



Nexans lays the foundation stone of its International Research Centre in Lyons

Lyons, July 13, 2001 - Today saw the laying of the foundation stone of the "Nexans Research Centre" (NRC) in Lyons. The ceremony was presided over by Bruno Thomas, Senior Vice President of Strategic Operations at Nexans, in the presence of Jean-Pierre Flaconnèche, the Mayor of the 7th district of the City of Lyons.

Lyons was a natural choice for the site of the NRC, with many decisive assets to pitch the balance in its favour. The city has an extensive industrial fabric and a rich pool of academic resources, including a large number of research centres with which Nexans could set up partnerships: the Ecole Centrale de Lyon, CNRS, CPE, INSA, UCBL, ENS, and the IFTH.

The geographical location of the city is also an advantage, being situated at a communications crossroads facilitating daily connections with the Nexans plants based in other European countries such as Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Norway or Sweden.

Headed by Gilles Widawski, NRC Manager, a team of some thirty researchers will be working in the 1500 square metres of the new laboratories by the end of 2001.

The research work will be oriented primarily towards materials, polymers and the associated processes, be it for power, telecoms or data cables, or for future generations of winding wires and accessories.

"We intend to establish permanent, long-term collaborations with the local university research centres. Synergies will develop and the repercussions will definitely be profitable for all the partners. The NRC will be equipped with several clean rooms, and will accommodate state-of-the art facilities. Thanks to a constant search for innovation and new concepts making optimum use of computer simulation tools, the NRS will help prepare the future of Nexans with the aim of ensuring greater customer satisfaction. The prerequisite for this is full mastery of all the research cycles, from design through to the end product," said Gilles Widawski.

About Nexans

Nexans is the worldwide leader in the cable industry. The Group brings an extensive range of advanced copper and optical fiber cable solutions to the infrastructure, industry and building markets. Nexans cables and systems can be found in every area of people's lives, from telecommunications and energy networks, to aeronautics, aerospace, automobile, building, petrochemical, medical applications, etc. Operating in more than 20 countries, Nexans employs 19,000 people and had sales in 2000 of euros 4.8 billion. More information on www.nexans.com

Contacts :

Nicolas Arcilla Borraz

Tel : +33 (0) 1 56 69 84 12

E-mail : nicolas.arcillaborraz@nexans.com

Pascale Strubel

Tel : + 33 (0) 1 56 69 85 28

E-mail : pascale.strubel@nexans.com