

PRESS RELEASE**PRYSMIAN ANNOUNCES CASALIGHT™ XTREME – THE LEADING EDGE OF BEND INSENSITIVE OPTICAL FIBRES**

Milan, September 18th, 2008 – Prysmian announces the arrival of its latest innovation in bend optimized fibres, CasaLight™ Xtreme. This fibre advances the CasaLight™ fibre family, already comprising of CasaLight™, and CasaLight™ Plus, far past the specifications of ITU G.657 A and B. CasaLight™ Xtreme is targeted at the most demanding FTTH applications, where extreme bending radii are unavoidable.

Prysmian customers now have a full spectrum of choices when dealing with FTTx installations. CasaLight™ is ideal when bending radii down to 10mm are encountered. This is commonly applied within the Riser columns. CasaLight™ Plus becomes essential in the horizontal cabling from the Riser shaft to the first point of presence into the customer premises, where the pathway would encounter bending radii down to 7.5 mm.

In the most demanding applications, CasaLight™ Xtreme provides the best solution by allowing bending radii down to 5mm. CasaLight™ Xtreme has been designed to withstand sharp 90 degree bends under tension and installation with staple guns when used in Prysmian specialty MDU cables.

As the name suggests, the fibre is intended only for use when extreme bend conditions are encountered. For most everyday installations the existing CasaLight™ family members are considered sufficient. Nevertheless it is essential to have CasaLight™ Xtreme available to cover the full range.

The segmentation of the CasaLight™ bend insensitive fibre family, allows customers to optimize the cost of their infrastructure by using the right fibre for the right application. CasaLight™, CasaLight™ Plus and CasaLight™ Xtreme also maintain full compatibility with standard equipment, connectors and fibre already installed in accordance with ITU Recommendation G.652.

Prysmian has continued to maintain its commitment to the environment with a fluorine free production process for CasaLight™ Xtreme as with all of its other fibre products.

CasaLight™ Xtreme optical fibre is now fully available in all of Prysmian's extensive range of FTTH cable products ensuring maximum levels of performance under the most demanding of installation scenarios.

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A leading player in the industry of high-technology cables and systems for energy and telecommunication, the Prysmian Group is a truly global company with sales exceeding 5 billion euro in 2006 and a strong position in higher-added value market segments. With its two businesses, Energy Cables & Systems (submarine and underground cables for power transmission and distribution, for industrial applications and for the distribution of electricity to residential and commercial buildings) and Telecom Cables & Systems (optical cables and fibres and copper cables for video, data and voice transmission), Prysmian boasts a global presence with subsidiaries in 36 countries, 54 plants in 21 countries, 7 Research & Development Centres in Europe, USA and South America, and over 12,000 employees. Specialising in the development of products and systems designed to meet clients' specific requirements, Prysmian's key strengths include: a focus on Research & Development, the capacity to innovative on products and production processes, and the use of advanced proprietary technologies. Prysmian is listed on the Milan Stock Exchange Blue Chip index.

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