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XLPE – an offshore game changer

NKT Flexibles' patented XLPE technology is becoming an industry standard where its versatility and exceptional design life compared to other solutions have led to an increasing number of projects using XLPE. Several projects in the North Sea and elsewhere have led to an output of over 10,000 m from our Kalundborg factory in Q3-Q4 of 2011 alone, and while this may mostly be a matter of interest to NKT Flexibles, XLPE is changing the offshore landscape.

Sales Director Christian S. Dyhr explains, "XLPE is characterized by a span in operational temperature from 90° to -40° and no design life limitation. And if you add time issues and look at the cost of the pipe system as an as-installed package, it is obvious that our XLPE-based solutions in particular and flexible pipes in general can compete with rigid pipes and are becoming the systems of choice in several cases."

With NKT Flexibles' strong focus on innovation, the success of XLPE is right at the strategic core of the company. XLPE started off as an innovation project and has – thanks to strong collaborative efforts between R&D and the production unit at the Kalundborg factory – turned into API17J standard and a natural replacement for PA11 due to that inferior product's shorter design life for by far the most product applications.