

PLP's Polymer Insulators Crack Porcelain's Market



For decades, porcelain insulators have been the power industry standard — partly for their longevity, and partly for their low cost. But recently, polymer alternatives have cracked porcelain's market, and are now positioned for a bigger breakthrough in maintaining grid reliability.

Advances from Preformed Line Products (PLP®) are helping fulfill customer demand for polymer insulators, including:

A complete packaged solution. PLP offers a full line of polymer insulators,

from 15kV to 35kV, including factory-formed ties, like the WRAPLOCK® Tie,

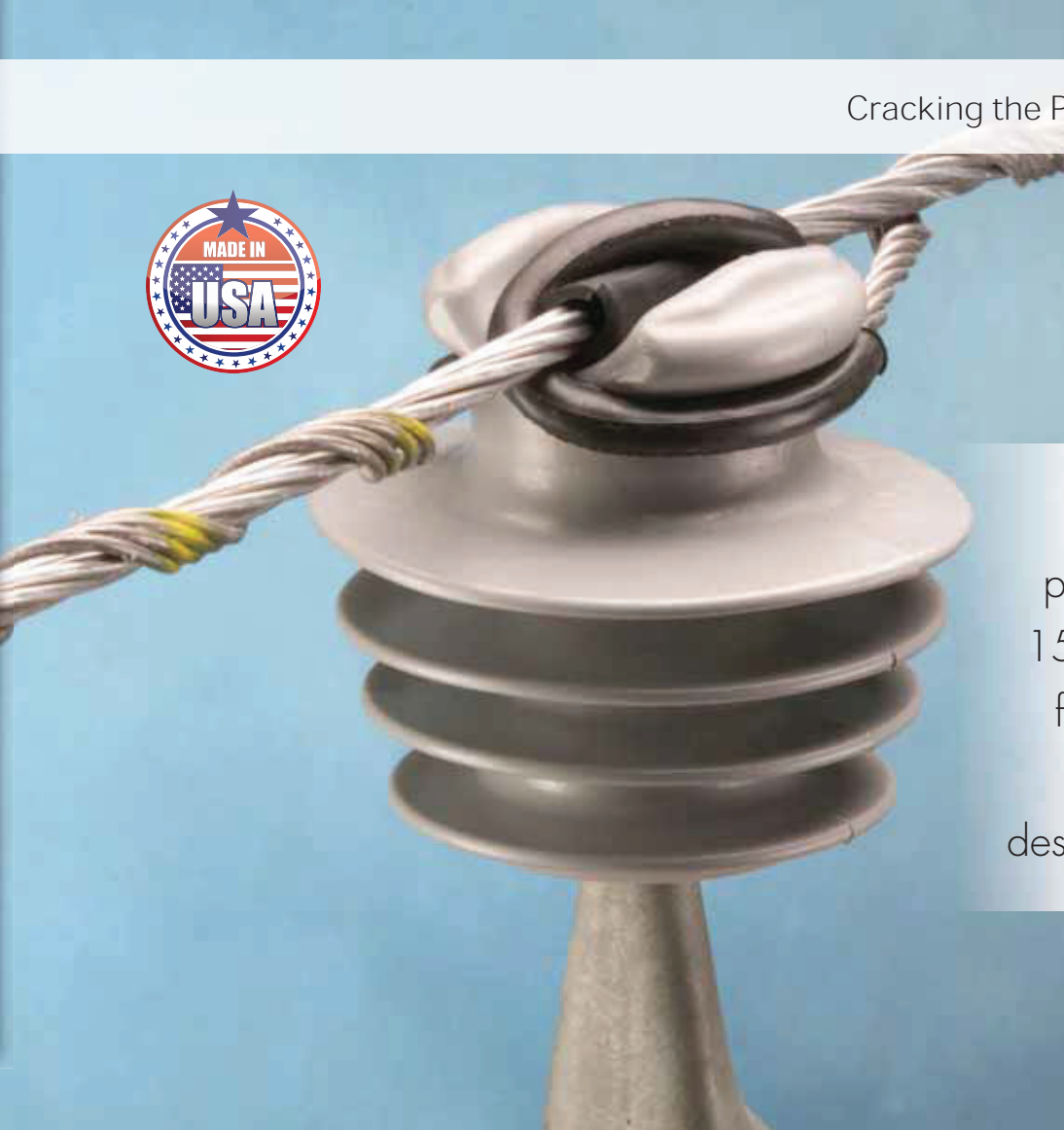
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designed for a precise fit. “Our ties tightly secure the conductor to our tie-

top insulators and reduce abrasion and minimize strain,” says Mark Burns, market manager of utility distribution at PLP. “Competitor ties can't secure as well. The result is wear and tear on the conductor, causing outages and interruption of service.”

PLP polymer insulators also are available with a vise-top design. Vise tops come with torque bolts that ensure conductors hold secure and prevent over-tightening.

Comparable cost. With new tools and bigger machines, PLP has significantly



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increased its daily output of polymer insulators. “Production efficiencies are helping the cost of polymer insulators become comparable to the cost of porcelain,” says Burns.

Lighter weight. Polymer insulators are a fraction of the weight of porcelain, which makes them cheaper to ship. They’re even lighter now that PLP has optimized insulator designs — without changing voltage ratings or compromising ANSI compliance.

Strong mechanical and electrical properties. PLP polymer insulators are made of a proprietary high-density, polyethylene-based compound that provides superior moisture and contamination shedding. It won’t chip, crack, or shatter like porcelain, even if dropped or vandalized. And the polymer is UV stabilized.

Safer for line crews. Lighter-weight polymer is easier for crews to haul. And there’s no risk of broken porcelain cutting into a lineman’s glove, creating a safety hazard.

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Made in America. While most porcelain insulators come from overseas, PLP polymer insulators come from Rogers, Arkansas. “Tooling ensures our

insulators are uniformly excellent,” says Burns. “With offshore suppliers, quality and supply chain management can be unreliable, especially since part of porcelain production includes hand finishing.”

When it’s time to replace insulators in your power grid, PLP and WESCO are ready with polymer options that can help you feel confident about breaking your tie with porcelain. ✕



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LINE PRODUCTS

The connection you can count on.