

Intellectual contribution to the company's development



Kraków takes a special place on the ABB manufacturing map. There are no manufacturing halls here and the effects of work cannot be measured or weighed. Yet products originating from Kraków are used all over the world – in most ABB factories, engineering offices, technology centers and in the sales network. It is because Kraków is one of seven Corporate Research Centers and at the same time one of two Information Systems Delivery Centers for ABB. In total, there are a few hundred people who work on optimizing production, improving quality, increasing efficiency and decreasing production costs every day.

Corporate Research Centers in the world

The ABB Research Organization operating within the framework of two Global Laboratories, has Corporate Research Centers in Europe, the USA and in Asia. The versatility of the ABB research organization specialization is worth noting, as it focuses around the key sectors of ABB business: automation and power industry. The fact that 80% of ABB products are based on solutions developed within the last five years proves the innovative character of some of ABB business areas.

ABB widely cooperates with universities and scientific institutes all over the world. This concerns both expert opinions and scientific consulting by research institutions' employees and advanced research in many fields, which often results in joint inventions and patent applications. ABB products are highly technologically advanced. This is the effect of the policy pursued by the company board for many years: the company supports research activities and in 2012, ABB invested more than USD 1,2 billion in research and development.

Corporate Research Center in Kraków

The ABB Corporate Research Center in Kraków was established in 1997. It carries on research in various fields for the whole company. Its employees are graduates of many Polish and foreign universities. The team of scientists is of highly interdisciplinary character: beginning with fields traditional for the company, such as power products and power systems, power electronics, automation, mechanics, through diagnostics and manufacturing processes, to fields whose development has been particularly visible in the recent years, namely: IT technologies and systems, and nanotechnology. The driving forces behind the innovative activity of the Kraków center are ABB's needs and challenges imposed by the market. Direct contacts with factories and industrial plants provide us with information about fields where new solutions are necessary. This information stimulates us to create new product concepts and develop innovative technologies.

Development confirmed by patents

The ABB intellectual base, whose core consists of scientists from Kraków partnering with engineers and designers from Przasnysz, Łódź and Aleksandrów Łódzki, lends the company a powerful force and a competitive edge in the Polish and world-wide market. In recognition of the effects of their work, the Institute of Economics of the Polish Academy of Sciences has honoured ABB for the largest number of patents in several editions of its ranking.

Information Systems Delivery Center

About 350 analysts, programmers, database specialists and web applications designers support ABB's key global computer systems. It is the biggest structure of this type in the world, which serves the whole ABB Group. Young IT specialists design, develop and improve numerous solutions supporting the company's operations. The applications are implemented in production lines, used to analyze quality and plan production, as well as to design equipment. The Center employees are also responsible for many global applications supporting the work of Communications, Finance, Marketing, Sales, and many other departments. Experts from Kraków are involved in developing most tools used every day in the websites (www.abb.com) and intranet sites (inside.abb.com). System users are supported by Service Desk employees. Apart from the Kraków-based group, the IS Delivery Center includes also several dozen people working from Łódź, where support, designing and sales systems as well as ERP systems are developed. The projects developed in the IS Delivery Center are implemented in cooperation with employees and consultants from all over the world. The Center development plans provide for taking global responsibility for subsequent applications and group processes and work on developing other business areas.

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