

Fact sheet: Amberg Electronics Plant

- The Siemens Amberg Electronics Plant (German abbreviation: EWA) was established in 1989 and the range of products manufactured here includes Simatic programmable logic controllers (PLCs).
- Today over 1000 product variants are manufactured in Amberg. They are used to control machines and equipment and automate manufacturing, saving time and money and increasing product quality.
- Simatic controls onboard systems of cruise ships as well as industrial manufacturing processes, for example within the automobile industry, or even ski lifts.
- Production in Amberg itself is also controlled using Simatic. Within 24 hours, products for around 60,000 customers worldwide are prepared for delivery.
- A fully automatic transport system ensures that the material is brought from warehouse to machine in 15 minutes.
- During three-shift operation, over 3 million components are placed per year.
- Even though the production area has remained unchanged (10,000 m²) and the number of employees has hardly changed, the plant has increased its production volumes eightfold.
- Around 1200 employees work at EWA.
- Production quality at EWA is at 99.9988 percent. "I don't know of any comparable plant worldwide that has achieved such a low defect rate," says Karl-Heinz Büttner, who heads the EWA.
- The factory produces approximately 15 million Simatic products per year. At 230 working days per year, this means that it produces one control unit every second.
- Production is largely automated. Machines and computers handle 75 percent of the value chain on their own; a quarter of the work is done by people. Only at the beginning of the manufacturing process is anything touched by human hands, when an employee places the bare circuit board on a production line. From that

point on, everything runs automatically. Simatic units themselves control the production of Simatic units.

- About 1000 such controls are used during production, from the beginning of the manufacturing process to the point of dispatch.

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