



New production facilities for HVDC cable

New production facilities for HVDC Light cables have been taken into operation at ABB Cables' factory in Karlskrona, Sweden. The facilities in this factory are specially designed for advanced processes used to manufacture large HVDC cables for land and submarine cable links. One process of particular significance is called VCV, for Vertical Continuous Vulcanization.

The vertical polymer extrusion takes place in a specially built extrusion tower (photo). Rising 87 meters above ground and descending 74 meters into Swedish bedrock, it is the world's longest VCV line.

Submarine cables can now be provided in continuous lengths of 200 to 300 kilometers. The new cables also have important benefits for ABB's HVDC Light technology (see ABB Review 1/98).

<http://www.abb.com/powersystems>

Full-service partnership agreement with Canadian pulp & paper company

ABB has signed a full-service partnership agreement with *Fletcher Challenge Canada Limited* (FCCL) of Vancouver, Canada, to service its three Canadian pulp mills. FCCL is a majority-owned subsidiary of New Zealand-based Fletcher Challenge Paper. The partnership, which will employ 380 people, is to provide US\$ 220 million

of maintenance services over five years.

Under the terms of the agreement, ABB and FCCL will create a 50–50 partnership to maintain the assets of the three mills. These include all electrical equipment, automation systems, the boilers, all kraft pulp processing equipment, and the pollution control systems.

The pulp mills, at Elk Falls, Crofton and Mackenzie in British Columbia, produce softwood kraft pulp and container board and have a combined annual capacity of approximately 1 million metric tons.

This is the largest-ever full-service agreement to be undertaken by ABB. It reflects the increasing trend among our industrial customers worldwide to work with outside experts to obtain the best service and maintenance solutions for their operations, while they focus on further developing their core business. ABB's in-depth expertise as a supplier to a broad range of industries positions the company well to meet this growing demand.

Procter & Gamble chooses ABB to install and service power distribution systems worldwide

Procter & Gamble (P&G), the multinational consumer goods group with headquarters in Cincinnati, USA, has awarded ABB Schaltanlagen-technik GmbH of Germany a contract valued at approximately US\$ 33 million to

install and service the power distribution systems in its plants in more than 40 countries.

ABB will be responsible for installation and service at P&G subsidiaries in, among other countries, the UK, Argentina, Costa Rica, Nigeria, South Africa, The Philippines, Korea and China. ABB's global presence creates an ideal platform for this assignment.

Information exchange between the many different sites will be by computer, via an Extranet.

Turnkey contract to build a 132-kV overhead grid in Mauritius

ABB Powerlines PTY/ABB Mauritius has won a turnkey contract from the *Central Electricity Board* (CEB) Mauritius to build three new 132-kV double circuit transmission lines as well as replace three 66-kV with 132-kV double circuit lines and the supply line to the 'Steelwork' substation.

ABB to deliver automated car assembly lines to Renault

French carmaker *Renault* has placed a US\$75 million order with ABB for the delivery of automated car assembly lines. The lines will be used to manufacture a new car to replace Renault's Megane model.

Under the terms of the agreement, ABB is to provide underbody assembly lines and the general body assembly workshop, as well as a line control system, at two Renault plants in France and Spain. The assembly lines will be operational by the end of 2001 to allow vehicle production to begin as from March 2002.

In 1998, Renault chose ABB to provide similar technology when it replaced three earlier vehicle models. Because of its modular design, ABB's automotive assembly line system gives customers greater flexibility, allowing them to get more productivity from their existing floor space.