system to cableERP on Business Central. Rather than choosing

the conventional upgrade route, Rhenania has selected a more streamlined and flexible platform – an option made possible by InnoVites extending cableERP to Business Central.

***“For us, this is not just about replacing systems; it's about preparing the company for a different way of working,”*** said Sascha Abendroth, Managing Director with Rhenania. ***“We see the use of data with the help of AI becoming an integral part of how cable manufacturing decisions are made in the future. To use it meaningfully, the underlying data and processes must first be structured and reliable. This step with InnoVites is about creating that foundation to secure the future of our company”***

With cableERP, Rhenania will establish a single environment connecting commercial, operational and administrative processes. The platform is intended to support more consistent data management, clearer operational visibility and

better coordination across the organisation.

***“The key here is not changing systems, but evolving the platform underneath,”*** said Albert Groothedde, CEO of InnoVites. ***“With cableERP on Business Central, Rhenania can continue working in a familiar environment while gaining more flexibility and room to grow with the best fitting technology.”***

The implementation will begin in phases, starting with the core ERP scope. This structured roll-out is designed to ensure operational continuity while progressively introducing new capabilities aligned with Rhenania's long-term digital vision.

For InnoVites, the agreement reflects the continuation of a long-standing relationship with a customer focused on practical innovation and steady transformation.

[www.innovites.com](http://www.innovites.com)

## Metalube Relaunches Advanced Tubol™ Range

**Metalube, a leading UK manufacturer of specialist industrial lubricants, has announced the continued development and global availability of its Tubol™ range, a next-generation suite of non-ferrous tube drawing lubricants engineered to deliver consistent, high-performance results across the full manufacturing process.**

The Tubol™ range is designed as a complete lubrication system for tube production, supporting every stage from initial billet casting and extrusion through to pilger milling, draw bench operations, cascade systems, spinner blocks and final finishing processes including bright annealing.

Formulated using advanced mineral, semi-synthetic and fully synthetic base oils combined with modern additive technology, Tubol™ products are engineered to perform under the demanding thermal and mechanical conditions. The range is suitable for copper, brass, aluminium and other non-ferrous applications used in sectors such as air conditioning and refrigeration (ACR), sanitary systems and engineering manufacturing.

A key feature is its wide viscosity index range, enabling precise product selection tailored to each stage of the drawing process. This ensures consistent lubrication performance from initial heavy reduction stages through to fine finishing passes.

Sebastien Mallet, Commercial Manager at Metalube, says: ***“Performance benefits include extended tool and die life,***

***improved surface finish quality, reduced carbon residue and compatibility with bright annealing in inert, dry atmospheres. Our Tubol™ full manufacturing suite is designed for low-fume emission characteristics, helping improve workplace safety in high-speed drawing environments.”***

Manufactured in the UK and distributed globally, Metalube exports to more than 100 countries and provides technical support through a dedicated international network and in-house laboratory services, ensuring product optimisation and process support for customers worldwide.

[www.metalube.co.uk](http://www.metalube.co.uk)

# SAMP: Adapting to Market Change Through Flexibility, Innovation and Global Presence

**The cable industry is undergoing significant transformation. New materials, higher performance expectations and sustainability considerations are redefining what cable manufacturers and their technology partners must deliver. In this evolving landscape, the ability to adapt quickly and effectively to market changes has become a decisive competitive factor.**

One of the most impactful market shifts concerns the continuous evolution of cable specifications. Customers are no longer looking for standardised solutions alone; instead, they require equipment and processes that can accommodate new geometries, tighter tolerances and higher quality standards.

In response to these changes, SAMP focuses strongly on adaptability to new cable specifications. The company's approach is built around flexibility, both in engineering and in mindset. Rather than offering rigid, one-size-fits-all solutions, SAMP works closely with customers to understand specific production needs

and to develop tailored solutions across its entire product range. This includes technologies for wire drawing, extrusion and rotating machinery. This flexibility allows SAMP to support both conventional production requirements and highly specialised applications, ensuring reliable results even as specifications continue to evolve.

Another critical factor in addressing market changes is the ability to follow growth wherever it occurs. Demand for cable production technologies is expanding unevenly across the globe, with particularly strong momentum in emerging and fast-growing regions. Being present in these markets is not only a matter of sales, but also of service, technical support and long-term partnership.

SAMP's worldwide presence in sales and service enables close proximity to customers and faster response times, which are essential in a market that values efficiency and reliability. The company operates through a network of production units and service centres strategically located around the world, including its headquarters and main manufacturing facility in Bologna (Italy), other manufacturing facilities in China (Changzhou) and Brazil (Sao Bernardo do Campo), and a sales and service facility in the USA

(Williamsport). This global footprint is further strengthened by dedicated service centres in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa, as well as a sales office in Bangkok serving the Southeast Asian market. Local expertise combined with global know-how ensures that customers receive consistent support throughout the entire lifecycle of their equipment, from installation to ongoing optimisation.

A key strategic focus is the sales expansion in Southeast Asia, a region characterised by strong industrial growth, infrastructure development and increasing investments in cable manufacturing. Strengthening presence in this area allows SAMP to support local customers more effectively, while also participating actively in one of the most dynamic markets worldwide.

By combining adaptability to new cable specifications, flexibility in developing solutions across all product lines and a strong global sales and service network, SAMP positions itself as a reliable partner capable of navigating market changes and supporting sustainable growth for its customers worldwide.

[www.sampgroup.com](http://www.sampgroup.com)

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## SETIC POURTIER and SAMP Agree on the Use of Pourtier Medium and Low Voltage Technology

**SETIC POURTIER SAS and SAMP Srl have reached an agreement to share the Pourtier medium and low voltage rotating machine technology. From now on, both companies will offer this technology under their own brands: SETIC POURTIER under the POURTIER brand and SAMP under the SAMP brand.**

Both companies will independently develop and commercialise the rotating technology going forward.

The agreement aims to eliminate confusion among customers caused by the previous division of Pourtier technology and to provide greater clarity and flexibility for both companies and their clients.

The commercial terms of the agreement remain confidential.

[www.setic-pourtier.com](http://www.setic-pourtier.com) | [www.sampgroup.com](http://www.sampgroup.com)



# UPCAST: ETP vs OFE Copper - What Makes Oxygen-Free the Upgrade



## The shift towards purity and performance

As electrification, renewable energy and digital technologies accelerate, demand for high-performance copper conductors continues to grow. Industries such as electric mobility, green energy, power electronics and data transmission rely on materials combining excellent conductivity, ductility and durability.

For decades, ETP (Electrolytic Tough Pitch) copper rod has been the most widely used grade. However, in high-precision applications, oxygen-free copper rod (OFE/OFHC) is increasingly preferred due to superior purity and performance. Understanding the differences helps manufacturers make informed decisions for efficiency, reliability and long-term value.



## Chemical and microstructural differences

The key difference is oxygen content, which affects microstructure and performance. ETP rod (C11000) contains around 200 ppm oxygen, forming  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  inclusions along grain boundaries that can obstruct electron flow and dislocation movement.

Oxygen-free grades contain far lower oxygen levels: C10200 has less than 10 ppm, while C10100 contains less than 5 ppm, resulting in a cleaner, more uniform crystal structure.

## Electrical Conductivity

Copper conductivity depends on structure, impurities and grain boundaries. ETP copper typically achieves 100-101.5% IACS conductivity, while oxygen-free copper reaches 101-102% IACS, closer to the theoretical maximum.

The difference is small but significant in low-loss and high-frequency applications such as precision coils, vacuum electronics and signal transmission.

## Ductility and mechanical behaviour

Copper ductility depends on dislocation movement within its face-centred cubic structure. ETP copper offers good ductility but contains localised hard points from  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  inclusions. Oxygen-free copper provides smoother deformation and greater elongation before fracture, supporting consistent processing in wire drawing, rolling and extrusion.

This is especially important in high-speed production, where consistent metal flow and controlled area reduction or cross section reduction are critical to maintaining dimensional accuracy and surface quality.

## Annealing and recrystallisation

ETP copper recrystallises at lower temperatures due to oxide-related nucleation sites. Oxygen-free copper requires slightly higher activation energy but recrystallises rapidly once initiated.

Oxygen-free rod typically requires at least 70% area reduction from an 8mm starting diameter to generate sufficient stored energy for effective grain refinement during final annealing. This is vital in enamelled magnet wire, where uniform grain structure is essential.

## Resistance to hydrogen embrittlement

A key advantage of oxygen-free copper is resistance to hydrogen embrittlement. In ETP copper, hydrogen can react with  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$  inclusions during annealing, soldering

or welding to form water vapour within the metal, causing internal cracking and reduced ductility.

Oxygen-free copper eliminates this risk, offering excellent weldability and solderability in high-temperature processes.

## Processing considerations

Oxygen-free copper offers clear processing advantages. It can be drawn into fine diameters with fewer intermediate anneals, improving efficiency and reducing cost.

In welding, cold pressure welding delivers the best results, while controlled pressure and current are important in resistance welding. In continuous extrusion (Conform), oxygen-free copper provides stable flow, reduced die wear and improved tool life by eliminating  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}$ -related abrasion.

## Environmental considerations

Sustainability is increasingly important. ETP copper rod is typically produced using fossil fuel-based heating, most commonly natural gas, resulting in direct emissions.

Oxygen-free copper can be produced entirely using electrical energy. When powered by renewables such as wind, hydro or solar, this enables a pathway towards carbon-neutral production. Both grades are fully recyclable, but oxygen-free copper offers a lower-emission production route.

## Conclusion

ETP copper remains a reliable and economical choice for general applications. However, oxygen-free copper delivers superior performance in demanding environments due to higher purity, improved conductivity, enhanced ductility and excellent weldability.

Applications such as high-speed wire drawing, continuous extrusion, precision conductor manufacturing and magnet wire production benefit significantly from OFE/OFHC copper, enabling improved efficiency, tighter process control and reliability.

[www.upcast.com](http://www.upcast.com)

# FLYMCA Expands Submarine Cable Machinery Projects Worldwide

**In recent years, FLYMCA has been focusing on the design and construction of specialised and customised machinery for large-scale stranding, cabling, screening and armouring purposes, with an emphasis on machinery for very special cables such as submarine, offshore and umbilical cables.**

The efforts of the company have been motivated by the noticeable worldwide increase in demand for submarine cable production in recent years.

Armouring lines are being realised in two different configurations:

- Large tubular stranders for multiple steel wires with bullhead, for fibre optic submarine cables. The last tubular strander produced by FLYMCA features 36 bobbins, Ø630mm.
- Large planetary armouring lines for heavy power transmission cables produced on huge, large and heavy-duty machines with a high number of steel wires, based on single or double wire-layer design, with configurations of up to 214 wires. These systems are used through a single or a

dual planetary cage working in tandem. Additionally, these machines incorporate automatic bobbin-loading systems prepared to minimise the downtime associated with bobbin changeovers.

In response to the rising need for submarine cables, there is a significant demand for robust cross-sectional conductors manufactured in rigid stranding lines using up to 133 wires or more. These stranding machines are equipped with automatic bobbin-loading systems.

The machines are prepared for round and trapezoidal wire sections. They have substantial compacting systems and devices for applying water-blocking by yarns and powder. The automatic bobbin-loading system allows significant downtime reduction, increased productivity and improved operator safety on the line.

FLYMCA is also concluding the production of six tubular stranders at the same time, all of them designed for the ACSR market. These 1+8 tubular stranders can rotate at 1,000rpm and are excellent for aerial cables.

FLYMCA achieved a great milestone with its largest project to date. After

loading the final truck carrying a 40-tonne caterpillar with four gripping contacts in an 8m length, the company has finished four fully integrated solutions delivered as one:

- 2x Rigid stranders (176 and 140 wires Bob. Ø800mm)
- 2x Planetary armouring lines (up to 208 steel wires + FO)
- 28x Reversible caterpillars ensuring full cable handling across the plant

It is not only a challenging project in terms of engineering, but also in terms of the scale of execution:

- 158 trucks
- Over 2,260 tonnes delivered
- Close to 340,000 hours spent on engineering, fabrication and assembly

With this final delivery, the supply of machinery for the expansion of what will be the world's largest plant for the manufacture of submarine power cables is completed.

FLYMCA was present at the Düsseldorf fair in April and also at the Milwaukee fair during May this year.

[www.flymca.com](http://www.flymca.com)



# SIKORA: Reliable Inline Quality Control in CV Lines with the X-RAY 8000 ADVANCED

**Energy cables place high demands on their function and their production. As submarine and underground cables, they ensure that energy is reliably transported to where it is needed. To ensure that electricity is delivered safely, the highest cable quality is essential. For over 30 years, SIKORA's X-RAY 8000, with over 2,000 systems installed, has been considered the global industry standard in CV lines.**

Directly after the extruder, in the CV pipe, the X-RAY 8000 ADVANCED X-ray measuring system measures the dimensions of the cable - such as wall thickness, eccentricity, diameter and ovality. Unlike conventional systems on the market, the X-RAY 8000 ADVANCED features unique High-Speed Technology (HST). It is equipped with 16 measuring sensors, which reduces the measuring distances and thus measures at least 10 times faster than conventional systems.

The result: the measuring values are available in less than 30 seconds for immediate centring and distortion-free control to the target dimension within 100 seconds.

Continuous use of the X-RAY 8000 ADVANCED enables a wall thickness reduction of around 5%, resulting in significant material and cost savings. The 5% material savings correspond to a CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of around 375 tons per year - comparable to approximately 125 round-trip flights between Frankfurt and New York. The X-RAY 8000 ADVANCED thus contributes to greater sustainability in cable production.

The durable XLL x-ray technology ensures a long service life. Special, self-cleaning and non-toxic (NTX) measuring windows guarantee particularly safe and healthy handling in the CV line. In addition to the measuring system, a control cabinet containing an industrial PC for evaluating the X-ray image is supplied. All measuring values are clearly visualised and logged in real time on a TFT monitor.

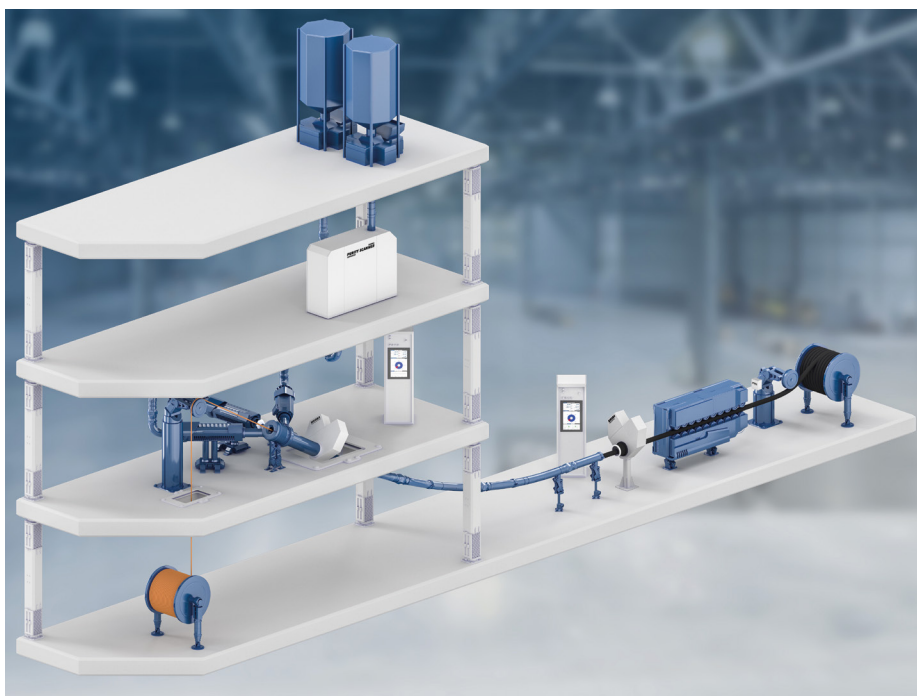


The X-RAY 8000 ADVANCED is used for quality control in CV lines.

The X-RAY 8000 ADVANCED can be integrated both vertically in CCV lines and VCV lines as well as in a horizontal line for medium-voltage cables. It can also be used in hybrid CV lines where both XLPE and PP are used as insulation materials.

For final quality control at the end of the CV line, the X-RAY 8700 NXT records the cold values of the cable. In combination with the X-RAY 8000 ADVANCED at the beginning of the line, the shrinkage values for all three insulation layers of the cable can also be precisely determined. This ensures optimal process control and meets existing cable quality requirements for maximum reliability and safety.

[www.sikora.net](http://www.sikora.net)



The combination of the X-RAY 8000 ADVANCED at the beginning and the X-RAY 8700 NXT at the end of the CV line ensures optimal process control.

# IWMA INSIDER

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All IWMA members benefit from complimentary editorial coverage in IWMA Insider.

In addition, there are a range of advertising opportunities available in each edition – the perfect way to showcase your products, services or upcoming events to a global audience of wire and cable professionals. Plus, with the magazine showcased at leading wire exhibitions worldwide, your brand will be seen by industry decision-makers across the globe!

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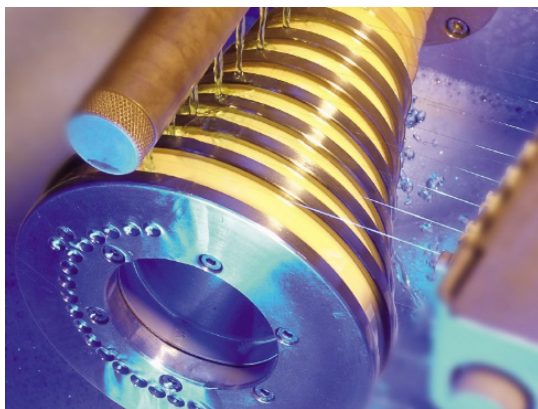
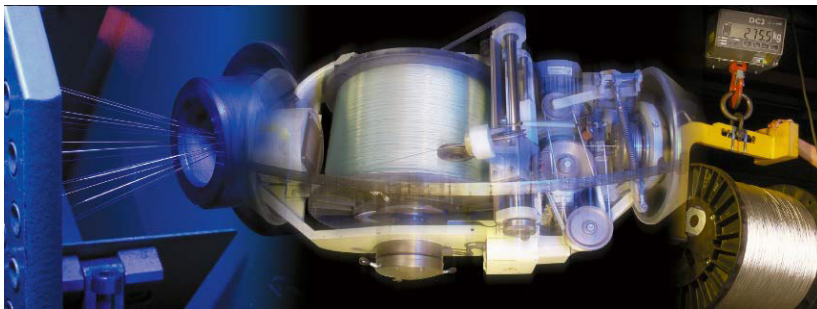
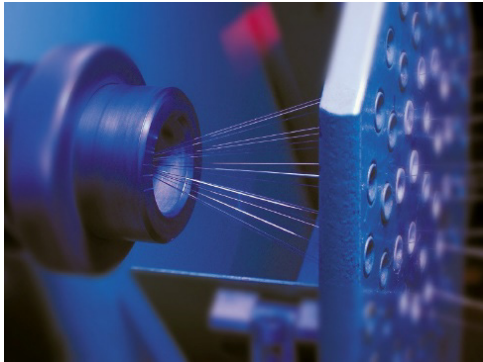
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