Siemens in Berlin

From Tradition into the Future
Siemens in Berlin.

Since 1847.
When Werner von Siemens and his partner Johann Georg Halske, a mechanic, founded a business in 1847 in a small backyard workshop in Berlin with ten employees, nobody could foresee that it would turn into the global group it is today — with a workforce of roughly 343,000 employees in 190 countries. Back then, the young company presented its latest inventions in Berlin, and they attracted attention from all over the world.

For example, the pointer telegraph, which was the first system to transmit messages via electricity, and the dynamo for converting mechanical energy into electrical energy. In addition, they produced the first electric streetcar (installed in Berlin-Lichterfelde), the first automatic traffic signal (erected at Potsdamer Platz in Berlin) and the first electric railroad (presented at the Berlin Trade Fair of 1879).

Today, Siemens remains the largest industrial company in Berlin, with about 12,000 employees at six manufacturing and development sites.

And we are still shipping leading-edge technology throughout the world. For example, the world’s most energy-efficient gas turbine for ecofriendly generation of power and gearless drives that make wind turbines very easy to service. And high-voltage switchgear to transport electricity generated from wind power safely and reliably to end consumers over hundreds of kilometers. Or switchgear for the smart power grids of the future.

Technology from Siemens is also in use at many places in Berlin itself. The Traffic Information Center at Tempelhof airport constantly receives information about the current traffic situation from various locations.

Intelligent energy efficiency solutions in conjunction with the latest automation and security systems ensure that many of the city’s public and private buildings are well equipped for the future.

Traffic signals are controlled to optimize the flow of traffic through the city. No matter whether it’s traffic management technology in the Tiergarten tunnel or electronic signaling centers for the main train station, Siemens makes sure that Berliners and visitors alike travel safely and quickly wherever they are in the city.

Globalization has made the race for the best products and ideas faster and tougher. But we do not need to fear the competition, because Siemens’ engineers in Berlin have always been good at turning solid ideas into successful products.

For the global market and for Berlin. And we are working day in, day out to make sure that it stays that way, in line with our long tradition.
Siemens is the largest industrial company in Berlin. A whole area of town is named after it – Siemensstadt.

It lies between Charlottenburg and Spandau. Four manufacturing and development sites belonging to Siemens AG and its subsidiaries are located there. There is also a plant in Moabit and another one in Treptow. Siemens does not have such a concentration of production plants anywhere else in the world. The company is a major economic factor for the capital of Germany.

In fiscal 2013, its Berlin plants produced goods and services with a value of €2.4 billion and also purchased goods and services for about €600 million from small and medium-sized enterprises in the region.

On top of that, heavy investments were made that year to strengthen the sites in Berlin. Of a total of €320 million, €130 million was invested in production machinery and buildings and €30 million in employee training and continuing education.

Most of the money – €160 million – was spent on research and development. And that pays off, as Siemens comes up with roughly 300 inventions each year in Berlin. Siemens also plays a leading role in Berlin when it comes to training. About 1,300 young people are learning a trade or profession, of whom approximately 300 are being trained on behalf of other companies.
Siemens orients its operations to the needs and wishes of customers and has therefore bundled its nationwide service and sales activities for Germany in a separate organization called Siemens Germany.

A service and sales team made up of about 14,000 employees and offering customers the entire range of Siemens products and solutions is controlled from the German capital. To meet customer requirements optimally, you have to be local. That is why Siemens Germany has set up over 40 branch offices throughout the country. This means that customers always have a local point of contact. High-quality service and sales is available throughout Germany – from the entire industry portfolio to power generation and distribution, solutions for intelligent infrastructures or healthcare. Siemens Germany is a clear statement about Germany as a place to do business. Over one-third of the global workforce is employed in Germany, and two-thirds of global R&D funds are invested there.
Gas turbine plant

Gas turbines for now and the future

Fossil energy sources will continue to play an important role in the energy mix of the future. Modern power plants featuring gas turbines from Siemens are flexible and highly efficient. They reach full power in just a few minutes and can balance out the fluctuating supply from renewable energy sources. Thanks to their high efficiency, they are also climate-friendly when operating in baseload mode. Siemens gas turbines therefore make a major contribution to a reliable and eco-friendly power supply.

In addition, our specialists ensure smooth planning, control and provision of services in our customers’ power plants. Our service experts look after the whole power plant – ranging from gas and steam turbines to generators. This is not simply a matter of repairs or exchanging parts but comprehensive concepts to optimize existing power plants throughout their lifetime.

Since delivering the first gas turbine for a power plant back in 1972, the Berlin gas turbine plant has manufactured more than 950 machines for customers in over 60 countries. The site now produces gas turbines with a capacity of 114 to 400 MW for the 50 Hz and 60 Hz markets. These gas turbines are characterized, among other things, by low production costs, high availability, great ease of maintenance, long life and – thanks to the continuous reduction of carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions – good environmental compatibility.

Day in and day out, employees at the Berlin gas turbine plant work together with one objective – to make gas turbines for use in power plants. Continuous research and development, longstanding experience in manufacturing new systems and customer-oriented service are joined under one roof. This multifunction site bundles all skills, combining employees with a wide variety of qualifications.

Like other Siemens sites, this one includes an engineering facility that is a global leader. It also has a manufacturing facility that sets international standards with innovative technologies and a test center that is one of the most modern and capable in the world. All this leads to highly efficient products generating electricity at power plants worldwide. In a nutshell, the Berlin gas turbine plant is Siemens AG’s competence center for the design and construction of prototypes of new gas turbine generations.

Its results regularly surpass everything that has gone before, for example turbine blades, ceramic heat shields, low-emission burners and the SGT-8000H series of gas turbines, which can achieve an efficiency rating of 61% in combined cycle power plants. Weighing 440 metric tons and delivering 400 megawatts (MW), the SGT5-8000H can supply the population of a city like Hamburg (about 2.2 million inhabitants) with power.

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Transporting a gas turbine rotor within the plant

Assembling the SGT5-8000H
from the selection of ecofriendly raw materials wherever possible and highly resource-conserving handling of all working media and materials, up to the systematic avoidance of waste and comprehensive recycling. All plastics are processed exclusively using single types in order to facilitate recycling. The water used in the electroplating shop is constantly fed back and cleaned. In addition, the plant utilizes environment-friendly degreasing agents and water-based paints.

To make the switchgear plant one of the world’s most modern factories of its kind, Siemens invests around €70 million each year. This unique investment is not only an impressive affirmation by Siemens of the importance of its location in Berlin but also makes the switchgear plant one of the most modern development and manufacturing facilities for switchgear technology in the world.

Switchgear technology from Berlin is well known and in demand all over the world thanks to its high quality, long life and availability. Over 80 % of some products are exported. The concentration of development and manufacturing expertise here, highly qualified and committed employees, a depth of manufacturing that is far above average, and continuing investments in production plants – these factors guarantee that all products and systems made at the switchgear plant will always meet the highest quality standards. At the same time, the pioneering range of products produced at the plant meet all market requirements for innovative and reliable products that are economical as well.

Protection of the environment has been firmly established as a corporate goal at Siemens for years, and is systematically implemented at the switchgear plant. Environmental protection plays a crucial role even in the development stage, from the selection of ecofriendly raw materials wherever possible and highly resource-conserving handling of all working media and materials, up to the systematic avoidance of waste and comprehensive recycling. All plastics are processed exclusively using single types in order to facilitate recycling. The water used in the electroplating shop is constantly fed back and cleaned. In addition, the plant utilizes environment-friendly degreasing agents and water-based paints. To make the switchgear plant one of the world’s most modern factories of its kind, Siemens invests around €70 million each year. This unique investment is not only an impressive affirmation by Siemens of the importance of its location in Berlin but also makes the switchgear plant one of the most modern development and manufacturing facilities for switchgear technology in the world.
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The dynamo plant is the trendsetter when it comes to large machines with a power of up to 100 MW. These include the most powerful motors of their kind, boasting 79 MW and 8,000 rpm. These motors are fully electric compressor drives for gas liquefaction plants. Here, a special winding concept was devised that optimally meets customer requirements.

Thanks to another technology developed at the dynamo plant, slow-running machines can now be made very compact and energy-efficient.

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Increasingly strict environmental regulations have caused more and more electrically driven machines to be deployed where gas turbines or diesel engines used to be in operation as direct drives, for instance in compressors and ships. The trend toward direct-driven units has led to some interesting new configurations both for slow-running, high-torque applications such as ship drives and wind turbines and for fast-running units like compressors.

As a result, Siemens AG has won some big orders from the oil and gas industry with heavy involvement of the dynamo plant. In a natural gas field off the coast of Australia, for example, Siemens drives are being used to liquefy and transport the gas. They are also being used to capture the CO₂ that is separated from the natural gas and store it underground. This is an ecological reference project.

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The production facility has blazed new trails by deploying the Siemens Production System, allowing it to focus clearly on customers. Manufacturing of modules has been segmented to enable products of high and low complexity to be made in parallel in a very short time, and the one-piece-flow approach has been introduced in the device manufacturing process. Employees set up the necessary product-specific workstations themselves. This makes it possible to reduce manufacturing times by over 90% while raising quality, and to minimize delivery times for customers.

Equipment from this plant is highly reliable, has a long life of about 25 years and comes with an ecofriendly design, so it makes a major contribution to the conservation of resources. Components for products and the manufacturing technologies for them are selected with the environment in mind in line with the requirements of a green company.

For more than 100 years, the Berlin instrumentation plant has been developing and producing devices to monitor, control and protect the equipment for transmitting and distributing electricity. In the event of a fault, they switch off components or entire subnetworks safely, reliably and selectively. The products under the SIPROTEC brand stand for trailblazing protection technology, with significant innovations that trigger technological trends throughout the world. With over a million protection devices in use, SIPROTEC is the undisputed market leader.

Since 2005, protection devices have also been «seaworthy». On board every larger ship there is an electricity supply network for which automation and protection technology is required. Our protection devices meet the requirements of shipping and are certified by Lloyd’s Register and Germanischer Lloyd.

»Customers determine what we do.« That is the motto of the production facility, which is committed to meeting customers’ expectations and thus offering them clear competitive advantages. All products from the instrumentation plant are made to customer specifications.

The Berlin instrumentation plant

Technological leadership for over 100 years

About 900 electronics and software specialists and skilled workers are employed in the development, production and service departments at the Berlin instrumentation plant. The plant produces protection technology, station control technology, devices to capture and register network quality as well as products for communication solutions that support the transfer of protection signals, telecontrol signals, data and voice over high-voltage transmission lines. The instrumentation plant exports its products all over the world, controls the global logistics center and coordinates other plants in the United Kingdom, India and China.

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Efficient and integrated transportation of people and goods by rail and road

Five megatrends are driving the need for mobility on an international basis: demographic change, urbanization, globalization, digitalization and climate change. Throughout the world, more and more people and goods need to be moved in and between cities and between countries. The demand for modern, networked and IT-based mobility is therefore increasing everywhere. Siemens is the only company in the world to offer integrated traffic and logistics solutions from a single source. A lot of these solutions come from Berlin, where around 1,000 employees develop and plan safe and efficient mobility solutions for the whole world.

Siemens is set to expand its presence in Berlin. Berlin is not only the European capital of mobility but also a city where decision-makers, associations and the media are based. Siemens’ railroad technology organization aims to exploit this proximity to customers and experts to continue growing its national and global business successfully. The prospects are good: Studies indicate that the global market for railroad technology will grow to over €110 billion by 2016.

ETCS – standardized interfaces between trains and lines permit interoperability across national borders

The company presented the world’s first small locomotive in Berlin in 1879. Two years later, the first electric streetcar celebrated its world première in the German imperial capital – also built by Werner von Siemens. Siemens went on to install the world’s first electric traffic signal in Berlin in 1924. It was erected at Potsdamer Platz to make the growing volume of traffic safer and smoother in what was then the capital of the Weimar Republic.

As far as technology is concerned, a lot has happened since then. And the amount of traffic has soared, too. About 1.4 million cars are registered in Berlin alone. On top of that, many tourists and commuters travel to the city – not only in their own cars but also via public transport. Siemens, as operator of the Berlin Traffic Information Center (VIZ), has been tasked by the Federal State of Berlin with supplying them all with the latest news on the traffic situation so they can reach their destinations quickly, securely and in an ecofriendly way.

More than 30 information panels at the roadside show the current traffic situation. In addition, the messages are published on the Internet, on the radio and via text message and e-mail services. To collect this information, the VIZ uses 800 measuring points on the freeways and 370 detectors in the main road network. They measure the type, number and speed of the vehicles at short intervals. The location of the VIZ is Berlin Traffic Control Center, which was also built by Siemens in 2005. Together with it, the VIZ is one of the most cutting-edge traffic management systems in Europe.

The Berlin Traffic Information Center (VIZ)

ETCS – standardized interfaces between trains and lines permit interoperability across national borders

By expanding its presence in Berlin, Siemens is closer to decision-makers and customers, especially Deutsche Bahn

Berlin is also the location of the company’s competence center for the European Train Control System (ETCS) – a standard to make rail traffic in Europe unimpeded and economical. In simple terms, the ETCS ensures that Europe’s trains all speak the same language. In addition, Siemens manufactures signals and railroad switch systems in Berlin for rail companies all over the world.
At Corporate Technology, scientists and engineers not only develop new materials and the associated processes but also deliver end-to-end solutions ranging from material selection to product planning and manufacturing rollout/support for the Siemens product areas. It is particularly important for new technologies and products to be both competitive in technological and economic terms and eco-friendly and resource-conserving.

A new option is additive manufacturing, or 3D printing for metals. There have been printers to make three-dimensional objects from plastic since the 1980s. Now, however, laser printers can be used to create machine parts from aluminum, stainless steel or titanium. The laser-melting process builds up a 3D structure layer by layer from metallic powder. The very fine air ducts inside turbine blades, which optimize cooling, are a classic example. Single spare parts, too, can be made faster, decentrally and more cheaply by means of 3D printing. Moreover, coating processes to its production plants smoothly and gets things right the first time.

Electronic modules need to meet ever more demanding requirements and are becoming increasingly complex. At the same time, their components are being miniaturized more and more. Printed circuit boards should take up as little space as possible, and data has to be processed quickly and reliably. These features are also required in power electronics applications, for example in medical diagnostics via computed tomography scanning, in electric drives for industry and for the automotive sector. And rough environmental conditions, such as those in offshore applications, require a high level of product reliability. This is why Siemens’ CT experts in Berlin are developing solutions for cost-effective and reliable manufacturing technologies. They are aiming at key technologies for the design and manufacture of highly innovative electronics – from the original idea to production. They see themselves as contacts at the interface between development and manufacturing who make sure that the company introduces products and processes to its production plants smoothly and gets things right the first time.

The increasing scarcity of resources such as water, raw materials and energy is drawing attention away from short-term commercial action to long-term sustainable business. These CT experts are therefore working on improving the sustainability of products and solutions through the use of efficiency-raising technologies and materials. The keywords here are ecological performance, carbon footprint, water footprint, modeling, green technologies, resource efficiency and sustainability. With their holistic view of energy and environmental efficiency, the experts at CT can answer questions such as:

«Is an energy-saving lamp more efficient in environmental terms despite being transported thousands of kilometers?»

Using modeling, they clarify whether an e-car is more ecofriendly than rail transport and help Siemens’ customers to understand how our products affect the environment. They ascertain whether technologies are not only green but also cost-efficient, search for recycling technologies for scarce resources such as the rare earths used in wind turbines, and look for green supply chains. CT in Berlin thus develops not only innovative products but also methods to ensure their sustainability.
Siemens Professional Education

Education is the future

Siemens invests a considerable amount of money in training and education and, in Siemensstadt, has the largest corporate training and education center in the Berlin-Brandenburg region. With about 1,300 apprentices and students, Siemens Professional Education in Berlin is the largest Siemens center of its kind in the world. This includes roughly 300 apprentices receiving training in cooperation with external companies and partner institutions.

The Siemens Technik Akademie in Berlin is the company’s own vocational academy. It offers programs leading to a qualification as an associate engineer in combination with international courses culminating in a bachelor of engineering degree. This is an internationally oriented education concept for young engineers. The students are taught to a high level in English only, qualifying them for international deployment. In addition, the Siemens Technik Akademie in Berlin offers the Siemens Mechatronic System Certification Program (SMSCP). This entails an industrial certificate from Siemens. The content of this program is implemented on the basis of the German dual education system in existing curricula of educational organizations in various parts of the world. At present, this program has been implemented at over 40 schools, colleges and universities in more than ten countries.

Another project is called Europeans@Siemens. Each year for the last three years, about 30 young Europeans from a total of 14 European countries have started a course in electronics or mechatronics under the auspices of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Berlin is thus evolving more and more into an international provider of training and education that prepares young talents at Siemens AG and its cooperating partners for jobs in global competition.

At technical and commercial training departments as well as at the Siemens Technik Akademie, young people undergo technical or commercial training and education in 20 different trades and professions. Dual degree programs and continuing education programs to the bachelor level complete the range offered by Siemens in Berlin. This involves close collaboration with universities of applied science and other universities.

For years now, Siemens has demonstrated extra commitment by offering many disadvantaged and disabled young people a chance to undergo initial vocational training. With targeted encouragement and support, 95% of them qualify as skilled workers.

One particular feature of Siemens’ educational activities in Berlin is the availability of on-the-job training and vocational schooling from a single source. For over 100 years, Siemens has run the Werner-von-Siemens-Werkberufsschule, its own private vocational school. That permits optimal integration of theoretical and practical matters. The quality of training is raised by sustained learning and the acquisition of key qualifications. This is a key aspect of the training concept. Cross-disciplinary project work, precise project management and a holistic approach to learning give rise to vocational skills that put the young people in a position to develop themselves further on their own in the course of their future careers.

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In addition, SRE operates company restaurants that serve Siemens employees and provide them with healthy, balanced food. Every working day, around 5,000 meals are served at over eight sites in Berlin. Child care is another aspect of the work-life balance that SRE deals with. This is supported by setting up daycare centers which are designed, planned and erected under the SieKids brand.

SRE controls Siemens’ real estate portfolio and is responsible for renting, letting, buying and selling properties, managing construction projects and organizing all necessary operator services. All services are implemented under cost, transparency and efficiency aspects. Optimized, sustainable use of resources is supported by innovative concepts like Green Building.

In Berlin, dealing with buildings protected under cultural heritage regulations is a challenge and a special responsibility. This applies to a total of 60% of Siemens’ buildings in the capital. 70% of the buildings are used as factory space and 30% as office space. Annual costs of over €20 million are incurred for managing the ground water and maintaining the old infrastructure, drains and drinking water pipes, among other things.

By way of example, last year Siemens’ protected and historic administrative building in Berlin celebrated its 100th anniversary, while two production halls covering a total of about 22,000 square meters were erected on the historic site of the switchgear plant in Siemensstadt as part of a project. This impressively shows the symbiosis between historic buildings and the innovative factory and office buildings that are needed.

Siemens Real Estate also ensures that the existing office spaces are used optimally. The concept developed for a new work environment provides attractive, contemporary surroundings with more efficient use of space, allowing employees to be more mobile and flexible.

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Committed from the outset

As a company with a long tradition in Berlin, Siemens has been committed to the capital and the surrounding region for over 160 years. Corporate citizenship is a key part of the company’s holistic understanding of sustainability.

Werner von Siemens was one of the first entrepreneurs to consider social engagement important. He was particularly interested in science education. In 1879, Werner von Siemens was involved in establishing the Elektrotechnischer Verein in Berlin, the world’s first electrotechnical association. He was a co-founder of Urania, a scientific society in Berlin, and provided the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt (Imperial Physical-Technical Institute) with funds to build its premises in Charlottenburg.

Siemens is still fostering technical skills among young people in Berlin. For over 25 years, the state of Berlin’s local ‘Jugend forscht’ (Youth Researches) competition has been held at Siemens’ Berlin headquarters. Siemens supports its partner schools in Berlin and Brandenburg with teaching aids, job application training and student seminars.

The company cooperates with universities in Berlin to help improve the practical orientation and quality of the education provided there and to define joint research projects. An example of this is the Siemens Center of Knowledge Interchange (CKI) at the Technische Universität Berlin. It is one of eight CKIs in the world and aims to intensify the transfer of knowledge between academia and business.

In 1877, Werner von Siemens helped the Berlin Natural History Museum buy the fossil of a 150 million year-old early bird named Archaeopteryx siemensii, which the museum could not have afforded otherwise. Siemens is still committed to museums in Berlin and thus helps to make the city more attractive.

As a member of the Kuratorium Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Board of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation), Siemens supports the restoration of this unique museum ensemble, the heart of Berlin’s museums. The Berlin Jewish Museum is the largest Jewish museum in Europe. It presents 2,000 years of German-Jewish history, including the peaks and troughs in the relationship between Jews and non-Jews in Germany.

The »Joblinge« project assists disadvantaged young people in finding an apprenticeship and getting a start in their working life. This project is supported by a mentoring program involving Siemens employees in Berlin, who make a worthwhile contribution to society with their personal engagement.

As a good corporate citizen, we contribute to the sustained development of society with our portfolio, our local presence against a global backdrop and our role as a thought leader.

The historic Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt building in Charlottenburg
Berlin Jewish Museum
Archaeopteryx siemensii fossil