



Press release

OTC.06
Offshore Technology Conference
Hall A, Booths 5779,5883
Reliant Center
Houston, May 1-4

Nexans presents UFLEX: state-of-the-art stress analysis package

*This tool provides a strategic advantage in the design
of complex oil and gas umbilicals*

OTC – Houston (Texas, USA), May 3, 2006 - Nexans, the worldwide leader in the cable industry, is using OTC.06 to present the UFLEX software – a state-of-the-art FE (Finite Analysis) package that enables its design engineers to predict accurately the stress and fatigue behaviour of complex oil and gas umbilical cross-sections. UFLEX has been validated extensively through full-scale tests, and provides an invaluable tool for ultra-deepwater umbilical engineering.

As offshore oil and gas production facilities continue to move into deeper and deeper waters they place an ever increasing demand on the umbilical systems. When steel tube umbilicals are suspended from a floating oil platform down to the seabed, 2-3,000 m below, forces inside the cross-section that are insignificant at normal water depths suddenly become critical. Nexans has, in cooperation with Marintek in Trondheim, Norway, developed the UFLEX software specifically to quantify these effects, enabling its engineers to gain a profound understanding of how they influence the lifetime of the umbilical and its performance.

Knut Ekeberg, Head of Umbilical Systems Design, of Nexans in Norway, said *“UFLEX creates a strategic advantage for both Nexans and our customers by helping to identify and lower technical risk. At the same time it is a valuable tool for optimizing the umbilical design process as well as for the development and evaluation of new cost-effective solutions.”*

Note – OTC paper 17986

Nexans is presenting UFLEX in a conference paper at OTC.06:
“Predicting, Measuring and Implementing Friction—and Bending Stresses in Dynamic Umbilical Design”

About Nexans

Nexans is the worldwide leader in the cable industry. The Group brings an extensive range of advanced copper and optical fibre cable solutions to the infrastructure, industry and building markets. Nexans cables and cabling systems can be found in every area of people's lives, from telecommunications and energy networks, to aeronautics, aerospace, automobile, railways, building, petrochemical, medical applications, etc. With an industrial presence in 29 countries and commercial activities throughout the world, Nexans employs 20,000 people and had sales in 2005 of 5.4 billion euros. Nexans is listed on the Paris stock exchange. More information available on www.nexans.com

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