

Berlin, May 6, 2022

Historical milestones: 125th anniversary of Siemensstadt

- Siemensstadt's history began on May 7, 1897, when the company Siemens & Halske bought about 21 hectares (around 52 acres) of land on the "Nonnenwiesen" ("Nuns' Meadows") in Spandau, which at that time was still an independent town. Just a few years earlier, the sons of company founder Werner von Siemens had envisioned Siemens & Halske finding its future home on this marshy terrain. Within Berlin's city limits, the company had no longer been able to find enough space to accommodate its growing manufacturing operations. On the undeveloped wetlands on Berlin's western outskirts, the company was then finally able to implement its plans for building ample facilities.
- First, the company had to prepare the ground to make it suitable for construction by driving thousands of foundation piles. In addition, in the years that followed, Siemens & Halske had to make improvements to overcome the lack of transportation links to nearby cities. Between 1905 and 1923, the company bought more plots of land and enlarged the site to 212 hectares (around 524 acres).
- The Kabelwerk Westend cable factory was built on this site and went into operation in August 1899. This plant was the first of multiple production facilities built by Siemens & Halske during the period up until the end of the 1930s.
- In 1903, the company permanently moved its "Berlin Works" to the new site in Spandau. There, a new manufacturing location was built based on systematic planning.
- Right from the beginning, Siemensstadt brought together space for living, socializing and working: In 1905, the first newly constructed apartment buildings provided homes for several hundred residents. Siemens had commissioned the

real estate company Märkische Bodengesellschaft to build them.

- In 1907, the “Charlotte” Laboratory for Physics and Chemistry went into operation. Siemens took this step to strengthen its traditional focus on conducting its own research. One major advantage of this project was the proximity to research institutes run in the greater Berlin area by universities and other organizations. Beginning in 1914, Siemens & Halske also invested in a central research laboratory.
- Beginning in October 1908, the “Nonnendambahn” tram simplified the commute for some 15,000 people who had previously made their way to Siemensstadt by foot over rough terrain. This tram line was not well frequented until it was extended to the historical center of Spandau in 1909.
- In September 1913, the Spandau District Parliament unanimously approved the renaming of the “Nonnendamm” (“Nuns’ Road”) section of town to “Siemensstadt.” The change became official at the beginning of 1914.
- Between 1910 and 1913, the company’s new administration building was built in two construction phases. Beginning in December 1913, employees were able to go about their work along a total of five kilometers of hallways.
- In 1913, the first residents moved into the Nonnendamm Housing Development. The four-story residential buildings featured better facilities and more light than typical residential housing for workers in Berlin. Additional social, cultural and public facilities supplemented the infrastructure.
- In 1919, Siemens & Halske founded Wohnungsgesellschaft Siemensstadt GmbH. Beginning in 1922, this company, which served as a residential property developer for Siemens, built more than 500 residential units, designed by Hans Hertlein, in the Siemensstadt Housing Development. This project was followed in the 1930s by the Heimat (“Home”) Housing Development with more than 1,000 rental apartments.
- In 1928, the 11-story Schaltwerk high-rise building opened its doors. This 175-meter-high steel-framed building was Europe’s first industrial high rise and was

fully tailored to the specific needs of modern and efficient manufacturing processes.

- In December 1929, the Siemensbahn (“Siemens Railway”) went into operation. The new line included 4.5 kilometers of track and three new railway stations. As early as the beginning of 1930, the line registered up to 35,000 passengers daily. In 1934, 3.9 million passengers departed from the Wernerwerk Railway Station alone.
- During the Nazi era and World War II, foreign laborers and forced laborers worked at the plants in Siemensstadt. About half the buildings and factory systems were severely damaged during the war. In April 1945, shortly before the war’s end, the Siemens factories had to shut down completely. They started back up as early as September of that same year. However, this restart proved difficult because much had been destroyed, and the Soviet Army had cleared the premises of warehouse stocks, supplies and technical documents.
- In April 1949, the company management moved Siemens & Halske’s headquarters to Munich. Berlin remained the company’s second headquarters.
- In 1953, Siemens built the Rohrdamm-West Housing Development directly across from the residential neighborhood that had been built in the 1920s.
- In October 1961, the “Kaufzentrum” on the street called Siemensdamm became the first German shopping center of its kind to open its doors. Patterned after American shopping centers, the building complex offered space for 30 retail shops.
- In September 1980, the Siemensbahn rail line ceased operations. In October of that year, the U7 subway line from the Richard-Wagner-Platz station to the Rohrdamm station went into operation.
- From 1994 to 1995, a large portion of the buildings and of the housing developments for factory workers was listed for historic preservation. As a result, Siemensstadt became one of Germany’s largest sites to be granted such protection.

- In October 2018, Siemens AG and the State of Berlin signed a memorandum of understanding for the development of “Siemensstadt 2.0.” Siemens would invest up to €600 million in the project, which was to be the single-largest investment that the company had ever made in Berlin.
- Since March 2021, this future-oriented location has been called “Siemensstadt Square.” Several hundred interested people selected the new name in a vote. This name replaced the working title “Siemensstadt 2.0.”
- The 2019 urban-planning competition laid the foundation for the further planning of the new urban district. In January 2020, a total of 16 jury members decided unanimously in favor of the design submitted by the O&O Baukunst architectural office.
- In November 2020, the jury then selected the winner of the first building competition. This competition covered two new buildings to be used by Siemens in the future as well as an information center – all in the first phase of the development.
- In August 2021, Siemens AG and the State of Berlin signed the framework agreement for the urban development project. This agreement stipulates the key terms and conditions for further development of the new section of the city. One million square meters of floor space for the industrial operations, commercial activities, research, education, apartments, temporary lodgings, and social infrastructure are to be built there by 2035.

Further information on Siemensstadt Square is available here:

<https://www.siemensstadt.siemens.com>

Contact for journalists

Jessica Wieneke

Phone: +49 173 4395988; e-mail: jessica.wieneke@siemens.com

Christian Datzer

Phone: +49 1525 4571651; e-mail: christian.datzer@siemens.com

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/SiemensDE

Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a technology company focused on industry, infrastructure, transport, and healthcare. From more resource-efficient factories, resilient supply chains, and smarter buildings and grids, to cleaner and more comfortable transportation as well as advanced healthcare, the company creates technology with purpose adding real value for customers. By combining the real and the digital worlds, Siemens empowers its customers to transform their industries and markets, helping them to transform the everyday for billions of people. Siemens also owns a majority stake in the publicly listed company Siemens Healthineers, a globally leading medical technology provider shaping the future of healthcare. In addition, Siemens holds a minority stake in Siemens Energy, a global leader in the transmission and generation of electrical power. In fiscal 2021, which ended on September 30, 2021, the Siemens Group generated revenue of €62.3 billion and net income of €6.7 billion. As of September 30, 2021, the company had around 303,000 employees worldwide. Further information is available on the Internet at www.siemens.com.