

The history of ABB in North America

A power and productivity timeline

The beginning

ASEA (Allmänna Svenska Elektriska Aktiebolaget) is formed by the merger of Elektriska Aktiebolaget with Wenströms & Granströms Elektriska in Sweden.

Growth of the electric industry and birth of many companies and technologies still in use today.

ABB

The ABB logo is revealed at the first combined management meeting in Cannes, France. The design divides each letter into quarters that represent the company's four main business areas: power plants, power transmission, power distribution and industrial equipment.

Taylor

ABB announces an agreement to buy Stamford, Conn., based Combustion Engineering Group. Now part of the Process Automation group, this acquisition included AccuRay & Taylor.

ABB launches Azipod, a family of electric propulsion systems that are fixed to the outside of ships providing both thrust and steering functions. They increase maneuverability, efficiency and the space available on board.

1890



Charles E. L. Brown and Walter Boveri establish Brown, Boveri & Cie (BBC) in Baden, Switzerland. Shortly afterward, Brown Boveri is the first company to transmit high-voltage power.

1891

1988

ASEA and BBC merge to form the new company, with headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland. The new group, which started operations on Jan. 5, 1988, had revenues of \$17 billion and employed 160,000 people around the world.

1989

ABB acquires the transmission and distribution business of Westinghouse. This gives ABB a leading production position for distribution and power transformers, instrument transformers, transformer components, high voltage breakers, medium voltage breakers and reclosers, surge arresters, and capacitors.



1990



ABB sponsors soccer venue at the Special Olympics Summer World Games in New Haven, Conn. ABB also sponsors again in 1999.

1995

Executive VP for the Americas region and head of ABB Inc. in the U.S., Robert Donovan, is killed in a plane crash in Croatia on a U.S. commerce trade mission to rebuild infrastructure in the Balkans ([more](#)).

1996

ABB installs world's largest drive at NASA's National Transonic Facility Wind Tunnel in Virginia.



1997

ABB launches the FlexPicker, a game changing delta robot uniquely designed for the high speed picking and packing industry. Pepperidge Farm uses ABB FlexPicker robot arms to pack their Milano cookies.

1998

1999



U.S. authorities approve ABB's [acquisition of Elsag Bailey](#). This merger includes: [Totalflow](#) as well as [Fischer and Porter](#) (Wickliffe, OH office).

ABB unveils a wind power technology that makes wind farms more competitive with conventional large power plants. The WindformerTM increases power output by up to 20 percent and cuts lifetime maintenance costs in half.

2000



2001

ABB lists shares on the New York Stock Exchange on April 6, 2001.

ABB acquires Mexican drilling and production equipment company FIP S.A., a leading supplier of pressure containing equipment for oil and gas production in Mexico. The acquisition broadens ABB's product range as well as open new markets for ABB products in the growing Mexican oil and gas market.

ABB installs world's largest battery storage system in Alaska.



ABB ranks number one in corporate sustainability by the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI), topping the electric components and equipment industry group.

ABB sells its metering division to a German gas company. It is now known as Elster Solutions.

2002

2003

ABB launches its Extended Automation System 800xA providing a process automation system that has since been installed at thousands of medium to large process plants in the Oil & Gas, Chemical, Pulp & Paper, Metals, Mining and Life Sciences industries delivering continuous productivity improvements.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology recognizes ABB's Wide Area Monitoring System (WAMS) as one of the "Top ten emerging technologies that can change the world."

2004

The Industry Segment Initiatives including wind, rail, and smart grid are created to cut across ABB's traditional division structure and drive new growth for ABB with focus centered on the way our customers do business.

ABB reorganizes global structure to create the first ever North American region.



2005

ABB acquires Raffin Electric Company in Canada. Raffin Electric is a leader in custom pre-manufactured Power Distribution Centers and other electrical distribution equipment used in harsh outdoor environments ([more](#)).

The ABB Foundation is established in the U.S. to help improve the quality of life in the communities in which ABB employees live and work by providing disaster relief and funding local programs that promote education, culture, arts, health and welfare.

2006

2007

ABB acquires PowerTran Company based in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada to establish a world-class transformer repair service operation in Western Canada ([more](#)).

ABB commissions world's largest Static Var Compensator (SVC) for Allegheny Power in Maryland.



2008

ABB's mine hoist system boosts productivity for world's largest potash mine in Canada.

The Board of Directors of ABB appoints Joe Hogan as Chief Executive Officer of the ABB Group, the first CEO from North America.

ABB acquires the business of Ber-Mac Electrical and Instrumentation Ltd. of Calgary, Canada in order to expand its presence and capabilities in the oil and gas sector ([more](#)).



ABB moves its North American regional headquarters to Cary, N.C., from Norwalk, Conn.

2009

ABB builds world's largest Static Var Compensator (SVC) installation for Oncor in Dallas, Texas. ([more](#), [even more](#))

ABB moves its Houston operations to a new facility at 3700 West Sam Houston Parkway. As the headquarter location for the Process Automation division, Houston is also a targeted growth market.



ABB founds ABB Technology Ventures (ATV), the corporate venture capital arm of ABB. ATV is focused on bringing together new technologies, new markets and new talent to discover tomorrow's energy solutions and to accelerate the growth of ABB's global power and automation businesses. ([more](#))

ABB wins Best Practices Award by Plant Services magazine for outstanding plant performance management ([more](#)).

ABB acquires U.S. transformer company Kuhlman Electric Corporation for an undisclosed amount from global private equity firm The Carlyle Group to expand its power products portfolio in the Americas. Kuhlman Electric manufactures a wide range of high-quality transformers for the industrial and electric utility sectors ([more](#)).

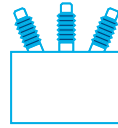


ABB completes a major visual rebranding to differentiate itself from competition and ensure that customers perceive ABB as one company and one brand.

ABB launches Automation & Power World (APW) in North America, its flagship customer conference and exhibition world-wide. The 3,000-person event combines the previous Automation World and Power World events, showcasing all products and services under one roof for the first time. Today, the event has grown to more than 5,000 attendees and includes more than 400 workshops, hands-on training, an extensive exhibit hall, customer events, and many networking opportunities.

ABB robot featured in "Terminator Salvation" movie. ([more](#))



ABB acquires Sinai Engineering Corporation to enhance its presence and capabilities in Western Canada. Sinai Engineering provides engineering services in the areas of generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power since 1980. Its offerings include High Voltage substations and transmission line design, generation and transmission system planning and analytical studies, as well as procurement and construction management.



ABB announces plan to build a new factory in the U.S. to manufacture high-voltage land cables for power transmission.

2010

ABB acquires Ventyx for more than \$1 billion from Vista Equity Partners to strengthen its network management business and become a leading provider of software solutions for managing energy networks.



ABB completes acquisition of Prairieville, Louisiana, company K-TEK, which becomes part of the Measurement Products business unit within ABB's Process Automation division.



2011

ABB completes acquisition of Envitech Energy to expand its presence in North American rail market. The acquisition expands ABB's technology offering in the electrical equipment and solutions sector for rail infrastructure including traction rectifiers, traction power components, trackside braking energy absorption devices, automatic grounding and energy storage solutions. ([more](#))

ABB opens its Smart Grid Center of Excellence in Raleigh, N.C., to provide customers with integrated Smart Grid solutions for distribution automation.



ABB announces acquisition of Australian based Mincom Limited from private equity firm Francisco Partners - to expand their enterprise software business for undisclosed sum. Mincom is now part of Ventyx. ([more](#))



ABB acquires Baldor Electric USA for \$4.2 billion in an all-cash transaction. The addition of Baldor's around 6,800 North American employees brings the number of ABB's employees in North America to approximately 17,000.



2012

ABB acquires Thomas & Betts in a \$3.9 billion cash transaction. The addition of Thomas & Betts' around 9,400 employees brings the number of ABB's employees in North America to approximately 29,000.

ABB successfully designs and develops a hybrid DC breaker suitable for the creation of large inter-regional DC grids. This breakthrough solves a technical challenge that has been left unresolved for over a hundred years and was perhaps one of the main influencers in the 'war of currents.'

ABB completes acquisition of commercial and industrial wireless technology specialists Tropos ([more](#)).



ABB employees and companies were involved in nearly 300 projects world-wide, donating approximately \$5.5 million in cash and providing about 5,000 man days in volunteering time.

2013

ABB acquires Power-One in a \$1 billion all-cash transaction, to become the leading global manufacturer of solar inverters. ([more](#))

Greg Scheu, a Group Executive Committee member, is appointed Region Manager for North America

Automation & Power World reaches record attendance with nearly 5,300 registered attendees.

ABB is named one of the 2012 America's Safest Companies by *EHS Today*.

ABB's research and development investments total more than \$1.4 billion – 3.7 percent of the company's \$39 billion total revenues – marking a 68% rise in R&D spending since 2007.

ABB is named one of the Networked Grid's Top 10 Vendors in Smart Grid by Greentech Media Research. ([more](#))

Thomson Reuters recognizes ABB as one of the world's top 100 innovators.

2014



ABB is awarded the Zayed Future Energy Prize 2014 in recognition of its efforts to drive innovation, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

To be continued...

A global leader

ABB is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs 150,000 people.

Power and productivity
for a better world™

