

Nexans turns its AmpaCity research center into a cutting-edge DC microgrid demo site

PRESS RELEASE

- Nexans commissions first phase of direct current (DC) microgrid pilot at its AmpaCity R&D Center in Lyon
- Collaboration with key ecosystem partners accelerates development of next-generation building infrastructure
- Nexans pioneers efficient and resilient electrified buildings of the future through its DC Series cable portfolio.

Paris, May 11, 2026 – Nexans, global pure player in sustainable electrification, has announced the commissioning of the first phase of its direct current (DC) microgrid pilot at the AmpaCity global innovation hub in Lyon, France. Developed in collaboration with key ecosystem partners, including Schneider Electric and VINCI Energies Building Solutions, the project forms part of the first Current/OS pilots deployed in France and marks a significant step forward in the development of next-generation building energy systems.

As electrification accelerates and buildings integrate increasing volumes of distributed energy resources, electric vehicle charging and electronics loads, traditional alternating current (AC) infrastructures are facing growing limitations in efficiency, flexibility and energy management. DC offers a compelling alternative, enabling higher energy efficiency, improved resilience, reduced peak demand and more seamless integration of renewable energy sources. However, deploying DC architecture at building level requires novel approaches to system design, interoperability and safety.

In response to these challenges, Nexans is transforming part of its AmpaCity facility into a fully operational DC-powered environment. This next-generation pilot includes a 700 VDC main distribution bus supplying office workstations via USB-C, lighting systems, a 14.4 kWh battery storage system and two 30 kW fast charging stations for electric vehicles. The system is connected by Nexans' dedicated DC bus cable and linked to the AC network via an interlink converter integrated by Schneider Electric. A photovoltaic installation will be added in the second phase of the project.

“This pilot is a key milestone in our ambition to accelerate the adoption of direct current in buildings,” said Jérôme Fournier, VP Group Innovation at Nexans. “By working closely with partners such as Schneider Electric and VINCI Energies Building Solutions, we can test, validate and refine DC architectures in real-world conditions. This hands-on approach allows us to develop reliable, interoperable solutions that improve efficiency, performance and safety, while preparing our customers for the future of electrified infrastructure through industry-leading innovations.”

By combining advanced cable design with system-level optimization, the DC microgrid delivers greater flexibility and enables more efficient management of energy flows across assets such as batteries, EV chargers and building loads. Nexans' DC Series cables, specifically designed for building applications, are engineered to meet the constraints of DC architectures, offering enhanced ageing performance, improved safety features including *inter-tripping*¹ capabilities, and full interoperability in line with Current/OS specifications.

Andrea Quarteroni, New Electrical Distribution League Leader at Schneider Electric, commented: “Direct current represents a major opportunity to rethink how energy is distributed and managed within buildings. Through this collaboration with Nexans, we are combining our expertise to deliver integrated, future-ready systems that enhance efficiency and enable smarter energy use.”

¹ *Inter-tripping* solutions allow all power sources to be deactivated for maintenance and to ensure personal safety

Eric Plumey, Managing Director VINCI Energies France Building Solutions, added: *“The transition to DC-powered buildings requires close collaboration across the industry. By contributing our expertise in microgrid engineering and design, we are helping to bring practical, scalable solutions to market that support more resilient and sustainable building infrastructure.”*

Vincenzo Salmeri, President of Current/OS, noted: *“With electrification needs on the rise, DC microgrids are establishing themselves as an effective solution to growing stress on the public grid. As one of the most active partners of Current/OS, Nexans is playing a leading role in establishing a uniform framework for the deployment of DC.”*

Beyond the pilot, the initiative reinforces Nexans’ position as a pioneer in Direct Current electrification and the first cable manufacturer to integrate a DC microgrid within its own R&D facilities. It also strengthens the company’s DC Series cable portfolio, offering dedicated low-voltage DC cable solutions designed for commercial and residential buildings, public infrastructure and data centers.

Nexans’ DC cable deployed at AmpaCity demonstrator can be directly applied to data centers. It paves the way for future standards in 700–800 V DC architecture, cabling and power electronics. This approach lays the groundwork for more efficient, scalable infrastructures that are tailored to the growing energy demands of the digital sector.

By converting existing spaces into real-world demonstrators, Nexans continues to play a leading role in shaping the future of electrification while supporting the transition towards more efficient, intelligent and sustainable energy systems.

To learn more about how Nexans is driving innovation in electrification and direct current technologies, visit www.nexans.com

About Nexans

Nexans is the global pure player in sustainable electrification, building the essential systems that power the world’s transition to a connected, resilient, and low-carbon future. From offshore and onshore renewable energies to smart cities and homes, Nexans designs and delivers advanced cable solutions, accessories and services that electrify progress safely, efficiently, and sustainably.

With over 140 years of history, through three core businesses: PWR Transmission, PWR Grid, and PWR Connect, Nexans blends deep industry expertise with cutting-edge innovation to accelerate the energy transition, and better meet its customers’ needs. Its unique E3 model, focused on Environment, Economy and Engagement, drives every action, aligning performance with purpose.

Nexans operates in 41 countries with 25,700 people and generated €6.1 billion in standard sales in 2025. Nexans is committed to Net-Zero emissions by 2050 aligned with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and expanding energy access through the Fondation Nexans.

Nexans is listed on Euronext Paris, Compartment A.

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