



**Press release**

## **Nexans wins major balise cable order to upgrade Italy's railway infrastructure network to ERTMS\* standards**

**Paris, October 6, 2005** – Nexans, the worldwide leader in the cable industry, has won a contract worth around 650 k€ from GE Transportation Rail to manufacture and supply specialized balise cables to be used in the upgrading of Italy's rail network to meet ERTMS requirements.

The implementation of ERTMS will facilitate higher-speed services and an increased number of connections on Italy's railways. The Nexans balise cables are advanced copper signaling cables which will be installed along the tracks to carry vital information regarding train position, length and number of wagons. This information will be used by the Automatic Train Control (ATC) system and relayed both to the driver via transponders, otherwise known as 'balises', and to the train control center. The balise cables therefore play a vital role in maintaining high levels of safety as the volume of rail traffic increases.

GE Transportation Rail is currently expanding its operations in Europe and Nexans regards this order as proof of its capability to meet the complex demands of the growing international railway industry, not only with regards to having the technical expertise to manufacture the cables to GE Transportation Rail's requirements, but also in being able to meet the delivery schedule.

*"Nexans has selected railways as a priority market segment and we are currently combining our development, marketing and production resources around the world to meet the changing demands of the railway industry which now operates on an increasingly global scale. This project demonstrates our strength in the railway sector and means more opportunities for Nexans"* says Yvon Raak, Executive Vice President Europe Area for Nexans.

The balise cable order resulted from close co-operation between several Nexans specialists working across Europe. For example, technical and commercial contacts are handled jointly by Nexans' sales organizations in Sweden and Italy, while production will take place in Sweden and Spain (the Nexans plant in Maliaño is specialized in a wide range of telecommunication cables).

\*ERTMS: European Rail Traffic Management System

### **About GE Transportation**

GE Transportation Rail is a global technology leader and supplier to the railroad, transit, marine and mining industries. GE provides freight and passenger locomotives, railway signaling and communications systems, information technology solutions, marine engines, motorized drive systems for mining trucks and drills, high –quality replacement parts and value added services. With sales in excess of \$3 billion, GE Transportation Rail is headquartered in Erie, PA in the US and employs approximately 8,000 employees worldwide.

For more about GE Transportation, visit <http://www.geae.com>.

### **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 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 2004 of 4.8 billion euros. Nexans is listed on the Paris stock exchange. More information available on [www.nexans.com](http://www.nexans.com)

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