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The Global Information Newsletter for the Whole Submarine Cable Industry

EDITORIAL

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Welcome to the November issue of SubCableNews.

Another long distance submarine fibre optic cable will be build: IMEWE India - Middle East - Western Europe. We just see a recovery of the Trans-Atlantic routes, overbuilt in 2000/1. SEA-ME-WE 4 & FALCON and the recent upgrades of SEA-ME-WE 3 have provided this route a large amount of extra capacity. Are we overbuilding here again?

In one of our special reports we are presenting the Case Study: Estlink: Helping develop the Nordic and Baltic energy markets (by Global Marine Systems Ltd.)

Furthermore, we have a quick look at the Submarine Networks World 2006 conference, the world's most established global telecoms infrastructure conference.

And of course we are presenting another cable ship of the world, the CS "Tyco Decisive" from Tyco Telecommunications.

In this issue you will find the latest project updates and company news from the submarine cable community.

Enjoy reading our Newsletter.

The Editor Eckhard Bruckschen

tyco / Telecommunications

Picture: Tyco Telecommunications (US) Inc.

CS "Tyco Decisive"

Submit your industry photo
(Installations, cables, office, people etc.)
And be published (free of charge)
With your company logo
On the first page of
SubCableNews

NORTH AMERICA

GULF OF MEXICO (I)

Tyco Telecommunications Chosen to Construct 1400-km Undersea Fiber Optic System in the Gulf of Mexico

On the 01st of November 2006, Tyco Telecommunications, a business unit of Tyco Electronics and an industry pioneer in undersea communications technology and marine services, announced that it has signed a contract with Houston-based BP America Inc. to supply an undersea fibre optic system serving offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. The system will comprise the undersea backbone of a regional communications network, providing diverse connectivity from BP's Gulf of Mexico offshore production facilities back to the regional operating centre in Houston, Texas. The system will initially link seven deep-water production platforms with landings in Freeport, Texas and Pascagoula, Mississippi. The network incorporates an upgrade capability designed to support 64 platforms. The project has put emphasis on robustness and reliability as an outgrowth of the devastating 2005 hurricane season, which was particularly challenging for traditional communications systems. To achieve this, Tyco Telecommunications will deploy long-haul undersea telecommunications technologies adapted for the unique requirements of offshore applications. Each platform will be served by a branch off of a deep-water trunk. Using optical multiplexing in undersea branching units, each platform will have direct optical connectivity to both landing stations, ensuring continued operations, independent of any other platform in the system during hurricane events. "Communications systems to high-value production platforms, now further offshore in deep water, require the innovative application of undersea fibre optic technologies, especially in an environment that is susceptible to hurricanes," said Rob Munier, managing director for global solutions at Tyco Telecommunications. "The system we are building will set a new standard for offshore communications systems." Tyco Telecommunications will manufacture the key elements of the fibre optic system at its plants in Newington, New Hampshire and Lowell, Massachusetts. The Tyco Decisive, a versatile, 140-meter cable-laying vessel based at Tyco Telecommunications' depot in Baltimore, Maryland, will deploy the undersea plant and make the connections to the offshore platforms. The vessel has an American Bureau of Shipping dynamic positioning system 2 classification (DPS-2), enabling a variety of complex offshore operations anywhere in the world. Tyco Telecommunications expects to deliver the system to BP in mid-2007.

About Tyco Telecommunications

Tyco Telecommunications, a business unit of Tyco Electronics and an industry pioneer in undersea communications technology and marine services, is a leading global supplier for today's undersea communications requirements. Drawing on its heritage of technical innovation and industry-recognized performance, the company delivers the most reliable, high-quality solutions to organizations with undersea communications needs vital to their core mission. In more than five decades of operation, Tyco Telecommunications has designed, manufactured, and installed more than 80 undersea fibre optic systems around the world. Tyco Telecommunication's global presence, backed by industry- leading research and development laboratories, manufacturing facilities, installation and maintenance ships, depots, and management team work together to implement integrated solutions and network upgrades, with unsurpassed reliability, that support the needs of telecommunications, Internet providers, offshore and science customers worldwide. For more information visit http://www.tycotelecom.com.

About Tyco International

Tyco International Ltd. is a global, diversified company that provides vital products and services to customers in four business segments: Electronics, Fire & Security, Healthcare, and Engineered Products & Services. With 2005 revenue of $40 billion, Tyco employs approximately 250,000 people worldwide. More information on Tyco can be found at http://www.tyco.com.

CALIFORNIA

Underwater Cable may delay Bay Bridge Project

Completion of the new eastern span of the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge could be delayed another year over a snag in moving an underwater power cable blocking construction. The lone bid to move and replace the power line, which provides electricity to Treasure Island, came in at $13.1 million -- nearly double the California Department of Transportation's estimate of $6.6 million. CalTrans officials said asking more contractors to submit bids on a revised project could push the bridge's completion back another year to 2014. The prolonged bidding process would give the chosen contractor little time to prepare for construction, said Tony Anziano, who is overseeing the bidding process for CalTrans. Work on the cable must happen early in 2007 to keep the project on schedule, since environmental laws protecting the bay floor bar any work from June through November. "If we miss that window by one day, we have to wait for a year," Anziano said.

NORTH AMERICA

GULF OF MEXICO (II)

BP to build Gulf of Mexico Fibre Optic Network

BP America Inc. has released details of its plans for the construction of an 800-mile undersea fibre optic system in the Gulf of Mexico to provide continuous broadband connectivity to the company's offshore oil and gas facilities. BP said that the new system will allow greater operating flexibility, including the ability to continue producing safely for longer periods when hurricanes enter the Gulf and to return more quickly to production after storms pass. In some cases the project may mean that facilities do not have to be shut-in at all. Currently, hurricane-related shutdowns each year reduce oil and gas deliveries to refineries and power plants, sometimes resulting in higher gasoline and electricity prices, or shortages. "This $80 million investment will allow early evacuation of our offshore staff whilst keeping critical energy supplies flowing as well as improving our operating efficiency and operability year round," said Kenny Lang, BP Vice President Gulf of Mexico. "During routine operations, the fibre optic network will allow each of BP's new cutting edge technology centres in Houston to remotely apply high level technical expertise to our offshore producing facilities. The large bandwidth provided by the network will enable staff in the Houston centres to monitor offshore digital operating and safety equipment which will contribute to faster problem resolution for our operations," Lang said. In the future, the network may make it possible for BP staff onshore to control offshore facilities remotely. The system will initially link seven of BP's deep water production facilities including Marlin, Horn Mountain, Na Kika, Thunder Horse, Atlantis, Mad Dog and Holstein to the new Advanced Collaborative Environment (ACE) centers in Houston. Each facility will have direct optical connectivity to Houston through two independent routes. It will ensure continued operations, independent of any other facility in the system during hurricane events. This project is part of BP's overall strategy to ensure that key oil and gas production facilities around the world provide reliable supplies to market at times of greatest need. The Gulf of Mexico network will incorporate an upgrade capability designed to support 64 platforms. Excess bandwidth will be made commercially available for third party deepwater operators.