During the last CIGRE Paris Session, Epsilon Cable organized a panel discussion bringing together experts from utilities, engineering firms and manufacturers to exchange insights on composite core conductors. The event was fully booked, with around one hundred CIGRE delegates and guests, showing the strong interest this topic generates within the transmission community.

In this series of articles, we share key highlights of the event with a broader audience, in line with CIGRE’s mission to spread knowledge and best practices across the electrical transmission industry.



This second panel focused on the practical aspects of installing advanced conductors and featured:

- Tom Vanderlinden (Elia)
- Gianluca Cimmino (Tesmec)
- Jérôme Brocard (Sicame)
- Léo Richard (Epsilon Cable)

The session was moderated by Vincent Bu from Epsilon Composite.

In this episode, we focus on compression fittings, suspension systems and field practices for advanced conductors, through the perspective of Sicame. **Sicame’s speaker: Jérôme Brocard — technical manage**r



Vincent Bu: How does Sicame approach the design of fittings and attachment systems for advanced conductors?

Jérôme Brocard: Sicame has been working on HTLS accessories for many years, starting with our first dedicated products in the late 1990s. Today, we have participated in more than 300 projects across around twenty countries.

Our philosophy is that the conductor and its fittings must be considered as a complete system. Each conductor design has its own mechanical and thermal characteristics, so we develop dedicated attachment solutions adapted to each specific project.

Vincent Bu: What qualification and validation processes are implemented before these solutions are deployed in the field?

Jérôme Brocard: All solutions are characterized and validated in our laboratories before installation.

We perform different types of testing depending on the project requirements, including damping behavior, weather resistance and long-term mechanical performance. One important objective is to protect the composite core throughout the entire service life of the conductor.

For suspension applications, we use armor grip suspension clamps in order to distribute mechanical stresses and maintain acceptable bending conditions at suspension points. In some projects, we also use tandem suspension configurations to further reduce local mechanical constraints.

Vincent Bu: What role does field support and installer training play in ensuring long-term reliability?

Jérôme Brocard: Training is essential. Whenever products are delivered, our teams support installation crews directly on site. We provide dedicated training regarding installation procedures, tools and accessories in order to ensure both installation quality and electrical performance.

We also developed specialized installation products such as dedicated greases and specific installation systems adapted to advanced conductors.

From our perspective, long-term project success depends on both manufacturing quality and proper field execution.