Air-insulated substations up to 800 kV
As the demand for electrical power grows, power companies worldwide are active to ensure power is available wherever and whenever it is needed. Providing power to the customer has become an increasingly challenging task for system operators. Reliable power plants and a dependable transmission and distribution network are key factors for their success. Switchgear in transmission and distribution substations is not only used to control the power flow, but also to ensure that system failures and malfunctions remain limited to a defined area, which guarantees overall network stability. The highest possible reliability, economical operation, and maintenance throughout the service life are needed to ensure proper function of the electrical system. All of this has to be environmentally friendly and has to involve low life cycle costs.

Well proven solutions and global experience
Siemens Energy Power Transmission with its regional business units around the globe offers a worldwide network of technical experts and experienced engineers to serve and support customers in all matters of high-voltage substation technology. Siemens is a leading supplier of engineering, equipment, solutions, and services for high-voltage substations, such as air-insulated substations, gas-insulated substations, and gas-insulated lines. Siemens provides a wide range of services including the supply of complete packages of high-voltage devices with control and protection systems as well as installation and commissioning of the high-voltage substations. The scope may also cover medium-voltage switchgear, power transformers, or auxiliary power supply and telecommunication systems.

Depending on the customer’s requirements, the Siemens High-voltage substation department may act in a project as a system integrator, turnkey provider, or even as a general contractor for large developer projects. Customers can rely on our full support from the first clarification meeting throughout the service life of the switchgear. Even when it comes to financing, Siemens can provide support for high-voltage projects.

Siemens’ support is available during the first clarification and design phase, for example when specific conditions, such as the site’s size or location, difficult ground conditions, or urban surroundings, call for a particular substation solution. Other key factors may be the customer’s sensitivity to blackouts, short construction periods, difficult access conditions, or existing installations with the need for special outage planning. Additionally, Siemens can perform a thorough analysis of the whole power system upon request. This analysis is the basis for planning, installation, commissioning, operation, and maintenance of your high-voltage substation – all from a single source.
Engineered for all environmental conditions

The design of an outdoor substation has to take into account not only the electrical parameters, but also the environmental conditions to which the substation is exposed. With Siemens as your partner, you can count on decades of experience in customized outdoor substations and thus leave the responsibility for such projects to us. Based on the customer’s specifications, our planning and design will make sure that the substation fits even the most challenging surroundings. Siemens’ services include selecting suitable high-voltage devices and design for civil works, taking into account proper lightning protection and the required seismic loads. With Siemens responsible for the whole project, you can rest assured that your system will function reliably after commissioning.

Substation configuration
Meeting your demands requires the right balance of economy and reliability. Selecting the best qualified circuit configuration and the appropriate switchgear layout is especially important. Siemens engineers can perform all studies needed for the construction of a high-voltage substation, including earthing, short-circuit, thermal, and mechanical calculations. Siemens will select the solution that best meets your specifications and system requirements.

Control and protection are a top priority
In modern substations, microprocessor-based control and protection systems handle all secondary tasks. Additionally, centralized and distributed control and monitoring systems are available for substation equipment. State-of-the-art technology captures status information in the form of analog or digital values in accordance with your needs. For network and transformer protection, a comprehensive range of numerical protection devices is available with serial interfaces fitting optimally into a totally integrated substation communication system. Communication interfaces are available for international standard protocols as well as for a wide selection of customer-specific solutions, which will also fit into existing installations. All components are always perfectly matched to further enhance the availability of your system.
Design of air-insulated switchyards

While stranded conductors are sufficient for currents up to a certain level, solutions with aluminum tubes are required for higher-rated currents and high short-circuit currents. Such conductors can carry rated currents of up to 8,000 A and short-circuit currents of up to 80 kA without difficulty. The switchyard design is not only influenced by the available space, but also by the location (e.g. living area, special environmental protection area) and the given infrastructure and accessibility. The coordinates of incoming and outgoing overhead lines and the number and location of transformers and specified voltage levels are also fundamental for switchyard layout. All these factors will be taken into account in the solution we propose.

Almost all outdoor substation installations are unique, tailor-made solutions – especially when it comes to step-up systems in connection with power stations and large transformer substations in the extra-high voltage transmission system. HV/MV transformer substations for distribution purpose with similar substation schemes and requirements are more likely to be of standardized design. This allows establishing a modular concept for the substation arrangement which makes for an optimized execution process and short substation delivery times.

Preferred designs
The multitude of designs includes certain preferred layouts that are frequently requested and defined by the typical arrangement of the busbar disconnectors and circuit breakers.

The following examples provide an overview of different substation solutions:

- H-arrangement
- in-line longitudinal arrangement (Kiellinie®) with center-break disconnectors
- center-tower arrangement
- diagonal layout with pantograph disconnectors breaker-and-a-half layout
H-arrangement

Two lines are connected to two transformers and interlinked by a double bus sectionalizer. With this arrangement each of the feeders and devices of the switchyard can be maintained without an outage of the other feeders.

The H-arrangement is mainly used for supplying power to industrial consumers as well as for distribution and transformer substations. With only one busbar and a minimum of equipment, it is an economical solution to serve your needs.
In-line longitudinal arrangement

Kiellinie® with center-break disconnectors

The busbar disconnectors are arranged one behind the other (in-line) and in parallel to the longitudinal axis of the busbar. It is possible to use either wire-type or tubular busbars. In case of tubular busbars, gantries are required only for the outgoing overhead lines. The system design requires only two conductor levels, which results in a very clear layout. Because of the disconnectors’ in-line arrangement, the bay is wide, but quite short.
The name of the arrangement is derived from the center tower between two busbar systems. The busbar disconnecting switches are arranged side by side and in parallel to the longitudinal axis of the feeder. Busbars are usually designed with stranded conductors. It is necessary to run the conductors over the circuit breakers, which results in a reduced bay width as compared to the in-line arrangement. The system layout is clearly structured and straightforward.

A more complex double-busbar scheme provides higher flexibility and increased operational availability and reliability of the substation.

Therefore, such systems are typically used at network nodes and other essential substations of the power grid. The load flow can be controlled by using the busbars independently for separate net sections and switching load feeders from one busbar to the other as required for a proper load split. As busbar disconnectors are not capable of switching the rated current of the feeder, a short interruption of the power flow is necessary during switchover.

For a load transfer without disruption, a bus coupler bay is required for temporary coupling the two busbar sections during switchover.
Diagonal layout with pantograph disconnectors

The pantograph disconnectors are placed diagonally to the axis of the busbars and feeders, which results in a very clear arrangement with minimal space requirement as compared to other conventional AIS arrangements. Wire and tubular conductors are customary. The busbars can be placed above or below the feeder conductors.

For important grid stations at transmission network nodes of higher voltage levels, the 3-busbar scheme can be used.
The breaker-and-a-half arrangement assures the highest degree of availability and reliability. As expressed in this layout's name, this high degree is achieved with an extra half circuit breaker per outgoing feeder. Therefore, the expenditure for high-voltage devices is quite high. The busbar disconnectors are of the pantograph, rotary, or vertical-break type. Vertical-break disconnectors are preferred for the diameters.

The extremely short connections between the high-voltage devices that help dealing with even very high short-circuit currents (even with multiple conductors) are a great advantage. As it provides such a high degree of availability and reliability, the breaker-and-a-half layout is preferred for major network nodes at the highest voltage levels. Even in the case of a complete busbar failure or during service work in the substation, the power feeders are not interrupted, which makes for added reliability and flexibility.
Wherever conventional substation design exceeds the limits of available space, or the extension of a fully developed substation is required, space-saving and powerful alternatives are needed. Apart from the complete encapsulated design (GIS), customers also rely on mixed-technology outdoor solutions and on space-saving AIS compact solutions.

Especially regions where small-scale transformer substations prevail, where wind parks are to be connected to the network, or industrial plants benefit from Siemens’ AIS compact solutions.
An increasing number of aging HV substations has to be refurbished to extend lifetime and performance. Siemens’ experience in the modernization of older installed substations is vast, regardless of whether they originated from Siemens or other manufacturers. Adapting the original installation to current network requirements and upgrading protection, control, and monitoring systems to the latest state of the art will enhance the overall reliability of your power supply system, resulting in reduced downtimes and increased network performance. It will improve the safety of your operating personnel and your substation will meet the latest environmental standards.

24-hour service, 7 days a week, 365 days a year
Siemens provides customer support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year throughout the entire service life of your substation. Fortunately for our customers, Siemens’ air-insulated switchgear is known for its longevity. In fact, we are still servicing substations that have been in operation for 40-plus years. You can find your service partner in the Siemens branch offices located throughout the world. Our service objective is delivering outstanding technical support with guidance, training, and maintenance that leaves nothing to chance.