

Vacuum interrupter factory Berlin

A transformed facility transforming the future

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€60 million investment

July 2024 marked the opening of our new, state-of-the-art Schaltwerk production line in Berlin, where the manufacture of vacuum interrupters for our clean-air Blue switchgear portfolio is set to be stepped up significantly.

The €60 million investment by 2031 demonstrates a clear commitment to climate-neutral power transmission and is a major step towards net zero.

More than 100 people will work at the newly converted 6,200 m² production hall to produce transmission equipment which has zero negative impact on the environment.

The highly-automated, fully digitally-connected facility will comply with the latest industry 4.0 standards.

And since it matches our entire Berlin switchgear plant in being powered 100% by electricity from renewable sources, the products are all the more sustainable in their manufacture as well as in their operation.

Grand inauguration, international importance

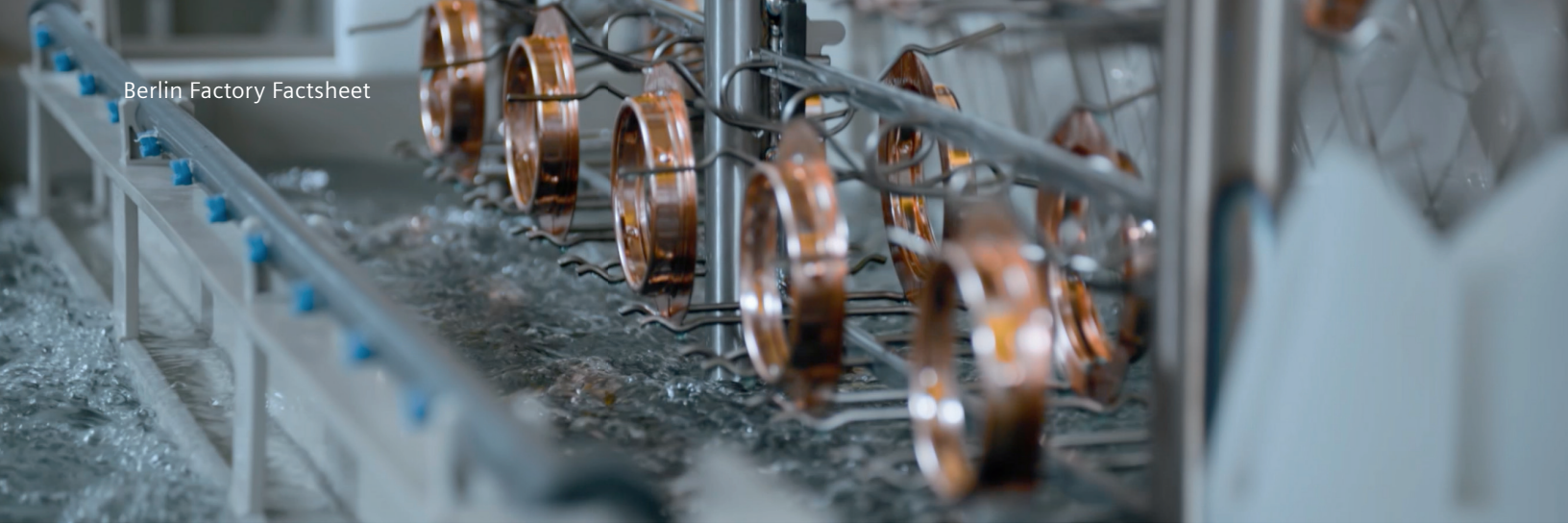
The scale and significance of our new facility was reflected in the stature and number of guests who attended its official opening.

CEO Christian Bruch and Executive Board Member Tim Holt were delighted to welcome Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection Robert Habeck, State Secretary Michael Kellner, Senator for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises Franziska Giffey, Mayor of Berlin Kai Wegner, Member of European Parliament Hildegard Bentele, plus many valued customers.



Their presence underlined that this is an investment which will have a far-reaching impact, beyond the immediate boost to the local economy. The vacuum interrupters produced here will be delivered around the world both as part of switchgear, and as components to factories in China and the Americas.

From Berlin to the world: what we manufacture on this site will contribute to a secure, sustainable, affordable energy future all over the globe.



Why vacuum interrupters are vital

Vacuum interrupters are central to our mission to achieve Zero Global Warming Potential (GWP) in energy transmission through our high-voltage Blue switchgear, used in both grids and wind turbines.

Together with the use of clean air for insulation, our vacuum switching technology eliminates the need for climate-hostile F-gases – in particular, SF₆ gas which has a GWP 24,300 times higher than CO₂ and remains in the atmosphere for around 1,000 years. Clean air insulation instead of SF₆ means:

- Zero toxic emissions
- Zero harmful impact on human health or the environment
- Zero special safety measures needed during maintenance
- Zero regulations on the handling of gas
- Zero disposal of gases required at end of life

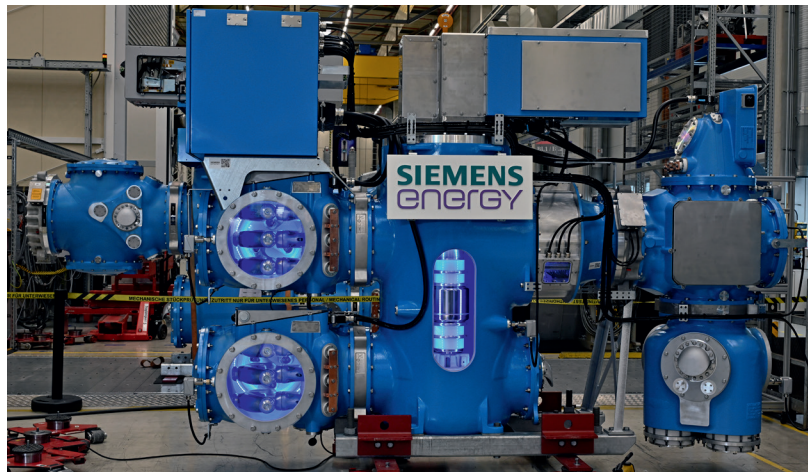
The decarbonization of power grids, and our goal of producing only F-gas-free high-voltage switchgear, can only be achieved through this approach, which is why we are investing so heavily in increasing vacuum interrupter production.

Key factory facts

- About €60 million to be invested by 2031
- Transformation of 6,200 m² manufacturing hall
- Production capacities of up to 30,000 vacuum interrupters planned within the next decade
- Powered 100% by renewable energy
- Highly automated, fully digitally connected
- Clear commitment to climate-neutral power transmission
- Major boost to Berlin economy
- Upgrade project announced: 2021; operational: 2023

Future-ready

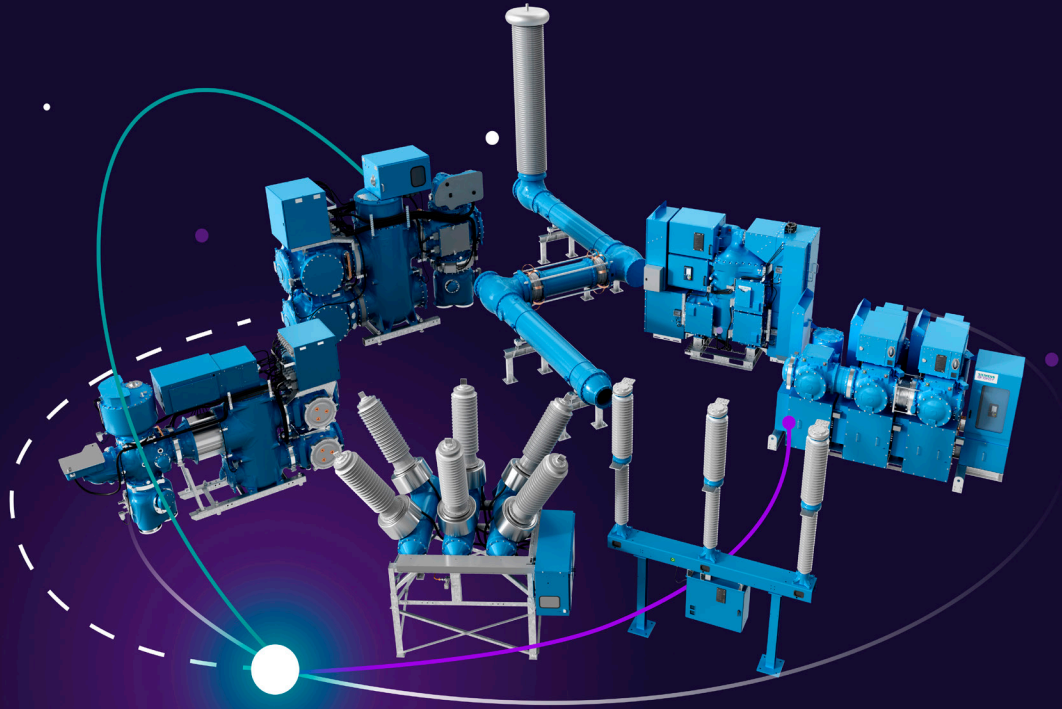
Recent EU legislation has tightened restrictions on SF₆ and other F-gases in new switchgear, staggered according to voltage levels. Only solutions with a GWP < 1 are permitted where these are available.



Similar regulatory moves are taking place in other regions, with further steps anticipated.

However, switchgear which uses vacuum switching technology and clean air insulation instead of F-gases – as produced in our upgraded Berlin facility – will not be subject to any such legislation.

Investing about €60 million by 2031 will help to ensure that we, and our customers, are ready for the future – protected from F-gas regulations and requirements as well as protecting our environment.



Our clean air Blue portfolio is ready for future-proof substations and unaffected by the coming restrictions. Learn more on our website: [siemens-energy.com/blue-high-voltage-products](https://www.siemens-energy.com/blue-high-voltage-products)

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or contact us
Email: support@siemens-energy.com

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