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NEW CABLE FOR SHELL

Pinacl Cables has developed a new environmentally friendly non-metallic armoured cable for petrochemical giant, Shell UK Limited at Stanlow in Cheshire. Instead of the industry norm of lead sheathing and steel wire armouring, a chemically resistant polymer alloy sheath means that the cable is highly flexible and more cost effective than its metallic counterparts.

"We wanted a flexible cable, whilst still offering the same protection as the old style metallic cable" commented Allen Gregory, project manager for Shell Communication Information Services. As a result Pinacl developed a new cable using a polymer alloy. The non- metallic armoured cable is smaller and lighter than any other on the market, at only 11 mm in diameter, with a minimum bend radius of 100 mm.

Inside the cable is a gel filled loose tube, which contains up to 16 individually coloured multimode and singlemode optical fibres. GRP (Glass Reinforced Polymer) crush and impact resistant rods are helically stranded around the loose tube with thixotropic water blocking gel. On the outside is the chemically resistant polymer alloy sheath. Higher fibre count stranded loose tube versions are available for specific applications.

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"Being non-metallic, the cable is unaffected by lightening strikes or electrical induction effects caused by machinery. It is also environmentally friendly as it does not corrode releasing harmful lead compounds into the ground" explained John Oliver, director of marketing, Pinacl Cables. "The polymer alloy results in a narrow, light and flexible cable which is easy to install. Overall, the cable is extremely cost effective, when compared to metallic cables."

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Note to Editor:
A photograph is available. If this is required please contact Peter Ning.