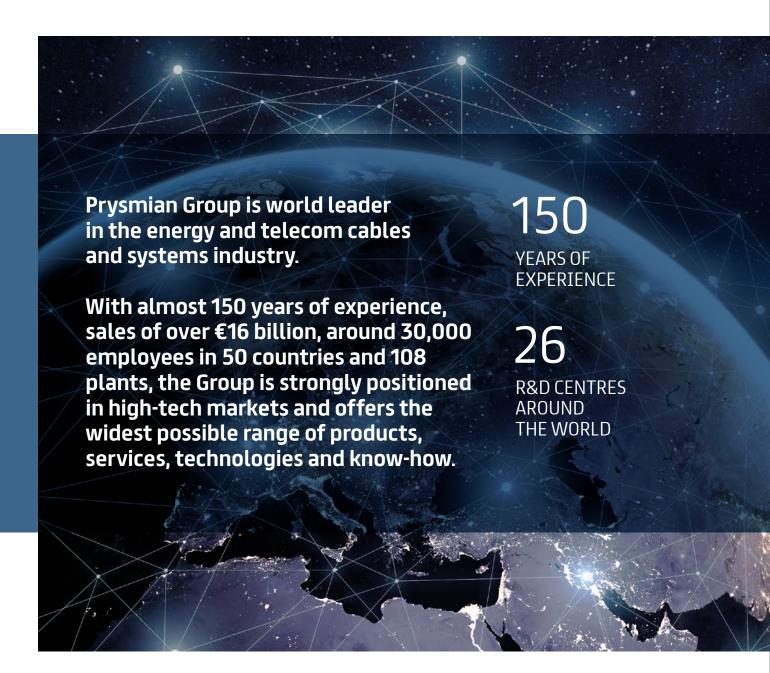




Linking the Future

# CONNECTING THE WORLD. TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE.





# We operate in the business of high voltage underground and submarine cables and systems for power transmission

and distribution, of special cables for applications in many different industries and of medium and low voltage cables for the construction and infrastructure sectors.

For the telecom industry, we manufacture cables and accessories for voice, video and data transmission, offering a comprehensive range of optical fibres, optical and copper cables and connectivity systems. Our cables and their related installation and maintenance are in fact a crucial part of all the main projects supporting the energy transition, giving Prysmian a unique positioning to be among the key enablers of a decarbonized future energy system.



#### Sustainability is in our DNA

The ambition of Prysmian is to act as enabler for accelerating the energy transition, while also creating business value and cable solutions to support the development of greener and smarter power grids. From Asia-Pacific to the Americas, and from Europe to the Middle East to Africa, Prysmian cable solutions sit at the heart of the development of power grids worldwide, helping major utilities in transmitting and distributing power to their customers. We provide submarine cables for Offshore Wind Farm which bring clean energy from offshore to mainland power grids, ensuring green energy to homes and business across the globe. Unmatched in our manufacturing capabilities and with an unwavering commitment to R&D, we design, produce and install low, medium, high and extra-high voltage underground and submarine cables and systems, along with network components and value-added engineering services. Always aware of the need to minimize our impact on the planet, we're constantly driving innovation in our industry, aiming to optimise supply chain processes, reducing total cost of ownership for our customers and helping them achieve sustainable, profitable growth.

As a company, we can play a crucial role in the global energy transition.



# OUR 66 kV STATIC ARRAY CABLE SYSTEMS

Renewable energy resources are abundant, inexhaustible and have the potential to fully meet global energy needs while reducing emissions and mitigating climate change.

Offshore wind is an essential component of renewable energy which is significantly improving its cost competitiveness over the last few years. Nevertheless wind farm developers are always looking at ways to reduce Levelized Cost of Energy (LCE).

Among the technology developments enabling LCE reduction, several independent studies have shown that use of array cables operating at 66 kV instead of 33 kV presents considerable advantages on typical offshore wind farm systems.

The **main cost reduction drivers** for using 66 kV, instead of 33 kV whilst maintaining the same overall output power, are:

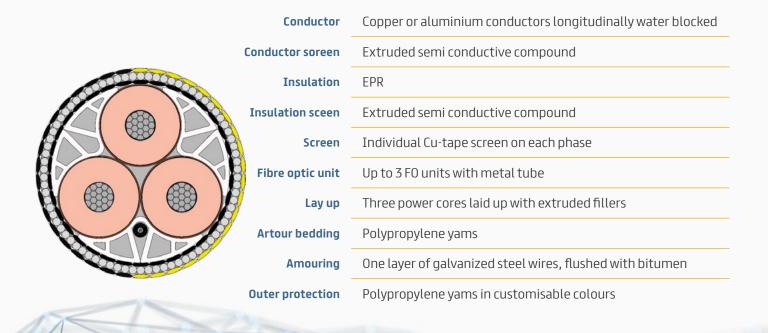
Two times more power can be transported over a single array cable, which reduces the length of cable required and

- consequently the investment in these cables and their installation.
- / Lesser number of cables are entering the offshore substation, therefore the number of J-tubes, transformers and switches, as well as the space these items require can be reduced.
- / Larger turbines unit power to reduce the number of turbines and associated array cables.

Offshore wind applications require high reliability cables with easy installation at a competitive cost. Prysmian's aim is to provide the offshore wind industry a proven cable design with a long-standing track record of operating systems as well as with the lowest impact for the installation teams.



#### TYPICAL 66 kV STATIC CABLE DESIGN FOR OFFSHORE WIND



# Prysmian Group carried out a comparison among three 66 kV submarine array cables with 800 mm<sup>2</sup> aluminium conductors in order to assess the different designs available for this market.

Current rating for the three cable designs has been calculated under the same ambient conditions:

Design	Weight (kg/m)	Overall diameter (mm)	Transmission power (MVA)
DRY	57,9	183	90
SEMI-WET	39,4	175	90
WET	36,2	163	90

**Table 1:** Comparison of three possible 66 kV array cable designs

#### Where

- / Dry design is a cable with an extruded lead sheath over insulation
- / Semi-wet/Semi-dry design is a cable with a PE sheath over a non-fully impervious metallic screen (e.g. metal tapes or thermoglued foils)
- / Wet design is a cable without any polymeric sheath over a non-fully impervious metallic screen (e.g. metal tapes)

Insulation material of 66 kV cables operates at higher electric stress than 33 kV cables, requiring rigorous cable design and insulation material selection.

Therefore, Prysmian's 66 kV array cable is based on wet design EPR insulation, with 50 years successful operational experience up to 72.5 kV, which is a reliable and cost effective solution for offshore cable systems.

The technical features of these cables are outstanding, with no equal among any other cable insulation types at this voltage level.

Prysmian EPR insulated cables are compatible with Prysmian's full range of accessories including Click-Fit®, Elaspeed™ and hang-off systems.

# EPR INSULATED CABLES

EPR insulated cables are covered by the IEC standards and by many National Standards worldwide, with successful operational experience in several countries at voltages up to 150 kV.

Natural rubber-based compounds were the only polymeric materials used as cables electrical insulation from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century until 1930s, when the first suitable synthetic materials became available. During the following years, new technologies boosted the development of new rubber based insulations with better characteristics for the cable industry.

In the early sixties the inventions of Carl Ziegler and Giulio Natta (who were awarded the Nobel Prize) enabled the manufacture of Ethylene Propylene Rubber (EPR). A few years after this breakthrough, the first EPR insulated cables appeared in the market and since that time they have achieved an excellent track record in terms of operational reliability.

Utilising the natural qualities of EPR, Prysmian Group strove to enhance its performance and achieved the development of a suitable compound for wet-design cables.

Use of EPR insulated cables reached its peak during the seventies and eighties following the failures in service caused by water treeing phenomenon in the first generation of polyethylene insulated cables.
Utilities have been using EPR insulated cables for submarine and land cables up to 170 kV for more than 40 years.

Nowadays the use of EPR insulated cables is preferred for applications requiring superior mechanical and thermal performances including industrial, oil and gas, nuclear, submarine, and renewables systems.

Most premoulded type accessories for EHVAC and HVDC cable systems are also made of EPR.



### **Chemical structure** of LDPE, XLPE and EPR

#### **LOW DENSITY** (LDPE)

Polyethylene consists of a POLYETHYLENE sutured chain of carbon atoms. A section of the long chemical chain of LDPE is

shown in figure A1. In LDPE there are significant numbers of side chains which limit the crystallinity and density of the material.

#### CROSS LINKED (XLPE)

Cross-linking of the **POLYETHYLENE** compound to form XLPE is achieved by a chemical reaction at elevated

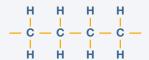
temperatures. The links of bridges between chains connect the whole structure together preventing the normal melting from taking place. Figure A2 shows the site of a cross-link in the structure.

#### **ETHYLENE PROPYLENE RUBBER (EPR)**

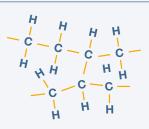
Other terminology which may be encountered includes EPDM and EPM. EPR'S are the EPDM type

(shown in figure A3), and include fillers and other additives to optimise electrical performance. The polymer chains in the compound are chemically cross-linked in the same way as XLPE.

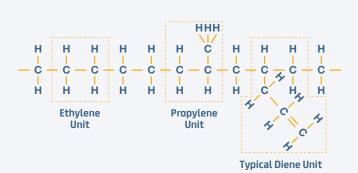
#### A1 - Structure of low density polyethylene



#### A2 - Structure of cross-linked polyethylene



#### A3 - Structure of EPDM



Prysmian EPR insulation compound, although being based on a proprietary formulation, can be duly fingerprinted to ensure its compliance with the qualified compound.

#### **EPR Performance**

### CABLE PERFORMANCE UNDER CURRENT OVERLOAD

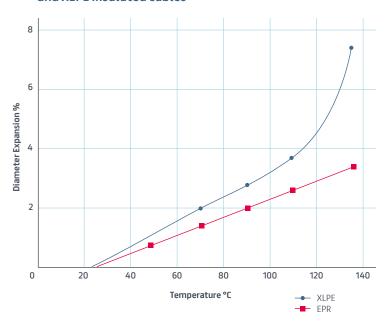
The major cable problem resulting from current overload (generally due to emergency operation, fault or short circuit) is that the heat generated can damage the cable and reduce its life. EPR and XLPE have the same nominal conductor operating temperature, i.e. 90 °C, but can withstand different overload current because of the differing high temperature properties of the compounds.

# EPR is a highly amorphous compound with little crystal structure, and its physical properties are little affected by temperature increases up to 130 °C.

XLPE has a lower crosslink density than EPR and relies for its strength and its ability to maintain its original shape on its crystalline structure. When the temperature exceeds 90 °C XLPE begins to undergo "crystalline melting" which makes the compound soften, deforming more easily and reduces its tendency to return to original shape. XLPE is thus far more likely to incur damage when temperatures are elevated above standard operating conditions.

The lower level of expansion of EPR reduces risks associated to physical stress in the cable, against external restraints, or other cable system components.

#### Diameter expansion of 150 kV EPR and XLPE insulated cables





### CABLE PERFORMANCE DURING OVER-VOLTAGE

Over-voltage performance is usually tested by "impulse testing" of cable samples at room temperature.

Results clearly show XLPE to have a peak voltage breakdown level some 20-30% higher than EPR with both stresses being well above the operating levels.

However the effect of raising the temperature of the cable sample to the upper operating ranges is marked and shows once again the resilience of EPR compared with the degradation of performance of XLPE.

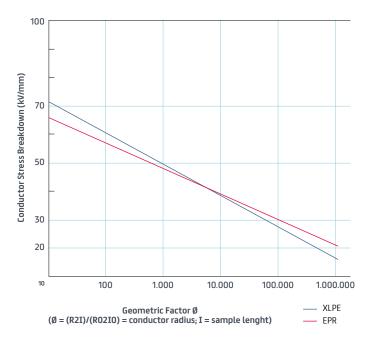
The next chart shows the results of peak voltage testing of XLPE clearly demonstrating the small difference in performance between EPR and XLPE at high temperatures.

It is worth noting the outstanding results achieved for 20 m samples of 250 mm<sup>2</sup> 145 kV Prysmian EPR cables manufactured with the latest technologies.

The average breakdown voltage for these cables was 88 kVp/mm at 95 °C, better than most results for XLPE.



#### Short term AC tests on XLPE and EPR



### AC WITHSTAND VOLTAGE AND EXPECTED RELIABILITY

AC over-voltage testing however gives a different picture for the breakdown levels as RMS voltages are usually considered.

The breakdown test is generally carried out on a standard test cable, 20 m long with a 70 mm<sup>2</sup> conductor and rated at 12/20 kV. Once again XLPE is seen to have higher breakdown stresses than EPR, 60-70 kV rms/mm compared to 50-55 kV rms/mm, but XLPE exhibits far greater scattering of results.

The consequence of this scattering is only apparent when different dimensions of cable are tested. With increasing length and conductor radius, the breakdown voltage of the cable system falls more rapidly than that of EPR because of the wider spread of results (in a larger cable it is more likely that there will be some part of the cable that will fail at a lower stress).

The test parameter "b" is used to describe the amount of scatter of results (Weibull theory) with high scatter giving a lower value. The band of scatter for XLPE has a median of 10 compared to 14 for EPR and the consequence of this can be seen in the next chart.

The graph plots breakdown voltage against a coefficient proportional to the square of the conductor radius times the length of the sample. The larger gradient of the XLPE samples show a fall in failure voltage with increased cable size and length. It is clear from this that the larger the quantity of installed cable and the bigger the cables installed, the greater the reliability of EPR compared with XLPE.

#### **DIELECTRIC LOSSES**

XLPE is well known to be a compound which exhibits an **extremely low dielectric loss and the more pure the polymer, the lower the losses**. EPR has a somewhat higher dielectric loss, but at 66 kV the effect on current rating is negligible (less than 0.3% of current rating difference on a typical 66 kV array cable when considering either XLPE or EPR).

#### **EPR Installation**

The first stage in using a cable is obviously installation and a primary reason for the move from paper to elastomeric insulated cables is ease of installation and handling.

The use of an appropriate elastomeric insulation removes the necessity for a metal sheath, thus considerably simplifying cable installation.

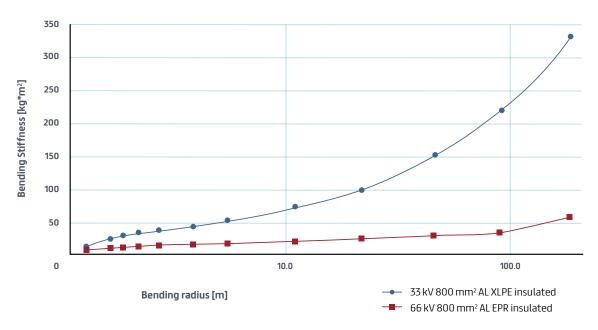
EPR has the advantage of an elastic modulus lower than XLPE which makes it easier to install, particularly if the operation has to be undertaken in restricted spaces (such as underground passages, ducts or offshore structures), or into internal switchgear.

Increased flexibility of the cable core could be a significant advantage to the jointing and termination operations where careful alignment is necessary in a limited space.

The reduced external bending forces in an EPR insulated cable also reduce the internal stresses between insulation and screen which, in extreme cases, could cause problems with the formation of voids.

Joints and terminations are generally the same as those used for installation of XLPE cables, hence minimising the need for jointer training.

#### Bending stiffness at slide speed of 10 mm/sec for different bending radii





#### **Accessories**

# Prysmian EPR insulated cables are compatible with Prysmian's full range of accessories including Click-Fit®.

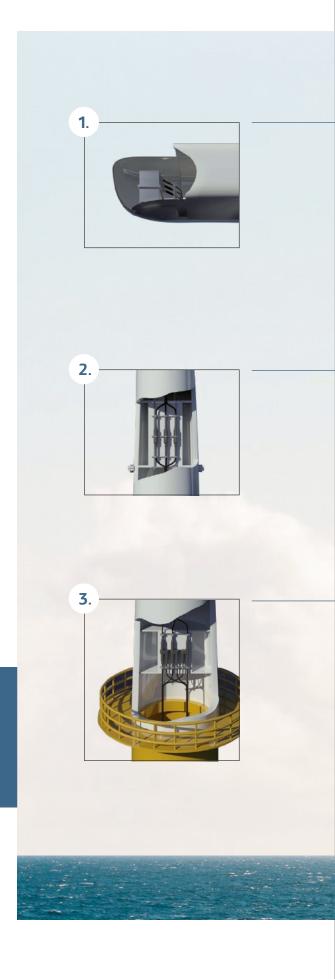
All products within the Click-Fit® range - including outdoor terminations, joints, Y (branch) joints and GIS/Transformer connectors - are based on the Click-Fit® "Plug&Power" concept for high voltage extruded cable accessories that enables optimum ease and speed of assembly, maximum reliability and maintenance-free operation, by ways of factory prepared (identical) cable ends.

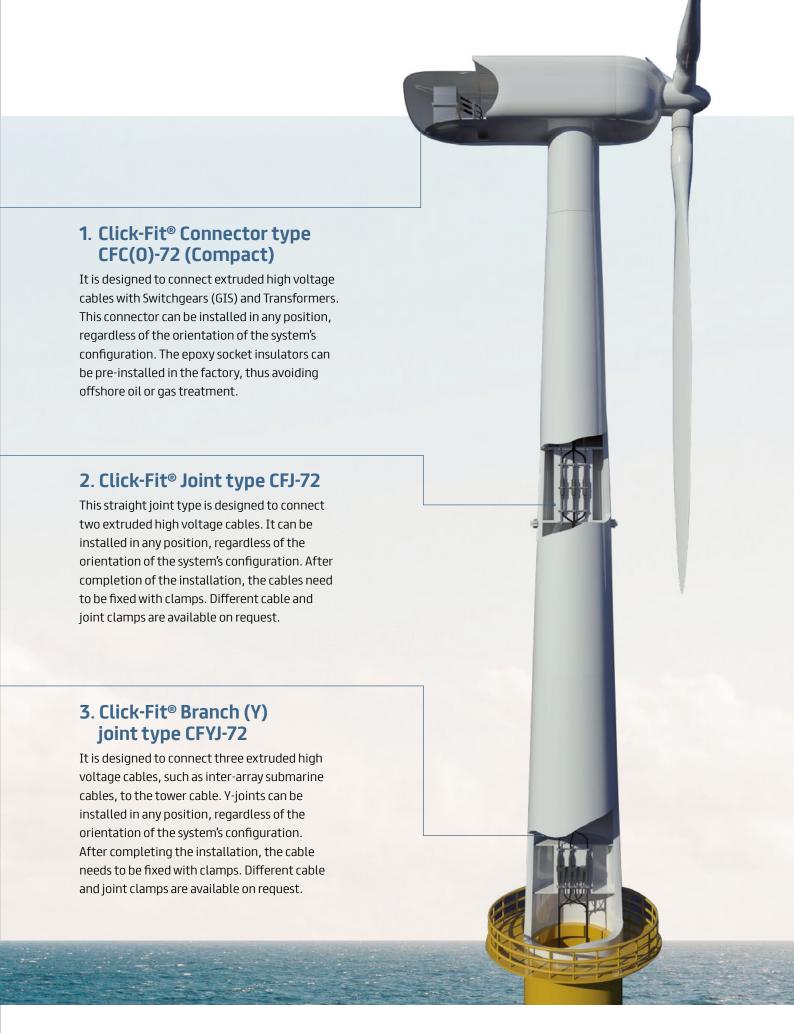
To minimize offshore installation times, cable ends can be prepared onshore and then installed and clamped inside the offshore turbine.

The 66 kV Turbine Click-Fit® cable connections can be divided into three main groups of dry-type accessories: Click-Fit® Connector type CFC(0)-72 (Compact), Click-Fit® Joint type CFJ-72 and Click-Fit® Branch (Y) joint type CFYJ-72.

Click-Fit® "Plug&Power"

ENABLES OPTIMUM EASE AND SPEED OF ASSEMBLY, MAXIMUM RELIABILITY AND MAINTENANCE-FREE OPERATION





# CARBON TRUST 66 kV QUALIFICATION PROJECT

Prysmian Group has successfully type tested its 66 kV cable system in accordance with CIGRE and IEC test protocols, as part of the Carbon Trust's Offshore Wind Accelerator (OWA) programme.

The Carbon Trust is an independent UK company with a mission to accelerate the move to a sustainable, low-carbon economy. The OWA is Carbon Trust's flagship collaborative R&D programme, involving nine offshore wind developers and supported

by the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Scottish Government, which aims to reduce the cost of offshore wind through innovation, developing innovative concepts into commercial solutions.

To encourage an accelerated development of a competitive 66 kV cable system market, the OWA supported selected cable manufacturers, including Prysmian, with the testing and certification of their 66 kV cable system designs.

Prysmian has type tested a 3-core, 66 kV EPR insulated "wet-design" cable system with 800 mm<sup>2</sup> aluminium conductors and integrated optical element.

The solution includes factory, field joints and plugin terminations (using proprietary Click-FitTM technology) and combines the use of state-of-the-art EPR insulation - a material with excellent performance in direct contact with water, with the cost effectiveness of a lighter and lead-free design.

The qualification process was carried out in Prysmian laboratories in the UK and

in Italy. 66 kV copper designs are also available from Prysmian; however for this Carbon Trust type test Prysmian considers an aluminium design more onerous, especially with respect to the flexible factory joints.

Although the qualified cable technology is innovative in its application, Prysmian has experience of over 40 years with such "wet

design" EPR insulated cables up to 72.5 kV in a wide range of applications.

This success in the qualification of its 66 kV system will provide the necessary confidence to offshore wind developers to reap the benefits by raising their inter-array system voltage to achieve significant overall cost reductions and a higher competitiveness of offshore wind energy systems.



# An outstanding track record

66 kV KEY PROJECTS

Carbon Trust OWA qualification project

UNITED KINGDOM

3x 800 mm<sup>2</sup>

2 Hornsea 2
UNITED KINGDOM
Various cross sections

3 Hollandse Kust Zuid III&IV

NETHERLANDS

Various cross sections

Borssele III&IV

NETHERLANDS

Various cross sections

**5** St. Brieuc

FRANCE

630 mm<sup>2</sup> and 800 mm<sup>2</sup> Al

6 Nourmoutier

**FRANCE** 

630 mm<sup>2</sup> Al

# OUR 66 kV DYNAMIC ARRAY CABLE SYSTEMS

Floating offshore wind turbines are now entering the world stage with the potential to become a relevant part of the business.

Floating offshore wind farms remove the restriction of being installed in shallow waters and also have a major advantage as they are assembled in the port and then towed to the site by an ordinary tugboat, which can also tow them back to shore for heavy maintenance or final dismantling. Thanks to this advantage floating technology will become competitive when operating costs go down. In particular, this segment is gaining significant ground due to the fact that floating offshore wind turbines use multiple components and similar services developed for the offshore oil & gas industry.

# FROM BOTTOM FIXED TO FLOATING OFFSHORE APPLICATIONS

Energy demand is growing, wind turbine generators are growing in size thanks to progress in technology

and they are located further away from shore: hence the need for dynamic cables. Dynamic cable systems must be able to withstand maximum offsets of floating structures under the load of centennial current, swell and wind. This is the challenge that Prysmian is part of.

Prysmian has all the in-house expertise and experience to develop a robust dynamic cable system by carefully engineering all the necessary components. Prysmian deals with dynamic cable systems during production, installation and operation. Building wind farms, both in shallow and deep water as well as other marine renewable energy systems, will require more and more dynamic cables that will have to withstand repetitive dynamic forces caused by marine waves, tides and currents.

MV and HV submarine cables intended for these applications require superior fatigue resistance and mechanical performance. The associated resistance to water and to any mechanical stress makes EPR the most suitable insulation material for this kind of application. The EPR solution can withstand up to 72 kV in wet working condition.



#### TYPICAL 66 kV DYNAMIC CABLE DESIGN FOR OFFSHORE WIND



OF cable

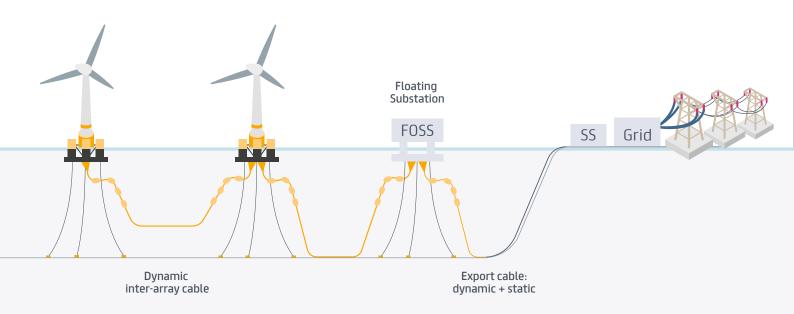
#### Key electrical and mechanical characteristics

- / Electrical design stress in the range of 4.5-5 kV/mm
- / WET design, all the electrical characteristics in compliance with IEC 60840
- PER (up to 72.5 kV) is really indicated for dynamic and mostly IAC (where WTGs tend to bend) because of its great flexibility, mechanical resistance and elasticity ensuring excellent fatigue performance and combines both mechanical & thermal stress
- / Metallic screen is made of copper wires meshed into braid

Up to 3 x Optical Fiber Cable with 48 fibres

- / Double armouring layer to ensure torc balance
- PE sheath as outer protection increases the bending stiffness which makes installation easier and it is resistant to abrasion

# SUBMARINE DYNAMIC CABLE SYSTEM



## A dynamic cable is a complex structure

It contains different components and diverse materials.

In general there are several ways of modeling the cable on a local level. Common methods include finite element modeling and analytical models.

The mechanical stress in fatigue-critical components is calculated to be able to determine the lifetime of the cable.

#### **CABLES**

**Export Cable** – From floating offshore subastation to land

**Inter-Array Cables** – Linking turbine generators

#### **EXPORT CABLES**

**Static** – The longest portion of the export cable is static

**Dynamic** – Only the tail (1 to 1,5 km) is dynamic

#### **INTER-ARRAY CABLES**

**Dynamic** – The whole cable is dynamic (1.5 to 5 km)

**Accessories** – Make a significant share of the complete system

#### **ACCESSORIES**

#### **Dynamic Outsourced**

- / Bend Stiffner + Connector
- / Buoyancy Modules
- / Hang-Off Assembly + Weak Link
- / Touchdown Protection

#### Standard In-House

- / Joints and Terminations
- / Heavy Maintenance Box

### Projects track record

Minkardine

33 kV HVAC 3x 500 mm<sup>2</sup> Cu EPR / Water depth: 80 m

**SCOPE** 

Export & Inter-Array Cable

**Supply Only** 

CONSTRUCTION

2018: 2 MW – 16 km Static + 2 km Dynamic 2020: 50 MW – 18 km Static + 1 km Dynamic +

5 km Dynamic IAC

Provence Grand Large

66 kV HVAC 3x 150mm<sup>2</sup> Cu EPR / Water depth: 100 m

**SCOPE** 

Export & Inter-Array Cable

EPCI

**CONSTRUCTION** 

2023: 25 MW - 20 km Static + 4 km Dynamic

+ 2 km Dynamic IAC

Gruissan

66 kV HVAC 3x 150 mm<sup>2</sup> Cu EPR / Water depth: 80 m

**SCOPE** 

**Export Cable** 

EPCI

CONSTRUCTION

2024: 30 MW - 25 km Static + 0.6 km Dynamic

Pentland

66 kV HVAC 3x 1000/630/240 mm<sup>2</sup> Cu EPR / Water depth: 90 m

SCOPE

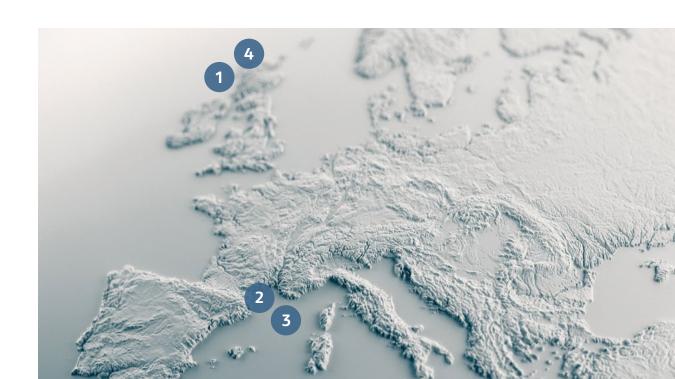
Export & Inter-Array Cable

**EPCI** 

CONSTRUCTION

2025/6:100 MW - 9 km Static + 0.6 km Dynamic

+ 15 km Dynamic IAC



# LARGEST STATE OF THE ART OFFSHORE FLEET

The energy market has been changing dramatically in recent years, as a result of deregulation and privatisation.

To face the challenge of competition, Transmission Systems

Operators (TSOs) are optimising their existing resources and new investments.

To support its customers, Prysmian has evolved over the years from the traditional role of cable manufacturer to that of a Global Solutions Provider.

#### A TOTAL SYSTEM APPROACH

Prysmian focuses on a total system approach, to give its customers the lowest cost of ownership for their new and installed cable networks and to provide them with real

advantages in terms of asset optimisation.

Besides increasing activity on product innovation to lower investment costs, Prysmian is developing additional pre and post sales services for its customers - including network services, enhanced logistics and engineering studies - to optimise asset management and give the best possible utilisation of transmission and distribution networks.

Following this philosophy, Prysmian provides complete turnkey solutions, including cable installation, which makes it possible to employ its own fleet without having to rely on external contractors.

Prysmian fields five of the most state-of-the-art cable-laying vessels in the world - Leonardo da Vinci, Cable Enterprise, Giulio Verne, Ulisse, Barbarossa and an additional one under construction, as well as its extensive range of well-proven inhouse cable protection equipment to provide an enlarged and strenghtened submarine cable installation capability.

They offer extended project versatility with deep-water installation capabilities of up to 3,000 m, as well as shallow-water and near-shore solutions, from single cable to bundle cables, using simultaneous lay and burial operation. The group can leverage on an integrated marine assets with full range of high tech burial tools.

Thanks to our focus on technological innovation and our project execution capabilities, Prysmian plays a leading role in partnering with customers in the strategic sector of HVDC submarine cable transmission systems.









#### Leonardo Da Vinci

#### **KEY FEATURES:**

- / DP3 cable lay vessel
- / 10.000 and 7000 tonnes carousels
- / Bundled cable lay capability
- / Simultaneous laying and burial capabilities
- Deepest power cable installations of up to 3000 metres

#### PROJECTS INSTALLED:

- / Viking Link
- / Sofia
- / Creta Attica
- / Elba Piombino

#### **Cable Enterprise**

#### **KEY FEATURES:**

- / DP2 cable lay barge (DP2 conversion in 2015)
- / 4,300 tonne carousel
- / Bundled cable lay capability
- / 180 tonne pull ahead winch for ploughing operations
- / Ability to ground output

#### PROJECTS INSTALLED:

- / BorWin 3
- / DolWin 3
- / COBRAcable

#### Giulio Verne

#### **KEY FEATURES:**

- / DP2 cable lay vessel
- / 7,000 tonne carousel
- / Bundled cable lay capability
- / Simultaneous laying and burial capabilities
- / Conducted the world's deepest power cable lay at 1,650 m water depth

#### PROJECTS INSTALLED:

- / BorWin 2
- / TransBay
- / Sapei
- / Helwin 1 & 2
- / North Sea Link

#### **Prysmian Group**

# 5 WORLD-CLASS VESSELS

#### Ulisse

#### **KEY FEATURES:**

- / 7,000 tonne carousel
- / 8-point mooring system
- / Bundled cable lay capability
- / Ability to ground out

#### PROJECTS INSTALLED:

- / COBRAcable
- / Vineyard Wind

#### **Barbarossa**

#### **KEY FEATURES:**

- / Load capacity 3.300 tonnes
- / 4-point mooring system
- vertical injector main tool to be operated
- / Ability to operate in shallow water (within 50 miles from shore)

#### PROJECTS INSTALLED:

/ Dolwin5







# 1 NEW VESSEL IN THE MAKING

#### **KEY FEATURES:**

- / 171 m overall length, 34 m breadth
- / Max speed above 16 knots
- Deep water installations capabilities for depths of more than 3,000 metres
- / 2 rotating platforms of Aft 10,000 tons load capacity & Fwd 7,000 tons load capacity – the highest in the market
- / State-of-the-art DP3 positioning and seakeeping systems



**Prysmian** Draka **General Cable** 

#### **PRYSMIAN GROUP**

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