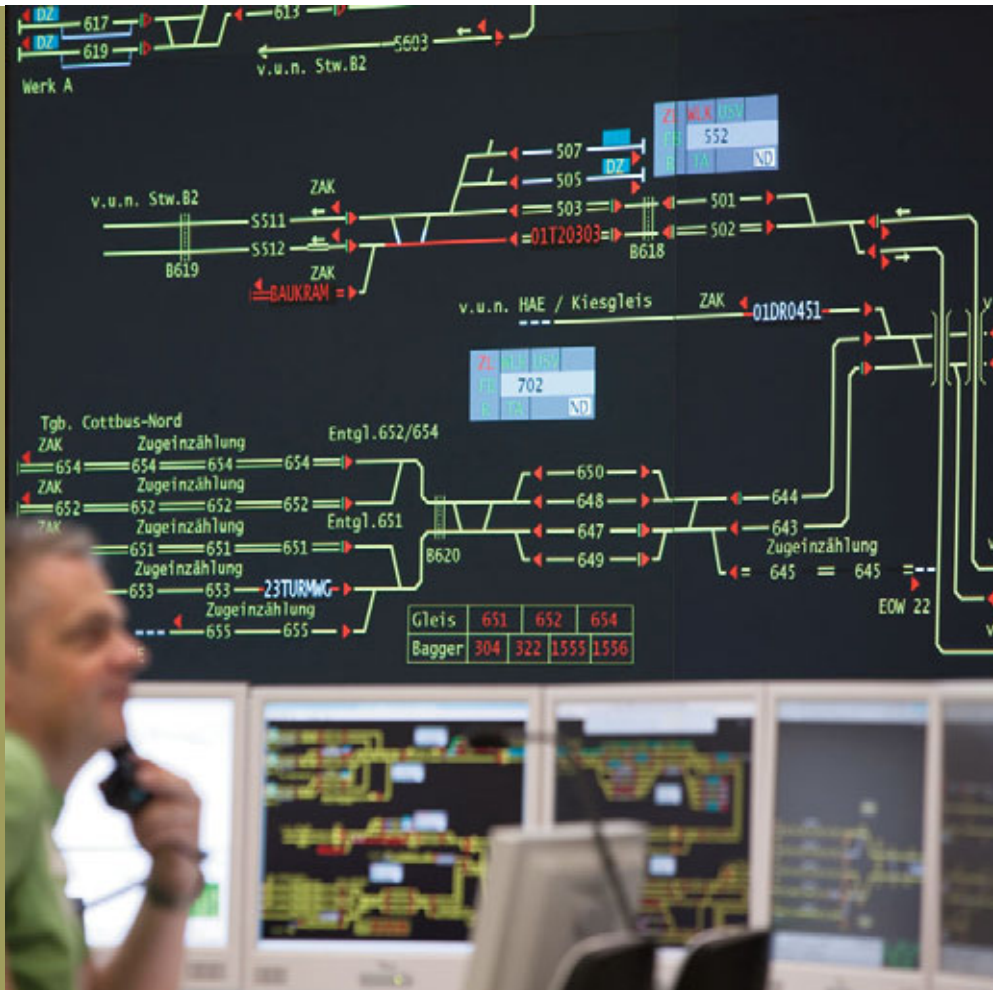


# Vattenfall Europe Mining, Germany

“No other competitors came close”

“There was a lot of light in the exhibition room and yet the images on the Barco wall were crystal-clear and bright. No other competitors could compare.”

Ulrich Platta,  
head engineer Vattenfall Mining



How many companies can claim they have a railway of their own, complete with a fleet of rolling stock? Vattenfall Europe Mining, part of the large Vattenfall Electricity Group, can. The company is the proud owner of a 380km-long rail network, which was built to transport lignite to its power plants.

Vattenfall Europe's rail transport activities are operated by the Zentraler Eisenbahnbetrieb (ZEB), which controls and monitors the tracks at a dedicated building in Schwarze Pumpe. Barco is a well-established name there. The Barco video wall that was installed in 1996 was replaced by a brand-new visualization solution in 2009.

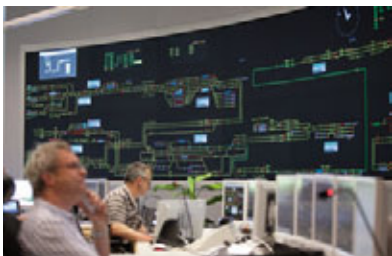
**BARCO**

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Headquartered in Sweden, the Vattenfall company is one of Europe's leading energy companies. With coal remaining an essential source of base load power, the group owns and operates five lignite mines close to its lignite-fired power plants in eastern Germany. Vattenfall Europe Mining is responsible for all the mining activities. To ensure the smooth transport of lignite from the mines to the power plants – and ash and gypsum back from the plants – Vattenfall's Zentralen Eisenbahnbetrieb (ZEB) operates a 380km-long railway.

At ZEB's control center in Schwarze Pumpe, operators ensure that all rail traffic runs smoothly. They have a real-time overview of the rail system on a large video wall. "We installed our first video wall in 1996. It was a Dr. Seufert product, which was top of the line at the time. In 1998, Barco took over Dr. Seufert so we might say our first wall was a Barco," said Ulrich Platta, head engineer. Platta and his team have always been satisfied with it: "We switched it on in 1996 and switched it off to replace it with the new wall in 2009, without any major problems or downtime in between."



M30240-R00-1210-AN December 2010

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### Bright light, great images

Yet, in 2008 an upgrade of the 1996 wall was unavoidable. It had become difficult to find spare parts and the controller was no longer compatible with the new Siemens rail management software. Moreover, Vattenfall wanted better ergonomics, including a higher-resolution and brighter display wall. "Whilst Barco was top of mind again, we decided to study the market first," Platta continued. "The Barco booth at a trade fair convinced us to stick to Barco. There was a lot of light in the exhibition room and yet the images on the Barco wall were crystal-clear and bright. No other competitors came close."

### A partner rather than a supplier

Vattenfall Mining called in Barco for the total refurbishment of the control room. While a subcontractor took care of the decoration (cladding, floorcoverings, etc.), Barco engineers buckled down to designing and installing the display wall. "They were a real partner, rather than a supplier," said Platta. "The project was far from simple. The circular form of our building and the pillars in the middle of the control room, for example, challenged the design team. Yet from Day One, Barco thought along with us to build the best solution." Once the plan was ready, a team of four to six Barco engineers worked around the clock for a week to get the wall up and running, neatly integrated with the new Siemens software.

### Comfort boosts productivity

In December 2009, Vattenfall Europe Mining inaugurated its new rear-projection Barco wall, composed of 2 x 11 cubes of 70". As satisfied as Vattenfall was with the first Barco product, the more enthusiastic they are today. Platta: "The images are exceptionally bright, there is high contrast and wide viewing angles. This maximizes readability, thereby improving ergonomics: the better the quality of the video wall, the less our operators suffer from eye fatigue. We believe the increased work comfort boosts productivity and employee morale." To ensure wall uniformity, the OV-715 projection module incorporates Sense<sup>6</sup> sensor technology that continuously guards and adjusts luminance and color characteristics to provide the best possible conditions for the human eye.

### A more than worthy successor

"Our operators' responsibility is huge," Platta concluded. "They have to monitor countless trains, 20 signal boxes, 340 sets of points and over 700 light signals and be able to react instantly if something unexpected happens. A clear, real-time overview is, therefore, indispensable. In 1996, we did a pioneering investment in a reliable Barco wall that has supported us for many years. The new Barco wall is a more than worthy successor!"

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