

This invention relates to overhead electric transmission systems of the kind in which one or more than one overhead electric conductor is freely supported in long lengths between towers, pylons, masts or other upstanding supports mutually spaced along the system, all such supports, for convenience, being included in the generic term "tower".

The invention is particularly concerned with overhead electric transmission systems of this kind in which the overhead electric conductor, or at least one of the overhead electric conductors, includes at least one optical guide for use in the communications field adapted for transmission of light and comprises a substantially circumferentially rigid central core having an elongate compartment within and extending throughout the length of the core, at least one separate optical fibre and/or at least one optical bundle loosely housed in the elongate compartment and, surrounding the central core, at least one layer of helically wound bare elongate elements of metal or metal alloy. By the expression "optical bundle" is meant a group of optical fibres or a group of fibres including at least one optical fibre and including at least one non-optical reinforcing fibre or other reinforcing elongate member. Such an overhead electric conductor is described and claimed in the Complete Specification of our British Patent No. 1598438.

An overhead electric transmission system of the aforesaid kind in which the overhead electric conductor, or at least one of the overhead electric conductors, has, loosely housed in an elongate compartment in a central core, at least one separate optical fibre and/or optical bundle for the transmission of light, will hereinafter, for convenience, be referred to as "an overhead electric transmission system of the kind described".

In an overhead electric transmission system of the kind described, it is usually necessary at each of some of the towers along the system to effect a joint between the optical fibres and/or bundles of two overhead electric conductors suspended from the tower or between the optical fibres and/or bundles of an overhead electric conductor suspended from the tower and of a cable extending to a sub-station or other location. Optical guide joints of this kind are the subject of our British Patents Nos. 2083647B and 2101351B.

In an optical guide joint of this kind, the end of the or each overhead electric conductor is mechanically secured to the tower through at least one electric insulator by means of a fitting generally and hereinafter referred to as a "dead end fitting".

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved dead end fitting for connection to an end of an overhead electric conductor having, within a substantially circumferentially rigid central core, an elongate compartment in which is loosely housed at least one separate optical fibre and/or at least one optical bundle.

According to the invention, the improved dead end fitting comprises a sleeve of malleable metal or metal alloy, open at each of its ends, for compression jointing to an overhead electric conductor; a separately formed termination of metal or metal alloy of high mechanical strength which, at one of its ends, is of generally tubular form and is secured to an end of the sleeve and which, at the other of its ends, is in the form of a clevis; and means integral with or secured to the sleeve for effecting electrical connection to an electric jumper cable; wherein the tubular end of the separately formed termination is in screw threaded engagement with the end of the sleeve and the screw threadedly engaged sleeve and termination are locked together.

In the preferred embodiment, one end part of the sleeve is externally screw threaded and the tubular part of the termination is internally screw threaded, the externally screw threaded end part of the sleeve and the

internally screw threaded tubular part of the termination each being tapered over at least a part of its length so that the sleeve and termination are locked together under high torque.

- 5 Preferably, means is provided for positively locking the screw threaded engagement between the sleeve and termination.

 The means for effecting electrical connection of the sleeve to an electric jumper cable preferably
10 comprises a separately formed lug which is welded or otherwise permanently secured to the sleeve, a part of the lug engaging in a notch in the adjacent end of the termination to serve as the means positively locking the screw threaded engagement between the sleeve and
15 termination.

 In use, preferably before the sleeve is compression jointed to an overhead electric conductor, the conductor is coated with a grease containing silicon carbide or other particle filler to enhance the grip of the
20 compressed sleeve on the conductor. The extent of the compressive force will be such that the central core of the overhead conductor is not so distorted that there is risk of damage to an optical fibre and/or optical

bundle. Accordingly, compression jointing of the sleeve of the dead end fitting to an overhead conductor is effected preferably by means which imparts a controlled compressive force to the sleeve, e.g. an adjustable compression tool or explosive compression.

For corrosion protection, preferably the threads of the sleeve and of the tubular part of the termination are coated with grease before they are secured together.

The invention also includes an overhead electric transmission system of the kind described in which the overhead electric conductor, or at least one of the overhead electric conductors, is mechanically secured to a tower through at least one electric insulator by means of the improved dead end fitting as hereinbefore described.

The invention is further illustrated by a description, by way of example, of the preferred dead end fitting for use with an overhead electric conductor having, within a substantially circumferentially rigid central core, an elongate compartment in which is loosely housed at least one separate optical fibre and/or at least one optical bundle, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawing which shows a side view of the dead end fitting, partly in section and partly in elevation.

Referring to the drawing, the preferred dead end fitting comprises a sleeve 1 of aluminium alloy, open at each of its ends, and, separately formed with respect to and permanently

secured to the sleeve, a termination 2 of steel. At one end 3 of the termination 2, the termination is of generally tubular form and at the other end 4 of the termination it is in the form of a clevis, one limb of which is seen in the drawing. The sleeve 1 and the tubular end 3 of the termination 2 are in screw threaded engagement, the threads having been greased before the sleeve and termination are screwed together. The externally screw threaded end part of the sleeve 1 and the internally screw threaded tubular end part 3 of the termination 2 are each tapered over at least a part of its length so that the sleeve and termination are locked together under high torque on assembly.

A separately formed lug 7 of aluminium alloy, for effecting electrical connection to a jumper cable, is welded to the sleeve 1 and a part of the lug engages in a notch 8 in the tubular end 3 of the termination 2 to lock positively the screw threaded engagement between the sleeve and the termination.

When the dead end fitting is to be permanently secured to an overhead electric conductor, the conductor C, with the part that is to lie within the sleeve 1 coated with a grease containing silicon carbide, is passed through the sleeve 1 so that it protrudes between the limbs of the clevis 4 and the sleeve is compression jointed to the conductor under a controlled compressive force, the end 9 of the sleeve remote from the termination 2 being tapered so that the compressive

force imparted to the sleeve decreases smoothly in a direction towards the extremity of the sleeve, thereby substantially reducing risk of fracture of the conductor in service at the position where it enters the sleeve of the dead end fitting.



CLAIMS:

1. A dead end fitting for connection to an end of an overhead electric conductor having, within a substantially circumferentially rigid central core, an elongate compartment in which is loosely housed at least one separate optical fibre and/or at least one optical bundle, which dead end fitting comprises a sleeve of malleable metal or metal alloy, open at each of its ends, for compression jointing to an overhead electric conductor; a separately formed termination of metal or metal alloy of high mechanical strength which, at one of its ends, is of generally tubular form and is secured to an end of the sleeve and which, at the other of its ends, is in the form of a clevis; and means integral with or secured to the sleeve for effecting electrical connection to an electric jumper cable; wherein the tubular end of the separately formed termination is in screw threaded engagement with the end of the sleeve and the screw threadedly engaged sleeve and termination are locked together.

2. A dead end fitting as claimed in Claim 1, wherein one end part of the sleeve is externally screw threaded and the tubular part of the termination is internally screw threaded, the externally screw threaded end part of the sleeve and the internally screw threaded tubular part of the termination each being tapered over at least



a part of its length so that the sleeve and termination are locked together under high torque.

3. A dead end fitting as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein means is provided for positively locking the screw threaded engagement between the sleeve and termination.

4. A dead end fitting as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the means for effecting electrical connection of the sleeve to an electric jumper cable comprises a separately formed lug which is welded or otherwise permanently secured to the sleeve, a part of the lug engaging in a notch in the adjacent end of the termination to serve as the means positively locking the screw threaded engagement between the sleeve and termination.

5. A dead end fitting substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawing.

6. An overhead electric transmission system of the kind described in which the overhead electric conductor, or at least one of the overhead electric conductors, is mechanically secured to a tower through at least one electric insulator by means of the dead end fitting as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims.
