



## Environmental responsibility

# Control production processes and protect the environment

By controlling its production processes, objectively assessing the impact of its activities and training its personnel, Nexans makes every effort to optimize its energy consumption, recycle the bulk of its waste and bring to market environmentally-friendly products.

### A strong commitment

The environment and the safety of people and property are core concerns for Nexans. The Group's policy takes a proactive approach, as defined in the Nexans environmental charter entitled "*Maîtrise des risques*" (Controlling Risks) which is signed by the Chairman. This charter refers to the continuous improvement of our production facilities through safety and environmental audits and assessment of the risks associated with our products and manufacturing techniques.

Nexans' commitment to environmental protection is also reflected in our staff training in environmental best practice. In terms of organization, Nexans' environmental policy is managed by Corporate Industrial Management, which reports directly to the Strategic Operations Department. The role of Industrial Management, defined as part of the new organizational structure put in place in 2003, is to oversee industrial strategy, the investment budget, the engineering aspect of major industrial projects and the databases. The department also manages cross-organizational projects, in particular product and process development, as well as the Group's plant and machinery. It ensures that the company shows respect for and protects the environment in each of these areas. The environmental

guidelines and objectives laid down by Industrial Management apply to the entire company worldwide, including the Group's subsidiaries abroad.

### A rigorous environmental management system compliant with the standards in force

Nexans has had an internal environmental management system in place for approximately ten years. Its objective is to reduce pollution risks and control environmental



**760,000** metric tons of copper consumed in 2003 (5% less than in 2002)

- The environmental guidelines and objectives laid down apply to the entire Group, including its subsidiaries abroad.



costs (consumption of energy, raw materials and hazardous substances, waste disposal and recycling). Under this system, in line with the ISO 14001 standard, all the Group's facilities are checked annually against a list of 33 environmental indicators. A number of points relating to waste recycling were added in 2003, and further questions will be added in 2004, some again covering waste recycling and reuse, and some covering

the identification of major environmental risks (accompanied by specific crisis management plans), and the storage of hazardous liquids. Once the questionnaires have been completed, recommendations are sent back to the sites in the form of summary reports and diagrams, giving rise to specific action plans to remedy the situation.

#### **An objective external audit system**

In 2003, the Group put in place an environmental audit program put together by an outside specialized company (Sageris). From 2004, twenty-five sites will be audited each year and, if found to be well-managed environmentally, will be awarded the EHP label denoting compliance with the highest environmental standards. Seven sites have been awarded the label to date: Chauny SCCC, Mehun-sur-Yèvre and Lyon in France, Neunburg, Floss and Nuremberg in Germany, and Cortailod in Switzerland. The environmental audit program, which is the same for all the sites audited, is also a means of checking materials consumption (water, solvents, energy, packaging, etc.), discharges into the air and water, ground protection,

#### **Recycling and thorough sorting of waste**

RIPS, a Nexans subsidiary based in Calais, recycled 16,420 metric tons of cable waste collected from all the Group's European manufacturing plants in 2003. Besides, thorough sorting of factory waste combined with the recycling of cables, means that the majority of waste – wood, board, ferrous materials, machine oil, batteries, special waste, etc. – is reused in some way. In 2003, the Mehun plant in France put in place a number of "waste points" with new containers differentiated according to specific materials. The initiative was accompanied by a large-scale awareness campaign internally.

**101,400** metric tons of waste in 2003 (1.6% less than in 2002), including **11,100** tons of special waste

### A responsible attitude to wastewater management and treatment

The current degradation of groundwater tables and the global water shortage problem are priority issues in any sustainable development program. Nexans is addressing these problems by stepping up monitoring of the retention of pollutant liquids in storage and operational areas. The Group is also investing specifically in wastewater treatment systems, and Nexans' plants at Cortailod in Switzerland, Denizli in Turkey, Quebec City in Canada and Charleroi in Belgium benefited from this investment in 2003.

the condition of storage facilities, volume of waste and recycling methods, as well as the impact of our activities in terms of noise.

In parallel to this highly efficient system, some of the Group's plants are involved in a process of ISO 14001 certification. In 2003, the Mehun-sur-Yèvre, RIPS in Calais (France), and Charleroi and Opglabbeek plants in Belgium were granted certification.

### Environmentally-friendly products and solutions

Nexans' R&D program also serves the environment. Many of our ongoing R&D programs are concerned with developing safer, less polluting and more energy-efficient products. Examples include welded aluminum shielding for high-voltage cables - an improvement on the old lead sheaths -, return conductors for submarine cables that are friendlier to the marine environment, and superconductor cables that emit

no electromagnetic radiation.

There is also extensive research underway into flame-retardant/fire-resistant cables.

More generally, Nexans is installing more underground cables which have a lesser visual impact on the environment than overhead lines, and the cables and equipment for wind turbines produced by the Group are contributing indirectly to the development of alternative, clean sources of energy.



5,100,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water consumed in production in 2003 (7.3% less than in 2002)

**Careful analysis and handling of environmental impact**

Although the Group's business is not particularly pollutant, Nexans nonetheless carefully analyzes the environmental impact of its processes.

**90,000**  
metric tons  
of aluminum  
consumed  
in 2003  
(same as in 2002)

**8,150**  
metric tons  
of solvents  
consumed

**981,470**  
MWh of  
electricity  
consumed  
(3.6% less than  
in 2002)

**MAIN IMPACT OF NEXANS' ACTIVITIES\***

Activity	Resources used	Action by Nexans to end 2003
<b>Copper and aluminum metallurgy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy (natural gas) for metal casting, and water for steam and cooling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ 95% of consumed water is recycled <i>In 2003, a facility for treating the wastewater produced by rinsing the wirerod after pickling was installed on the continuous casting line at Chauny (a highly efficient treatment plant of the same type had been installed at the Montreal East plant in Canada in 2002)</i></li> <li>→ Efforts to reduce the amount of copper dust released into the atmosphere</li> </ul>
<b>Copper power and telecom cables:</b> - conductor manufacturing (drawing and stranding) - extrusion cable manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrical power for annealing and oily water for drawing lubrication</li> <li>• Cooling water</li> <li>• Low air emissions</li> <li>• Low consumption of solvents compared with the volume of cables manufactured (mainly for marking inks)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Wastewater filtered, treated and recycled <i>In 2003, the Fergus plant in Canada installed a highly efficient filtration system that reduces lubricant consumption</i></li> <li>→ Recycled water <i>All our extrusion cable manufacturing plants, which need large quantities of cooling water, have recycling facilities</i></li> <li>→ Treated by filter vacuum cleaners</li> <li>→ Handled specifically: small storage cabinets or fume hoods</li> </ul>
<b>Winding wires</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solvents for making varnishes and energy for varnish baking</li> <li>• Cooling water</li> <li>• Enameling varnish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Specific and ongoing investment to reduce the release of solvent vapors into the air <i>Nexans invested in measures to reduce the release of solvent vapors into the air in 2003, notably at Chauny (France) to comply with new European legislation on emissions. At Viana do Castelo in Portugal, a thermal oxidation system was installed to burn off residues of solvents and hydrocarbons before they are released into the atmosphere</i></li> <li>→ Low consumption</li> <li>→ A single Nexans site classified Seveso 2 (low level), regularly monitored</li> </ul>

\* Also worthy of mention are the Group-wide efforts to eliminate transformers insulated with askarel (PCB), replace fuel oil boilers with less polluting gas boilers, and gradually phase out single-wall underground storage tanks.

**1.8 million euros spent on environmental measures**