

# ALCATEL SUBMARINE NETWORKS

*EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW*

Arnaud Debeir  
Site Director of Calais

# ASN IN A NUTSHELL

The Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN) submarine telecommunications systems production site **has been based in Calais for 130 years**. Part of the Finnish Nokia group, ASN employs over 650 people and 240 temporary staff. At the 5<sup>th</sup> International Investment Awards ceremony organized by Nord France Invest, ASN won the Industrial Investment Award for its ambitious €74 million NEO program, which it completed in 2021.

Interview with Arnaud Debeir, Director of Alcatel Submarine Networks - Calais.

CALAIS





**ARNAUD DEBEIR**

Director

Alcatel Submarine Networks - Calais

## **What does winning Nord France Invest's Industrial Investment Award mean to you?**



Collectively, it is a great source of pride for our company and our employees. On a more personal note, the fact that we have been awarded this distinction at a former mining site is particularly poignant, since my grandfather was a coal miner.

## **How do you explain the Hauts-de-France region's industrial culture?**

First and foremost, it has to do with the history of Northern France. For us, we've been building submarine cables in Calais for nearly 130 years! This industrial

culture has taken root in our region and still allows us to find qualified personnel today. To do this, we have a temporary employment agency<sup>1</sup>, sub-contracting partners who work with us, and HR contacts in each department. Through our CSR policy, we have also developed a close, caring relationship with our employees to ensure that they feel happy. Last but not least, local authorities support our investment initiatives, which allows us to continue to grow.

***All the regional stakeholders are with us, by our side, to allow for our 130-year-old company's development.***

<sup>1</sup> A member of staff seconded from a temporary employment agency to work on the client's premises to manage its temporary staffing requirements.

## **What makes setting up in a port region like Calais so strategic for your business and your Group?**

Our plant is a key central site in our Group's strategy, insofar as we manufacture submarine cables in Calais, using equipment supplied by other ASN sites, including the Greenwich site in England, which in turn is supplied by the Trondheim site in Norway. All our products are therefore loaded directly onto ships and delivered to all the seas around the world.

Calais' location is essential for its direct access to regional ports, as well as to the many nearby European ports.

**Hauts-de-France's transportation infrastructure is a real competitive advantage.**

## **What do you consider to be the region's number 1 economic asset?**

I'd say it's the quality of the staff. There are strong values here around work and a sense of effort. This comes from the culture and history of this region. The Calais employment area currently allows us to find qualified industrial personnel.

**For a company manager, it's important to be able to count on fully committed employees with a strong industrial culture.**



# NEED HELP WITH YOUR EXPANSION PROJECT?

**CONTACT US !**



**NORD FRANCE INVEST  
ECONOMIC PROMOTION AGENCY  
FOR HAUTS-DE-FRANCE**

Espace International,  
299 boulevard de Leeds  
59777 LILLE - France



FUNDED BY

