

# Huge cable drums shipped

Nexans is a leading supplier of power and communications cables to, among others, companies involved in the oil & energy industry. In January 2002, Nexans Norway AS assigned all its project transport requirements to Kuehne & Nagel AS and a recent shipment set the logistics partner a considerable test.



— **NEXANS** had manufactured cables for the energy company, Shell International Exploration and Production, and these were to run from production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico to underwater wellheads in the Princess and Mensa fields.

The job carried out at the beginning of this year involved the transportation of three huge umbilical cable drums from Nexan's production plant in Halden, southern Norway, to Galveston, Texas. The largest two drums each had a diameter of ten metres and a width of 5.6 metres and weighed three hundred tons, while the umbilical cables spooled onto them were up to 9,000 metres in length.

To start with, the job involved reeling the cables onto the drums at the quayside of the Nexans plant in Halden. For this purpose, rolling dolly bases were welded to a barge so that the drums could be rotated

and the cables spooled. Then, the three drums had to be loaded onto the vessel.

This called for the most scientific planning from Kuehne & Nagel specialists to ensure the success of the operation. For example, they had to make precise measurements to calculate the amount of ballast needed to guarantee the smooth transfer of the drums by heavy lift crane from the barge to the transportation vessel. Careful arithmetic was needed too, to guarantee weight distribution and stability during the journey from Norway to the United States.

On arrival at the port of Houston, Texas, the procedure was reversed as the local Kuehne & Nagel office arranged for the drums to be unloaded onto a barge that was then towed to Galveston. Here, Kuehne & Nagel assisted in the task of

spooling off two of the cables to a turntable on the vessel, the "Seaway Falcon". The smallest of the three drums was lifted directly onto the ship.

This is where Shell International took over to carry out the successful installation of the cables at a depth of between 1,100 and 1,600 metres.

David Rasmuss, the project manager for Nexans Norway AS, expressed his satisfaction. "Kuehne & Nagel performed this job without any incidents on time, on budget and in accordance with specifications. The pre-planning of the work, the follow-up of each step of the operation and the interfacing between all parties was performed effectively and efficiently." —



