

ABB factories in Aleksandrów Łódzki



Aleksandrów Łódzki has become one of the biggest and most modern ABB manufacturing centers in Poland and Europe in only few years. Two new facilities have been built here from scratch: the Electric Motors factory and the Power Conversion Equipment and Drives factory. Owing to these projects, energy efficient and highly effective electric motors of the highest class as well as medium-voltage drives, traction converters for environmentally-friendly rail transport and converters for wind farms are manufactured in Aleksandrów Łódzki.

The Aleksandrów Łódzki projects are quite novel to ABB in Poland. Previously, the company partnered with privatized, former state-owned enterprises already existing on the market, incorporating them in its international structures, upgrading their machinery, implementing state-of-the-art technologies and adapting their production systems to the ABB Group's strategy. By contrast, the factories in Aleksandrów Łódzki have been built from scratch in the Łódź Special Economic Zone, representing one of the biggest and most spectacular investments not only for ABB, but also for the whole Polish economy. What makes it especially noteworthy is that it has been built in the difficult times of global economic recession.

At the same time, by choosing Poland for production of such importance from the corporate strategy point of view, the ABB Group has confirmed its trust in Polish engineers and managers and the company's belief in their huge intellectual and technical potential. Works were carried out at a tremendous speed. Only a year passed between the signing of preliminary agreements and the launching of production in the first plant. The second one was built in a similarly short time and was soon extended. At a greenfield location where land lay fallow in 2008, technologically advanced products catering for the needs of Polish and global economy left production lines just two years later. Today, more than 520 people – experts and highly skilled workers are employed at the ABB factories in Aleksandrów Łódzki.

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Electric Motors Factory

ABB is the world's leading manufacturer of electric motors and the new factory in Aleksandrów Łódzki has become a part of the worldwide network of ABB manufacturing facilities, contributing to the Group's growing role in this sector of the market. In 2011, ABB took decisions to expand the factory. Due to market demand, the production of cast iron and aluminum motors was separated. Only a year later, the production of aluminum motors with power output of 0.18 kW to 7.5 kW began. Several dozen types of motors, with different power ratings, dimensions and applications are produced. Basically every few weeks a new, more energy-efficient and more effective motor model is launched, which complies not only with the customers' requirements, but – above all – with even the most stringent European standards. Heavy duty motors represent a substantial part of production at the new factory in Aleksandrów. They are designed to work in the harshest and most dangerous environments and under high explosion risk. The units produced meet the strictest world standards, as well as the requirements of the ATEX European Directive. This makes it possible for ABB products to operate in any location where the concentration of explosive substances does not prevent the use of electric equipment.

In looking for new technological solutions, care for the environment is of key importance to the company. This is a very important development direction, especially given that 40% of electricity is used by industry, of which a half is used to power electric motors. Therefore, each more efficient and energy-saving unit limits the negative environmental impact. It is the concern over increasing costs of energy consumption and climate changes that triggers the enormous worldwide demand for ABB's highly efficient motors. The Aleksandrów Łódzki factory provides customers full spectrum of its products through regional warehouses in Vasteras, Sabadell, Menden and Singapore.

Power Conversion Equipment and Drives Factory

The Power Conversion Equipment and Drives Factory ranks amongst the most modern production plants in Poland. It produces power electronic equipment: medium voltage converters for power supply to industrial systems, converters for wind farms and supply systems for electric traction as well as converters for the rolling stock. To a certain extent, the production is not new to ABB in Poland, as rectifier systems have been produced in Łódź for many years now, and the projects that have been accomplished are successful not only in Poland, but also in distant countries such as Brazil. The production profile of the Aleksandrów factory is ABB's response to the market demand for modern and energy-efficient devices and is also a sign of its desire to engage the company in a quest for solutions to the global problem of energy deficit that will threaten the world in near future. Therefore, ABB offers its customers medium voltage drives that make it possible to employ the production capacities installed in the industry in

a better way, and bring measurable effects for enterprises due to energy savings. The company puts an enormous emphasis on the development of non-conventional energy sources, and thus it has launched the production in Aleksandrów Łódzki of converters for wind power plants feeding the power grid with electric energy obtained from wind. The third type of products of key importance is equipment for the conversion of electric energy to be used by rolling stock. This is particularly important in the context of the planned upgrading of railways in Poland and investments anticipated in Central and Eastern Europe. ABB products and systems for converters are installed in power substation of Polish railways and tram systems. Innovative solutions for the storage of energy are installed on the second line of the Warsaw underground. Products from Aleksandrów Łódzki are installed in traction vehicles of all Polish manufacturers of rolling stock. ABB engineers are also involved in design work with the customers, to make sure equipment is adjusted to actual needs at the new vehicle design stage. The factory is characterized by technological and process advancement. This refers not only to production lines and testing stations, but also to nearly all aspects of activity, from power supply to working conditions and human safety. The factory was also equipped with state-of-the-art testing stations, custom-designed to meet the requirements of this particular production. They will enable ABB to meet the highest standards in testing power electronic products. As a result, the factory is the only one in Poland to operate control devices of this level of technological advancement.

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