

Timeline: Siemens in the UK

“My opinion is, that England is the place if anything is to be done.”

Sir William Siemens

“There’s no doubt that Britain knows a thing or two about railways. The railway system in our country is the oldest in the world, built as isolated local links that developed and expanded during the railway boom of the 1840s.

We have seen many changes since that time: nationalisation, amalgamation, privatisation and significant passenger growth. But one thing that has remained constant is a desire for innovation and development, paving the way for greater capacity and improved services worldwide. That’s where Siemens Rail Systems makes a real difference, playing its part in helping Britain maintain rail industry excellence, day in, day out.

2013 is a particularly special year. Not only is it the year in which London Underground celebrates its 150th anniversary, but Siemens in the UK reaches the impressive milestone of 170 years presence in the country. We are as proud of our heritage as George Stephenson was of the first public railway to use steam locomotives. The company has come a very long way since those early days but we remain committed to keeping our country at the forefront of engineering excellence.

The timeline we have included on later pages of this document highlights some of the key historical events that have shaped our UK company’s future. We hope you will find it interesting.”

Steve Scrimshaw

Managing Director Siemens Rail Systems UK & North West Europe

1823	Carl Wilhem Siemens born in Lenthe, near Hanover, Germany
1843	The young Wilhelm Siemens arrived in the UK, shortly before his 20 th birthday. He soon struck his first deal selling a patent for a unique electroplating process
1850	Opening of an agency office for Siemens & Halske in London in preparation for the World Exhibition, headed by Wilhelm Siemens
1852	Siemens patents the first water meter, to enable more efficient and less wasteful water distribution to the UK's ever-growing towns
1858	Founding of Siemens, Halske & Co, London (Millwall Bank). The location also includes a repair shop.
1859	Wilhelm marries Anne Gordon (a Scot), takes British citizenship and changes his name to Charles William Siemens
1862	William Siemens was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society
1863	Siemens, Halske & Co opens its first UK factory in Woolwich, south London, producing submarine cables
1865	Founding of Siemens Brothers
1866	Werner von Siemens (William's brother) discovers the electro-dynamic principle
1870	Siemens lays the Indo-European telegraph line from London to Calcutta. Running for nearly 7,000 miles, the line cut the time required for a message to travel between the two cities from many days to just 28 minutes
1872 – 1873	William Siemens is President of the "Institution of Mechanical Engineers"
1879	Siemens started to develop the world's first electric train for Bush Mills, Northern Ireland (see also 1883)
1880	Siemens Brothers was converted into a stock company
1881	Siemens technology enables the Savoy in London to become the first British theatre to get electric lighting. Siemens dynamo machines powered the internal lights
1882	President of the "British Association for the Advancement of Science"
1883	Siemens completes the 10km single track line from Portrush to Bush Mills in Ireland. Probably the first electric train contract in the world, its power was derived from a water-fall that drove a Siemens dynamo
1883	Sir William Siemens is knighted by Queen Victoria for services to science. He dies later that year
1891	City & South London Railway awards Siemens a contract for the delivery of two electric locomotives

1896	Siemens builds the first metro on the European mainland (Budapest)
1897	Siemens provides rolling stock, power generation and power supply for the Waterloo & City railway
1904	Siemens equips the first AC railway electrification system with a single phase motor
1983	Siemens helps introduce the world's first fully automated underground system in Lille, France
2001	Siemens wins a £1billion contract to provide its Desiro electric trains to Stagecoach Group and Angel Trains for the South West Trains network
2004	Siemens supplies the first driverless Metro in mixed operation with conventional Metros (Nuremberg, Germany)
2007	Siemens contracted to supply 1,420 bogie frames and overhaul the transmission of London Underground's 1992 tube stock
2009	Siemens launches the UK's first, second generation train – The Desiro City
2010	Siemens is awarded a contract to supply Eurostar's new flagship fleet of trains (e320)
2012	Siemens opens The Crystal, the world's largest exhibition dedicated to the future of cities, in the Borough of Newham on Royal Victoria Dock
2013	Siemens signs the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project contract, its largest UK order to date, covering the provision of 1,140 carriages, two new depots and associated finance
2013	Siemens metro trains now travel the equivalent of 50 times around the world each week
2013	Siemens achieves the distinction of being the only company in the UK to have been twice-awarded the accolade 'Maintenance Team of the Year' at the prestigious National Rail Awards in the UK
2013	Siemens announces that it is to build a new training academy for rolling stock and traction in collaboration with NSARE (the National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering). The initiative will be 50/50 funded with UK Government
2013	Siemens opens the new and exciting 'Going Underground' exhibition in conjunction with London Transport Museum and CBS Outdoor UK.

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More information about the Going Underground exhibition is available at

www.siemens.com/tube150

Press pictures are available at www.siemens.com/press/goingunderground

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Siemens Rail Systems

As part of the Siemens Infrastructure & Cities Sector, Siemens Rail Systems Division provides expertise and technology in the full range of rail vehicles – from heavy rail to metros to trams and light-rail vehicles. In the UK, the Division employs around 700 people and maintains over 350 Siemens passenger trains for First TransPennine Express, South West Trains, Heathrow Express, Greater Anglia Franchise (Abellio), Northern Rail, London Midland and ScotRail. www.siemens.co.uk/rail