

PRYSMIAN TELECOM ACHIEVES MILESTONE IN BLOWN FIBRE SALES IN 2005

Milan, January 2006 – Prysmian Telecom Cables & Systems UK Ltd achieved a major milestone in its sales of blown fibre, during 2005, when cumulative sales hit three-quarters of a billion metres.

Prysmian's blown fibre system supplied under the Sirocco brand name since 1999 has long been established as a solution for access network business connections. It has also become an attractive solution for in-building, campus and industrial applications. Achieving sales of 750,000,000 metres is the equivalent of circling the world almost 20 times or reaching the moon and back.

This was the culmination of more than 10-years activity in the blown fibre market. But, it is not simply fibre kilometres that count, as the Sirocco system supplied by Prysmian and its partners, includes all of the products required to create a complete network from fibre bundles, tube cables for a variety of internal and external applications, connectors, internal and external plant and special installation equipment and techniques.

Chris Pollock, Commercial Director for Prysmian Telecom Cables & Systems UK Ltd expects to hit the billion metre mark by 2007. "The market for blown fibre is increasing dramatically as it is becoming the solution of choice for many FTTH networks. We have seen significant growth in demand over the last couple of years particularly for FTTH projects in Scandinavia and trials are beginning in many other countries, particularly around Europe and in North America. So far, many of our customers have just set up their tube cable infrastructure so the additional fibre demand has yet to come."

Prysmian Cables & Systems

Prysmian Cables & Systems is a worldwide leader in the cable market in both the Telecommunications and Energy sectors. It operates in 5 continents with 52 production units and employs 12,500 people in more than 20 countries. Turnover in 2004 was approx 3.5 billion Euros. In the telecoms sector, Prysmian supplies the industry with a comprehensive portfolio of state-of-the-art products including: Optical Fibre, Optical Cable, Sirocco Blown Fibre System, Copper Cable, Premises/Data Cable and Connectivity Hardware