

There's a Better Way to Transport and Install Large Heavy Cable Drums

XELLZ, a company in-the-know when it comes to using digital solutions to optimise logistics and operations, has now invented a very practical solution for the cable laying industry.

The transition to renewable energy sources is a complex and ongoing process, and one key challenge is how to transport and install large, heavy cable drums that are necessary for improving the grid. These cables are often used to transmit high voltage electricity over long distances, and they must be installed with care to ensure stability and minimize environmental impact.

Simplifying cable logistics

Traditionally, the process of transporting and installing these cable drums has been costly, time-consuming, and environmentally impactful. It requires the use of multiple cranes at different locations, which can be expensive and has a significant carbon footprint. However, a new solution is now available that offers a more efficient and cost-effective alternative: the ReelFrame™.

Developed by 24shore, the offshore division of the XELLZ group, the ReelFrame is a revolutionary solution for transporting and installing heavy cable drums. It has been awarded its first two patents for its functionality, industrial usage, and innovative design, and is patent pending for the rest of the world. The ReelFrame can be easily connected by trailer units on both sides and lifted by the trailer's hydraulic system, making the loading and offloading process self-reliant and eliminating the need for cranes.

One of the key benefits of the ReelFrame is its wide and secure footprint, which allows for unwinding operations to commence without any issues or delays, even on slight slopes. Its wide footprint also reduces the risk of tipping over, making it a safer solution compared to other options on the market. For transport and maneuverability, the frame's footprint can be reduced by lifting both ends.

Smart, efficient, sustainable

The ReelFrame has been proposed for use in projects in the United States and Germany, where projects, owned by major TSO

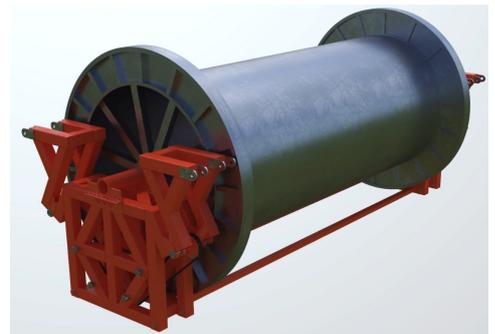
companies, which requires no lifting on site to be performed. In these projects, the ReelFrame has been shown to reduce CO2 emissions by 49% compared to using cranes for these tasks.

As the transition to a new electricity grid takes many years, perhaps decades, companies in the engineering, construction, transport & logistics, electrical component production, and utilities sectors are already building the new grid cable by cable. These companies can look forward to many years of high and relatively uninterrupted growth, and the ReelFrame is just one example of the innovative solutions being developed to support this transition. By embracing new technologies like the ReelFrame, these companies can help to create a smarter, more efficient, and more sustainable electricity grid.

The current electricity grid, based on fossil fuel-based power plants and a one-way flow of electricity, is struggling to adapt to new forms of energy and emerging sources of demand such as electric vehicles. The aging infrastructure is prone to failure and is inefficient, making it no longer suitable for modern needs. To improve the grid, high voltage (HV) cables are being installed over long distances, often underground, to minimize environmental impact and ensure stability. This presents significant opportunities for the HV cable industry, as there is a large demand for installation services.

However, the process of transporting and installing these large, heavy cable drums can be costly, time-consuming, and environmentally impactful. Cable production is a slow process, so it is not possible to manufacture enough in time to deliver it from the factory to the installation sites. This means that the cable drums must be transported multiple times, requiring the use of several cranes at different locations, which is costly and has a significant environmental impact.

The ReelFrame offers a more efficient and cost-effective alternative, reducing CO2 emissions by 49% compared to using cranes for these tasks. It has been proposed for use in projects in the United States and Germany, both partially owned by TSO company TenneT, which



requires no lifting on site to be performed.

“We are always looking to engage with new ideas to improve logistics in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness. We are proud of the ReelFrame™ which simplifies the process of transportation and loading of cable reels, ensuring suitability for modern operations. We are particularly pleased that the ReelFrame becomes available at a time when it can support the energy transition, optimising efficiency on the many renewable energy projects that will take place in the coming years,” says Peter Bouwhuis, CEO, XELLZ.

Team of Xellers

XELLZ are tackling new challenges and transitioning project logistics into a smart sector the “XELLZ way” with transparency, trust and technology.

Headquartered near Amsterdam, XELLZ provides worldwide project logistics management from their offices in the Netherlands, the U.S., Ireland, Nigeria and Germany.

24shore has started as the offshore division of the XELLZ group of companies.

With increasing activities in the offshore and renewable sector, XELLZ decided it would be best to concentrate their expertise in this field within the new entity 24shore B.V. This happened in 2020, the same year they opened 24shore SBS Ltd. in Ireland. 24shore has now become one of the verticals of XELLZ. •

If you are interested in learning more about the subjects discussed in this article, please contact XELLZ BV:

www.24shore.com

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24shore Cable
REELFRAME