

ABB Traction factory in Turgi receives Industrial Excellence Award 2014

Close collaboration with rail customers, service and innovation are keys to success.

Baden, October 28, 2014 – On Wednesday, October 22, ABB Traction, part of ABB's Power Conversion business in Switzerland, received the Industrial Excellence Award 2014 for the best factory in the German speaking countries, which is shared with a German automotive tier 1 supplier. The prize is awarded by a group of renowned international business schools led by WHU in Germany and INSEAD in France.

The annual competition, first held in 1995, recognizes excellence in strategy implementation and processes along the entire value chain, from suppliers to end customers. Remo Lütolf, country manager of ABB Switzerland said "The jury was impressed that a production plant in a high-wage country like Switzerland has, for more than a decade, reliably posted double-digit growth and steady market share growth despite fierce international competition."

Along with state-of-the-art processes in engineering, supply chain management and production, the panel was especially impressed with the factory's close cooperation with vehicle manufacturers and rail operators, its strong combination of new business and service, and its quick implementation of innovations. ABB's production facility for generator circuit breakers in Switzerland was recognized as the best factory in Europe in the same contest in 2010.

The ABB unit in Turgi in the Swiss Canton of Aargau is a specialist in developing and producing traction converters and traction packages for propulsion and on-board electrical equipment of rail vehicles. It supplies various rolling stock manufacturers and rail operators in different countries.

Besides new trains, ABB Traction is also increasing its focus on the modernization of existing fleets. This includes a retrofit of the electrical systems on high-speed trains for SJ, Sweden's state-owned rail operator. In September it received a contract from Swiss Federal Railways SBB to install highly energy-efficient traction converters in more than 100 SBB Re460 locomotives, also known as "Lok 2000," extending the service life of the locomotives by another 20 years. The fleet of modernized SBB locomotives will save more than 27 Gigawatt hours of electrical energy per year.

Innovative power electronics enables excellent performance, reliability, and energy efficiency of ABB traction packages. ABB sees huge potential in power electronics as a key technology for further boosting energy efficiency in many different applications.

In Switzerland, ABB's high-power semiconductor factory in Lenzburg, corporate research lab in Baden-Dättwil, and the power electronic products and systems in Turgi form a global competence center in this field.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation engineering. The company enables its power-supply and industrial customers to improve their performance while at the same time reducing their environmental impact. The companies of the ABB Group are active in about 100 countries and have a worldwide workforce of some 145,000 employees. About 6850 of them are in Switzerland.

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