

service providers and enterprises for delivery of voice, data and video applications to their customers or employees. Alcatel operates in more than 130 countries.

Alcatel also announced that China Mobile, reportedly China's largest mobile service operator, has chosen Alcatel's Colorlock™ single-mode optical fiber for the construction of part of its national backbone network. Alcatel will supply approximately 60,000 km (37,300 miles) of Colorlock fiber for a backbone connecting the cities of Jinan, Qingdao and Yantai in China's Shandong Province.

[www.alcatel.com](http://www.alcatel.com)

## Eurocable Group plant opens in Croatia

On Dec. 3, 2003, Eurocable Group President/CEO Ernest Tolj, and Republic of Croatia President, Stjepan Mesic, opened the new EuroCable Group power cable factory in Jankomir, Zagreb, Croatia.

Visitors to the event, mainly customers and business partners of Eurocable, were able to see the factory's new cable manufacturing equipment for low-voltage power cables. Rosendahl Maschinen GmbH, Pischelsdorf, Austria, supplied two new extrusion lines for the facility. The new insulation line supplied by Rosendahl is capable of insulating round conductors up to 35 mm<sup>2</sup> (AWG 2) and sector conductors to 240 mm<sup>2</sup> (474 MCM), with insulation materials such as



Ernest Tolj, Eurocable President & Republic of Croatia President, Stjepan Mesic, at Eurocable plant opening in Zagreb.

dry silane (XLPE), Visico™ and PVC. Also, the sheathing line from Rosendahl can fill and sheath products up to 4 x 240 mm<sup>2</sup> (474 MCM) with PVC or PE.

With its new production facility for NYM, NYY and self-supporting cables, Eurocable has taken another step in its strategy to set new quality standards as a top cable producer in the European market.

[www.rosendahlaustria.com](http://www.rosendahlaustria.com)

## Republic sells assets; New company formed

The management of Republic Engineered Products, Inc., Fairlawn, OH, USA, has announced the formation of a new company. Republic Engineered Products, Inc., was established with the completion of the purchase by Perry Strategic Capital Inc., New York, NY, USA, of substantially all the assets of Republic Engineered Products LLC (REP). This transaction valued at US\$277.5 million was approved by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Akron, OH, USA on Dec. 16, 2003 and completed on Dec. 19, 2003.



"Republic is now very well positioned to succeed," said Joseph F. Lapinsky, President and Chief Executive Officer. "We retain the plants, workforce and customer base that have made Republic the leading name in special bar quality steel for a long time. As a result of the sale of assets out of Chapter 11, we now have a much-improved financial structure. We would again thank all those who supported our effort to preserve the business and contributed to our ability to complete this transaction in a timely fashion."

In addition to its Fairlawn headquarters, Republic Engineered Products, Inc., operates steelmaking centers in Canton and Lorain,

# Notebook

## Copper Seen as Competitive with FO Cable for LANs

Engineers at Penn State University, University Park, PA, USA, have developed and simulation-tested a copper wire transmission scheme for distributing a broadband signal over local area networks (LANs) with a lower average bit error rate than more costly fiber optic cable.

Per Dr. Mohsen Kavehrad, W. L. Weiss Professor of Electrical Engineering and Director of the Center for Information & Communications Technology Research who led the study, "Our approach can improve the capability of existing local area networks and shows that copper is a competitor for new installations in the niche LAN market." Kavehrad shared his team's results at the IEEE GLOB-COM Conference, in San Francisco, CA, USA, Dec. 4, 2003.

The Penn State approach responds to the IEEE challenge for a copper Ethernet network capable of carrying broadband signals of 10 gigabits/sec. In existing copper gigabit systems each pair of wires carries 250 megabits/sec. For a 10 gigabit system, each pair would have to carry 2.5 gigabits/sec, and at such speeds, energy cross-talk takes place. The Penn State scheme involves a method that jointly codes and decodes the signal, and in decoding, corrects the crosstalk errors.

[www.psu.edu](http://www.psu.edu)



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