

## In the deep forest....

In the deep forest in the landscape of many Swedish fairy tales, in the province of Dalarna (centre of Sweden), lies the town of Ludvika. In Ludvika, next to Väsman, a large lake, is the second largest



ABB plant in Sweden. Ludvika has about 25,000 inhabitants and some 3,000 of them work in the plant. Consequently, ABB is very important for the growth and prosperity of the town.

Most of the production in ABB Ludvika is concentrated on High Voltage Products, but since September this year, Medium Voltage AX1 production has relocated here. It moved from a town called Arboga, about 150 km south. The move was due to cost cutting measures. With the move to Ludvika, there is now the possibility to take advantage of the synergies of all the other product units in the Ludvika plant. There is also a very good base for further developments, since ABB Ludvika has the world's biggest site for High Voltage Apparatus production.

## The AX1 factory

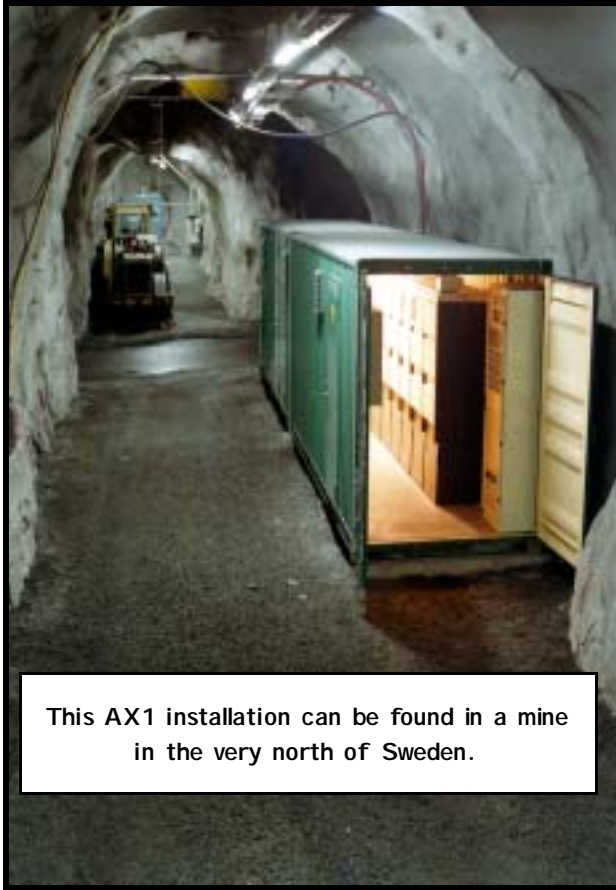
The factory for Medium Voltage Products produces only AX1 switchgear. It is a small, integrated factory inaugurated the 6<sup>th</sup> of November this year by Guido Traversa, BA manager for Medium Voltage Technology. The factory has its office and production side by side, with glass windows in-between so that the clerks and the factory people can see each other. The people working in production have a very nice view of Lake Väsman. Furthermore, the manufacture in Ludvika has reduced the pre-assembly to achieve a more cost-effective production, better able to satisfy the specific needs of individual customers.

## AX1

AX1 is modern, medium voltage, air insulated switchgear from ABB. AX1 is based on a safety philosophy. The complete High Voltage (HV) space for several incoming and feeder cubicles are one common metal enclosure, with no access for man under service conditions. In order to enhance the safety against human hazard and reduce the restoration time in case of failures, a device called the "Arc Eliminator" has been developed, type tested and applied. The arc eliminator is released by the integrated ABB optical arc guard detection system. Three phase contacts close simultaneously in less than 5 milliseconds, measured from light pulse to contact. If an open arc occurs within the switchgear, all three phases are earthed so quickly that a dangerous pressure increase doesn't have time to build up, and hot and poisonous arc gases don't have time to form.

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## Continued... The AX1 factory in Ludvika Sweden



This AX1 installation can be found in a mine in the very north of Sweden.

AX1 is the perfect switchgear for small spaces that need high security, such as mines and oil platforms. Also, its compact design makes it the smallest switchgear on the market today, compared to other switchgear in the same class.



*We are the modern factory for the modern switchgear concept and we want to be the obvious and recognized choice for clients in North Europe for oil and gas, mines and underground applications, says Hans Gleimar, BAU manager for Medium Voltage Products in Sweden. He hopes that 2003 will be a successful year for AX1.*

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