

The International Magazine for the Wire & Cable Industries

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ENGINEERING THE IMPOSSIBLE

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The next generation:
Continuous Drawing Lines

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40
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Advocating sustainable manufacturing by showcasing pioneering initiatives

Lubricant manufacturer Metalube™ is continuing its commitment to sustainability by promoting eco-conscious practices and advocating a greener future. The firm's Gold status from EcoVadis ranks it among the top five per cent of companies dedicated to exemplary sustainable practices.

The company's managing director, Robert Brown, was invited to speak at two conferences – the IWMA Energy Innovates Conference, and the CIGRE conference – highlighting Metalube's role in sustainable manufacturing and the significance of prolonging the life of aluminium overhead line conductors using specialised greases.

The Energy Innovates Conference, organised by the International Wire & Machinery Association (IWMA), served

as a platform to align efforts towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Mr Brown's involvement underscored Metalube's position among the UK's eco-conscious wire and lubricant manufacturers. He emphasised how the company has streamlined its manufacturing processes to enhance energy efficiency.

Mr Brown's participation in the CIGRE conference highlighted the importance of extending the lifespan of aluminium overhead line conductors through the application of specialised greases.

He discussed the environmental impact of un-lubricated line conductors, noting that four tons of bauxite ore is required to produce one ton of aluminium, often through hazardous surface mining practices.

"The aluminium industry's significant contribution to man-made greenhouse gas emissions demands a proactive approach," said Mr Brown. "Our focus on greased versus ungreased aluminium conductors demonstrates the pivotal role of extending asset life, mitigating environmental impact and maximising sustainability in energy distribution."

A comparison between a failed ungreased ACSR conductor in a coastal region of Italy after five years and a fully greased conductor in line replacement, operational for over 15 years, highlighted the potential for longevity and sustainability in aluminium conductors. Metalube intends to pioneer further grease innovations to extend the life of these assets.

Metalube Group www.metalube.co.uk

Fuelling the future of sustainable steel production

Mukand Ltd has partnered with Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL) to supply piped natural gas (PNG) to its stainless steel manufacturing plant in Thane, India. Recognising the need for eco-conscious practices in steel manufacturing, Mukand's collaboration with MGL shows its dedication to reducing its carbon footprint – using clean energy solutions to mitigate its impact on the environment while enhancing operational efficiency.

Mukand's president, Shashibhushan Upadhyay, expressed his enthusiasm about the strategic partnership: "At Mukand Ltd, our ethos revolves around environmental consciousness and sustainable progress.

"Our alliance with Mahanagar Gas Ltd is a testament to our unwavering commitment to a cleaner, greener tomorrow. We firmly believe that the future of the industry hinges upon

adopting eco-friendly practices, and this collaboration seamlessly aligns with our vision of responsible steel production. Integrating piped natural gas into our operations is not merely a step towards reducing our environmental impact; it's a bold stride towards setting industry benchmarks and inspiring positive change."

Mukand Ltd
www.mukand.com

Orion opens second plant in China

Speciality chemicals company Orion SA has completed its first greenfield project – a carbon black plant in eastern China that will supply fast-growing demand in Asia. The facility in the city of Huaibei in Anhui province will produce carbon black for applications, including coatings, printing inks, polymers, fibre and rubber. The site's two production lines have a total capacity of 70,000 tons per year.

"The Huaibei facility is a huge milestone for Orion," said Orion CEO Corning Painter. "The state-of-the-art plant enables us to better support our Chinese customers with products that are made in China. Now we can reallocate production lines in the US and Europe so that we can increase supply to customers in those markets."

Mr Painter commended the Huaibei project team for overcoming the challenges posed by Covid-19. "Despite the constant disruption during the worst periods of the pandemic, our employees, contractors and leadership team kept the project on track. As always, we put the safety, health and the welfare of our people first, providing nutritious meals,

warm beds, testing and medical care. But still, it was the heroic dedication of our team that delivered this project under extremely trying circumstances."

Orion's other plant in China is in Qingdao in the eastern province of Shandong. That facility, built in 1994, produces carbon black grades for tyres, mechanical rubber goods and speciality applications. Carbon black – a solid form of carbon produced as powder or pellets – is made to customers' specifications, and is used to tint, colourise, provide reinforcement, conduct electricity, increase durability and add UV protection. Orion produces carbon black at 15 plants worldwide.

Orion SA
<https://orioncarbons.com>



Orion's new plant in China