

▼ Contrast coding with white pigmented ink



Cutting-edge technologies

To mark the two hundred thousand kilometers of cables manufactured per year, the Nexans production site in Bohain-en-Vermandois (France) uses inkjet printers with special inks, specifically designed for marking cables. The site opted for an all-inclusive package including equipment rental and maintenance.



Bohain-en-Vermandois/
FRANCE

Founded in **1917**

152 employees on the site

Manufactures **flexible industrial cables** for public buildings and for temporary installations

24,000 metric tons of cables per year



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Nexans:
expertise and innovation



“Markem-Imaje technology reduces the risk of human error that is always possible when marking more than one thousand types of cables.”

◀ **Guillaume Masse**, Site Director
(Nexans, Bohain-en-Vermandois)



▲ At Bohain, Nexans produces 24,000 metric tons of flexible cables per year

One hundred years ago, the Bohain-en-Vermandois site made plows. With the industrialization of France, the activity evolved, moving away from agriculture and into cable production. The company’s name has changed a number of times – Société française des câbles électriques, TCL, Câblerie de Lens, Alcatel, Nexans... –, but the expertise has remained and is constantly being reinforced in a quest for further innovation. Today, the site produces 24,000 metric tons of flexible

industrial cables per year, capable of withstanding cold and heat, as well as prolonged immersion in water or diesel. The company provides cables for public buildings (hospitals and stadiums) and temporary structures (concert stages). The TITANEX® range remains the flagship brand. Created in 1953, it is also the oldest. “We produce more than one thousand types of cables, each with its own standards and specific marking requirements. We needed a reliable and clean solution to replace marking

wheels, which carried an increased risk of error and did not produce a clear finish due to wear and tear and ink smudging,” explains Guillaume Masse, Site Director. In order to reduce the margin of error, a solution to manage the numerous and complex references applied to the cables was also needed. “Legislation governing the cable industry imposes standards with messages that are extremely long. What’s more, cables pass through at a speed of around two hundred

meters per minute, which further increases the risk of errors and can prove to be very costly for the company,” ends Sylvain Demay, EMEA Strategic Accounts Manager at Markem-Imaje.





A long-standing partnership

Markem-Imaje is a long-standing partner of Nexans, which is equipped with seven 9450 Ec inkjet printers, operating with special inks, including a white ink, for often colored or black cables. “The machines are reliable, robust and precise, providing a clean marking finish,” notes Michel Bertrand, technician responsible for Nexans’ inkjet equipment. CoLOS software also helps reduce marking errors. With CoLOS, operators have a dedicated program with a memory that is sufficient to store and manage the hundreds of messages.

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◀ The 9450 Ec printers are managed remotely via CoLOS software

For greater flexibility and reactivity, Nexans opted for the all-inclusive service named SMILE. It includes the rental, maintenance contract and equipment replacement without investment. “Markem-Imaje also allows us to test new products. We sometimes suggest improvements based on our own needs,” specifies Michel Bertrand. “We have a long-term partnership,” adds Sylvain Demay. “To make sure our solution matches Nexans’ requirements, we work together to develop the machines of tomorrow.”

Nexans’ Bohain-en-Vermandois site needed a reliable marking solution to ensure compliance with the stringent regulations governing the messages displayed on cables. Markem-Imaje’s seven 9450 Ec printers, some of which operate with white ink, managed by CoLOS software, provide just the right solution.

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Photos: Jean-François Pelegry, CAPA Pictures - 01/2019



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