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February 24, 2026

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Distribution Report

U.S. Submarine Cable Market to Reach 46,000 Kilometers by 2033 as Offshore Wind Boom Reshapes Energy Coastline

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Pune, Maharashtra, India, 24th Feb 2026 - The U.S. submarine power cable market is poised for significant growth over the next decade, driven by the rapid development of offshore wind projects and the comprehensive modernization of the nation's coastal grid infrastructure. The total installed length of submarine power cables in the United States is expected to increase from 21,000 kilometers in 2024 to 46,000 kilometers by 2033, reflecting a robust compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.4 percent over the forecast period.

This growth indicates a transformative era for the subsea cable industry, shifting from niche applications to becoming a fundamental component of the U.S. renewable energy transition. This shift has important implications for manufacturers, utilities, and infrastructure developers.

Access the full report here: https://marksparksolutions.com/reports/us-submarine-cable-market

Offshore Wind Energy: The Primary Growth Engine

The expansion of offshore wind farms along the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf Coasts is significantly changing the country’s energy infrastructure and is the primary driver of the submarine cable market. As federal and state governments aim for ambitious renewable energy goals, developers are focusing on large-scale offshore installations. These projects, often located several kilometers from shore, necessitate a complex network of durable subsea power cables.

This network includes array cables that connect individual turbines within a wind farm, as well as high-capacity export cables that transmit the generated electricity back to onshore grids. The scale and technical demands of these projects are increasing the need for high-voltage (HV) and extra-high-voltage (EHV) cables, especially advanced HVDC (high-voltage direct current) and HVAC (high-voltage alternating current) systems capable of managing large power flows over long distances with minimal energy loss.

Supportive legislation, such as the Inflation Reduction Act and a clear federal leasing program managed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), is providing long-term market visibility. This predictable project pipeline is creating sustained, high-volume demand for submarine power cables and encouraging investment in U.S.-based manufacturing and specialized installation services.

Pricing Outlook Reflects Complexity and Rising Demand

The pricing trajectory for submarine cables from 2023 to 2033 reflects a market under pressure from raw material costs, technological complexity, and soaring demand.

- **2023-2024:** In 2023, the market opened at approximately USD 55,000 per kilometer, rising to USD 60,000 in 2024. This initial increase was driven by rising costs for essential materials, such as copper conductors and specialized armoring, as well as by growing demand for coastal interconnection projects.
- **2025-2026:** In 2025, the cost surged to USD 64,500 per kilometer, driven by the initial wave of significant offshore wind developments and the implementation of stricter environmental compliance standards. However, a slight decline to USD 61,000 in 2026 indicates a temporary stabilization as production efficiencies and bulk procurement strategies started to take effect.
- **2027-2033**: After this correction, prices are expected to increase steadily, reaching around USD 78,900 per kilometer by 2033. This long-term growth reflects the rising prevalence of complex, high-value projects that require high-voltage direct current (HVDC) cables for longer distances, advanced insulation for deep-water installation, and strong environmental resilience. As projects become more complex, the cost per kilometer will increasingly include engineering premiums in addition to material and labor expenses.

Segmental Analysis: High-Voltage Solutions Dominate

The market is clearly segmented by voltage type, reflecting the diverse technical needs of subsea power transmission.

- **High Voltage (35 kV – 220 kV) –** The Market Leader: High-voltage (HV) cables make up about 40% of the market share and are essential to the industry. They are the preferred option for linking most offshore wind farms and regional transmission networks to the onshore grid. These cables provide a good balance between strong power capacity and cost-effectiveness.
- **Extra High Voltage (Above 220 kV) –** Driving Long-Distance Transmission: Holding a significant 25% market share, EHV cables are essential for HVDC systems. Their demand is increasing alongside projects that require long-distance transmission from remote offshore wind farms or interregional interconnections to improve grid reliability.
- **Medium Voltage (1 kV – 35 kV) –** The Essential Link: Medium-voltage cables, with a 25% share, are crucial for shorter-distance applications. They are commonly used for connections within wind farm arrays (collecting power from turbines), at coastal substations, and for smaller offshore installations.
- **Low Voltage (Up to 1 kV) –** Niche Applications: These cables, which account for a smaller share of 10%, are used for auxiliary power on offshore platforms and specialized short-range coastal infrastructure.

Strategic Outlook

The U.S. submarine cable market is central to the country’s energy transition. The anticipated growth to 46,000 kilometers by 2033 is based on a solid pipeline of federally supported offshore wind projects and the urgent need for grid modernization.

For those involved in the market, success will depend on ensuring supply chain resilience for critical materials, investing in advanced manufacturing capabilities for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) and extra-high-voltage (EHV) cables, and developing specialized expertise in marine installation. As projects progress into deeper waters and face more challenging environments, the emphasis will be on reliability, technological innovation, and the ability to deliver comprehensive solutions.

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