

IMPLO TECHNOLOGIES INC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPLOSIVE SLEEVE TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED ON FIRST SIX-BUNDLE TRANSMISSION LINE IN NORTH AMERICA

XECONEX™ implosive connectors will be used for the joining of electrical conductors on the new 765 KV line running from Wyoming, West Virginia to Jackson Ferry, Virginia. This is the first six-bundle high voltage transmission line in North America.

The line is being built by American Electric Power (AEP) of Columbus, OH, in response to significantly increasing energy demands in the region. AEP expects the high-voltage line to be energized by June 30, 2006. AEP operates a balanced portfolio of energy assets and, with more than 42,000 megawatts of generating capacity, is the largest electricity generator in the United States.

Because of its unusually large size, and its particularly sensitive environmental issues, this \$270 million project has been under development for more than 15 years. Affecting the Jefferson-George Washington National Forests, and the Appalachian Trail, certification was required from two state commissions, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In response to concerns identified, AEP brought together some of the most advanced technologies in the industry and committed to a number of techniques to reduce the environmental impacts of the project. Some of these techniques include using darkened steel for towers to reduce visual impact, configuring wires to reduce noise, and selectively clearing rights-of-way.

One of the technologies selected by AEP is the XECONEX™ implosive connector. This product is the most advanced and least disruptive joining method available for joining sections of conductor cables. The conventional method of joining conductors uses heavy hydraulic equipment to compress the connector. XECONEX™ connectors, however, do not require any equipment, relying instead on a small, engineered implosion to permanently join the conductors together in a fraction of a second. These connectors are installed in less time than conventional connectors, which enables the job to be completed faster and minimizes disruption to the local area. Of particular importance to this AEP project is the advantage that these connectors can be pulled through stringing blocks without deformation or damage to the conductor or to the connectors themselves. This permits an unlimited number of spools to be pulled in a single run and gives the contractor more control in avoiding environmentally sensitive areas. The compression quality is also superior, as demonstrated in a random sampling of the installation, where the connection was found to be completely void free, and the joint between the surfaces of the connector and the conductor could not be detected.

Implo Technologies specializes in implosive connector technology. Its operating divisions also include Tower Solutions Inc, a supplier of emergency towers, and TDM Inc, a reseller of specialty components to the electrical industry. Implo's strategic affiliations include Spectal Industries for precision manufacturing of aluminum components, and Sigmabond Technologies for developing specialty bonded dissimilar metals. Through innovation and reliability, Implo has earned a reputation as a leader in implosive connector technology, with product distribution in the Americas, New Zealand, Australia, Korea and Europe.

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