

Tony George (Lucent Technologies) presented the position of the OEMs for whom the cost, quality and availability are the three most important criteria for selecting a cable. The EU is pushing toward using non-halogen telecommunication cables. Lucent is committed to designing products that are globally acceptable and therefore is currently in the process of finding non-halogen alternatives to PVC cables and those containing brominated flame retardants. Plenum applications in the United States are the most difficult. Currently only FEP and PVC cables can meet the fire safety requirements. Neither is halogen-free. Presently Lucent has 40-50% of its products halogen-free and its goal is to become 100% halogen-free. In some cases the transition is easy, in others – more difficult and involves higher cost.