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Press release from AFRY

ABB ready for 5G together with AFRY, Ericsson and Telia

ABB Power Grids' transformer factory in Ludvika is connected using its own mobile network, which is a part of the company's digitalisation work for smarter production. This is possible thanks to close cooperation between AFRY, Ericsson and Telia.

5G creates entirely new conditions for the industry. The connection is based on the latest mobile technology and enables flexible, efficient and qualitative production. By installing the latest mobile technology in production, ABB Power Grids has obtained a fast and robust solution with real-time data that does not leak outside the area.

As a first step, the factory that manufactures winding couplers has been connected to its own mobile network. In the factory, among other things, wireless torque drawers have been connected to the network. It gives the operator reliable real-time data and thus complete control of the number of torque wires.

The technology that is installed in the factory makes it possible to gather more knowledge about the products during production, to detect errors at an earlier stage and to provide greater transparency and traceability. In the long term, the technology will enable increased automation as well as the use of machine learning and AI applications.

"Among other things, we are looking at remote control of different processes, which benefits us from a safety, efficiency and quality perspective. Another example is optimisation and distance monitoring of our drying plants, which are basically running 24 hours a day, seven days a week and thus require some monitoring", says Tobias Hansson, site manager at ABB Power Grids in Ludvika and Senior vice president Power Transformers in Europe.

ABB has created a future-proof innovation platform for managing new demands that come with increased digitalisation in production.

"We have contributed with the combination of in-depth industry knowledge and expertise in network and 5G technology. We have a unique understanding of new technology and how it should be applied to address existing challenges within the industry sector", says Lennart Waldenström, Head of Digitalisation at AFRY.

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