



50 years of HVDC: 1954 - 2004

In 2004 it was 50 years since the first commercial high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission in the world was commissioned. It was the 100 kV, 20 MW submarine cable from the Swedish mainland to the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea.



The Gotland HVDC project was the beginning of a successful technology where ABB is the undisputed world leader. About 100,000 MW HVDC transmission capacity is installed in more than 100 projects all over the world. ABB is also the world leader in HVDC cable manufacturing.

2004-05-06 celebration at Visby, Gotland:



- ❑ [Press release](#)
- ❑ [HVDC veterans' presentations \(pdf, 0,65 MB\)](#)
- ❑ PEI (Power Engineering International) article: "[HVDC Systems Gotland: the HVDC pioneer](#)"

Video film (5:25 min.) about the HVDC history



[The Silver Thread](#) (Large version 15.1 MB)

[The Silver Thread](#) (Small version 6.5 MB)

Article in ABB Review 4/2003: "50 years of HVDC "



Part 1: ABB - from pioneer to world leader



Part 2: The semiconductor 'takeover'