

OMERIN IS BUILDING A NEW PLANT in the Clermont-Ferrand area to manufacture cables for the eMobility market



The OMERIN Group will be building a new 12,000 m² plant (first stage) in the Orléat-Lezoux Business Park on a 67,000 m² plot obtained through a land grant from the Entre Dore et Allier local authority.

Boosted by the success of its special cables designed and developed for the eMobility sector and the promising development opportunities in this market, the OMERIN group based in Ambert, France has decided to accelerate and ramp up its investment projects. Current plans call for the new plant dedicated to this cable sector to be built and operational by the second quarter of 2025.

The plot of nearly 7 hectares (17 acres) provides enough construction space to programme a series of construction stages for additional extensions, to eventually become the largest site in Europe dedicated exclusively to the production of this range of special cables.

20 million euros will be invested in the first construction stage of the project, which includes the commissioning of the plant.

OMERIN has historically been well known for the different applications it offers for its cables for extreme conditions: railway, naval, aeronautical and electromechanical construction; household appliances; heavy industry; renewable energies and many other sectors.

The OMERIN Group is determined to become a major player in the decarbonisation of transport, and this will require major investments to develop its offer and expand its presence on the eMobility market.



To this end, the **OMERIN eMobility division**, a new branch dedicated to the design, development, production and commercialisation of special cables for the eMobility market, was recently created. This new division will bring on board talented teams from many different areas: production line operators, technicians, R&D, methods and continuous improvement engineers, system and product quality managers, and support functions as needed: IS, HR, sales, etc.

Over time, the site in Orléat will have a staff of roughly one hundred employees. Hiring and training for the new teams will begin in the coming months.

“Our technologies and our know-how are perfectly in step with the needs of this new market. Our range of eMobility cables have already been extremely successful, and we quickly realized that we needed to organise and increase our production capacity to meet the needs and requirements of our customers in this rapidly growing market. The creation of this new specialised division and the construction of the new plant seemed like the obvious choice.”

explained the group’s CEO Xavier Omerin and Managing Director Pierre Sanvoisin.

The plant will be certified to the industry-leading **IATF 16949** automotive standard and will be home to a next-generation, ultra-modern industrial tool to comply with the most stringent market standards. The modular and scalable plant will be designed to reduce CO2 emissions and its roof will be covered with photovoltaic solar panels to make the plant self-sufficient. It will also include lines for assembly, compounding, extrusion, low- and high-frequency electromagnetic shielding and packaging, as well as a laboratory and a logistics platform.





A booming market

The global market for cables in the automotive industry represents 10 billion euros, and is expected to grow 5% per year due to the increase in volume and value of vehicles and, more importantly, to the drastic reduction of internal combustion vehicles – they will slowly be phased out to be replaced by electric- and hydrogen-powered vehicles.

The EMEA zone (Europe, Middle East, Africa) should remain the top market for eMobility, followed closely by China.

The number of cables in electric vehicles is much greater than in internal combustion vehicles because they provide the power supply for the motors and are a primary component of the vehicle, whereas in thermal combustion vehicles, their use is limited primarily to low-voltage power distribution.

For instance, in a passenger vehicle, the average length of cables increases from 1.5 km to 4 km. This includes low-voltage cables (12V - 48V), 50 to 80 metres per vehicle of high-voltage cables - *automotive standard* (400V - 800 V) and data cables (LIN, CAN, LVDS, MOST, etc.). As a result, cable applications will naturally expand to include peripherals for electric motors, such as inverters, transformers and onboard chargers, which are entirely absent in combustion vehicles.

In addition to vehicle manufacturers, there are many other players in the cable market, such as the cable manufacturers themselves and the manufacturers of connectors, cable harnesses and all the accessories and protections, sleeveings, ducts, attachments and fasteners. OMERIN is already working closely with these players, and many projects are already nearing completion.

The specifications of vehicle manufacturers include many different factors that must be accounted for: cable flexibility, data transmission in high-stress conditions; electromagnetic compatibility (EMC); and the temperature resistance of cables, which heat up due to the Joule effect. The goal is to use cables with smaller cross-sections to reduce the weight, and thereby the costs, of the vehicles. It is concerns such as these that enable OMERIN to leverage its extensive expertise in this field.

Which is why OMERIN, a challenger in this developing market, is looking to increase its presence and become one of the Top 10 players on the global market.

eMobility includes not only “light” vehicles but also a wide range of utility vehicles, lorries, buses, trains, subways, ships and aeroplanes. This trend will only increase as fossil fuels reach depletion and decarbonisation becomes increasingly vital to prevent climate change.

This project is part of the development plan for the group and, in particular, for its CABLES Business Unit. Of course, no work will be transferred from the current plants to the new site in Orléat-Lezoux as a result, and there will be no staff reductions at the current operational sites. The ambitious investment plans already scheduled for the other sites will be maintained and accelerated as well.

To cite just one example, the teams of specialists from the OMERIN cable manufacturing units at our head office and main division in Ambert and the Loire-based cable manufacturing units (Andrézieux-Bouthéon, St-Etienne et St-Chamond) will be at the forefront of this project to provide their expertise and make sure it is a success.



OMERIN production plant and Group head office in Ambert

About OMERIN

CEO: Xavier Omerin
Managing Director: Pierre Sanvoisin

Founded by Michel Omerin in 1959, the French group has been producing electrical cables for extreme conditions, from -190°C to +1400°C, for over sixty years.

The head office of the French group OMERIN and its main production division are based in Ambert, Puy de Dôme. The group is one of the world's leading manufacturers of special electric wiring and cables for extreme conditions (roughly 70% of business).

Production is split between 16 sites, including:

- 11 in France: in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region (Puy de Dôme, Haute-Loire, Loire, Rhône), in the Oise and Seine-et-Marne.
- 5 international production sites: 3 in Tunisia, 1 in Spain and 1 in the United States, along with 10 "Business development" subsidiaries and sales offices: UK, Germany, Singapore, Poland, China, India, Spain, Turkey, Mexico and Argentina.

Extensive product ranges also include braided insulated sleeveings, flexible heating elements, extruded sleeveings and tubes, low pressure hoses and recent additions such as medical devices and pharmaceutical packaging.

OMERIN uses its know-how and technology to develop increasingly high-performance products. Its expertise is recognized in over 120 countries.

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FRENCH MANUFACTURER of flexible heating elements

KEY FIGURES

€292 M
2022 TO

160,000
Product references

47%
of sales on export markets

10 subsidiaries
for business development and sales offices

16 production plants
including 11 in France

1700
employees

THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES

4 BUSINESS UNITS

PORTION OF TOTAL TO

• Electrical Specialty Cables and Braids	72%
• Medical and Pharmaceutical Devices	16%
• Flexible Heating Elements	6%
• Extruded Sleeveings, Tubes and Hoses	6%