

Auschwitz liberated 70 years ago today: Siemens remembers the victims of National Socialism

The world is today commemorating and honoring the victims of National Socialism. Seventy years ago, on January 27, 1945, the Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps were liberated by Soviet troops. From 1943 to 1945, Siemens-Schuckertwerke AG operated a machine tool production facility in the Bobrek camp near Auschwitz. About 200 of the camp's prisoners worked at the facility. Siemens is known to have employed a total of at least 80,000 forced laborers in the war years of 1940 to 1945. At least 5,000 of these laborers were prisoners from concentration camps – primarily from the Ravensbrück, Auschwitz-Bobrek, Flossenbürg, Buchenwald and Gross-Rosen camps.

The management and employees of the company today profoundly regret that Siemens employed people against their will at the time when the company was integrated into the war economy of the unjust National Socialist regime. Siemens has acknowledged its responsibility by contributing a total of more than €150 million to the Jewish Claims Conference (1962), the Siemens Humanitarian Relief Fund for Former Forced Laborers (HHZ) (1998-2000) and the German Industry Foundation Initiative "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future."

As a further acknowledgement of its responsibility, Siemens cooperates closely with the Ravensbrück Memorial and fosters selected projects that aim to clarify and document the events of that time. At its Annual Shareholders' Meeting in Munich's Olympiahalle on January 27, 2015, Siemens is commemorating the day with an exhibit of historical documents from its archives in the hall's foyer.

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

Further information on the Annual Shareholders' Meeting is available at www.siemens.com/agm.

Contact for journalists

Karlheinz Groebmair

Tel.: +49 89 636 35181; e-mail: karlheinz.groebmair@siemens.com

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Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a global technology powerhouse that has stood for engineering excellence, innovation, quality, reliability and internationality for more than 165 years. The company is active in more than 200 countries, focusing on the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization. One of the world's largest producers of energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies, Siemens is No. 1 in offshore wind turbine construction, a leading supplier of combined cycle turbines for power generation, a major provider of power transmission solutions and a pioneer in infrastructure solutions as well as automation, drive and software solutions for industry. The company is also a leading provider of medical imaging equipment – such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging systems – and a leader in laboratory diagnostics as well as clinical IT. In fiscal 2014, which ended on September 30, 2014, Siemens generated revenue from continuing operations of €71.9 billion and net income of €5.5 billion. At the end of September 2014, the company had around 357,000 employees worldwide. Further information is available on the Internet at www.siemens.com.