

FSC

Cable Engineering

FSC Global

Is the global recession near the end?

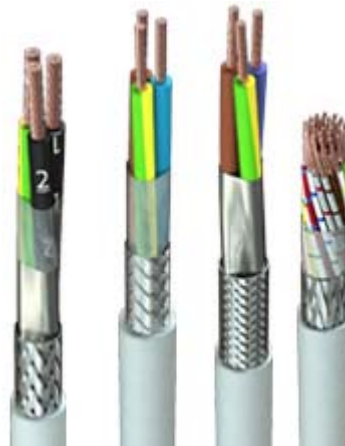
August 2009

Welcome to the summer news letter where we have to ask: are we moving out of the global recession? – the media would like us to believe so.

The global recession has certainly had an impact on industry worldwide but are we seeing the end as the media suggests? That's not an answer FSC Global has but we are seeing an upturn in business.

With the world trading markets remaining unstable and copper climbing in price again it's difficult to know if it's the start of a recovery or just a

New Stock Products



LiYCY Control Cables

The range of flexible LiYCY, copper braid screened control cables has been increased. Many of these are stocked in long lengths so you can buy the quantity that you need. 2 to 5 core versions are available with number coded cores + earth or European colour coded cores to meet your needs. All types have a grey PVC sheath and are RoHS compliant. Low Smoke Halogen Free versions are also available, ask us about the LF-329 range for more details.

RG6 Quadshield

Designed with an 18AWG Copperweld type conductor and quad-shielding of aluminium foil and braid this RG6 cable is ideal for ControlNet and industrial data applications. The oil resistant PVC sheath is suitable for use in industrial installations and we will be adding an LSHF version in the near future for use in sensitive applications such as public buildings.

short spike of activity. We are remaining optimistic and have continued to increase the stock ranges to give you instant access to the cable that you need. Read on to see what has been happening over the summer.

Copper price

Yet again the cost of copper is rising and creating havoc in the cable industry. Gone are the days when suppliers would validate a quotation for 30 days, the copper price is too unstable. More often we are seeing prices valid for 2 days or the day of the offer only. This is not surprising when you look at graph below, this shows the trading price of copper on the LME (London Metal Exchange) between January 2009 and August 2009. Where will it all end? Stock piles of copper are increasing so logic would say the price would come down but it's not showing any signs of this at the moment. When you are getting pricing check the base copper rate that the offer is priced on, if it only includes part of the copper cost ("copper based at €1500/tonne" is common) you could be in for a nasty surprise when you get the final invoice.



Cable Trivia

The electrical industry is the largest user of copper consuming 42% of annual production, with Asia contributing 43% of the total copper production worldwide. Copper was first traded on the LME (London Metal Exchange) in 1877. By 2007, world consumption reached just under 18 million tonnes. In April 2008 LME stocks of copper were 110,000 tonnes. Since then, stocks have increased steadily to

SWA Data Cables

The range of American style data cables with SWA type armour for mechanical protection has been increased. We can now offer from stock multi core and multipair data cables to RS-232, RS422 & RS485, Cat 5E & Cat 6 all with an armour. GSWB steel braid armours are also available for marine/offshore applications. If you require genuine Belden cables with an armour we can offer these too. Our armouring and finishing facility enables us to modify genuine Belden cables to provide the mechanical protection you need.



PAS 5308 Instrument cables

The BCA - The British Cables Association and ECA have developed PAS 5308 (Publically Available Specification - 5308) to ensure that the technical information in BS5308 remains available for public viewing, following the withdrawal of BS 5308 and its replacement by EN 50288-7. PAS 5308 will retain the technical content of both parts of BS 5308: 1986, covering polyethylene insulated (part 1) and PVC insulated (part 2) instrumentation cables.

Like BS5308, PAS 5308 will be in two parts - PVC insulated cables and polyethylene insulated cables - and specifies the requirements for and dimensions of insulated instrumentation cables in pair constructions, with or without screens, and optionally incorporating single wire armour and for polyethylene cables, a lead sheath option. PAS 5308 includes additional and revised content from the original BS 5308 standard to facilitate for voltage ratings above that specified in replacement standard EN 50288-7. The "standard" has now been released and is available from the British Standards Institute (BSI)

www.bsigroup.com

The demand for traditional BS 5308 cables is huge and will continue for many years to come. It's simply too labour intensive and expensive for large organizations to change their existing drawings so we will continue stocking BS 5308 to facilitate this. We are also introducing EN 50288-7 standard

approximately 500,000 tonnes.

cables to meet the needs of new projects and I guess when PAS 5308 takes off we will be stocking those too!



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