

# Centennial Celebrations of Turbine Excellence

Görlitz, Germany's easternmost town, is known for its rich industrial and cultural heritage. It is also home to Siemens' Industrial Steam Turbines business, where centennial celebrations of turbine manufacturing took place in June in the presence of employees, top management, customers and suppliers, local dignitaries and the people of the town.

With its rolling hills and extensive forests, its crop fields, brooks and rivers, the Görlitz countryside of Upper Lusatia has much of the typical German pastoral, with none of the industrial harshness of a location where leading-edge technology is produced. However, the German-Polish twin town on the river Neiße is more than a pastoral idyll, it is home to two businesses of global reputation, — in addition to its renowned local brewery. One of these is Siemens, who took over the former Görlitz Machine Engineering in 1991, as part of a national accord to stabilize East Germany's shaken industrial base after the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989.

## LOOKING BACK

One hundred years ago, the age of the steam engine was coming to an end, as it could no longer serve the energy needs of the new century. Engine manufacture at Görlitz responded to the challenge and came up with the steam turbine, introduced in 1906. By the time production of steam engines was phased out in Görlitz, in the late 1950's, the plant had undergone several changes in ownership and manufacturing scope, having been completely dismantled and reconstructed after World War II.

## HUMAN ASSETS

Pondering the twists and turns of 20th-century history, the persistence of Görlitz Machine Engineering and its successor Siemens is staggering. Flexibility and the ability to adapt quickly to changing environments have been traditional strengths shown time and time again. The history of engineering in Görlitz has been the history of the vision, will, determination, and competence of the people of the town, realized in the technical products with which it now supplies the world.

## FACING TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES

Today Görlitz is the lead factory among all plants in the Siemens industrial steam turbine network, providing planning and production support for the facilities in Brazil, India, Sweden, the Czech Republic and other countries. Order books are full, and steam turbines have a solid future of at least a couple of decades, notably due to Kyoto-induced sustainable-energy programs issued and subsidized in a number of industrialized countries. These endorse power generation processes which employ high-efficiency steam turbines, including biomass plants, solar power plants, and Integrated Gasification Combined-Cycle (IGCC). In addition, many of the mega-scale processing plants currently being built around the world employ great numbers of large compressors optimally driven by steam turbines.

## BEST SOLUTION FOR BEST PRICE

Addressing an audience of some 300 guests, including state and town representatives as well as clients and suppliers from all over the world, keynote speakers at the Görlitz centennial celebration pointed out that any product or solution will be ultimately evaluated by its total cost of ownership (TCO), availability becoming the single most important factor. Reducing TCO is a goal shared throughout the value chain and achieved through Siemens' global manufacturing and sourcing structure, its harmonized processes and — most of all — people excellence. Summarizing the presentations of the day, Dr. Frank Stieler, President

Siemens Power Generation Industrial Applications, concluded: "We are well prepared to meet our clients' expectations of getting the best solution for the best price."



Celebrating a hundred years of turbine excellence: ceremonial act at the turbine plant; Siemens-designed tram; brewing jubilee beer; night-time scenes from an exhilarating open-air concert in downtown Görlitz.

### THE HISTORY OF GÖRLITZ TURBINE MANUFACTURING

- 1906** First delivery of impulse-type steam turbines built under license of Escher-Wyss
- 1939** Supply of a 36-MW condensing turbine for the Farge power plant, one of the largest single-shaft plants at the time
- 1945** Dismantling of the factory in accordance with the Declaration of German Defeat Performance
- 1952** Delivery of the first post-war steam turbine
- 1971** Construction of the first high-speed package unit back pressure turbine
- 1991** Acquisition of the plant by SIEMENS KWU, renamed to Siemens Turbinenwerk Görlitz GmbH
- 1999** New machine investment for blade, rotor, and casing centers
- 2001** Foundation of the new Industrial Applications Division of Siemens Power Generation resulting from the merger with the DemagDelaval Group
- 2003** Acquisition of Alstom industrial turbines and creation of a global network
- 2006** 100th anniversary of first steam turbine delivery of Görlitz Turbine Manufacturing

