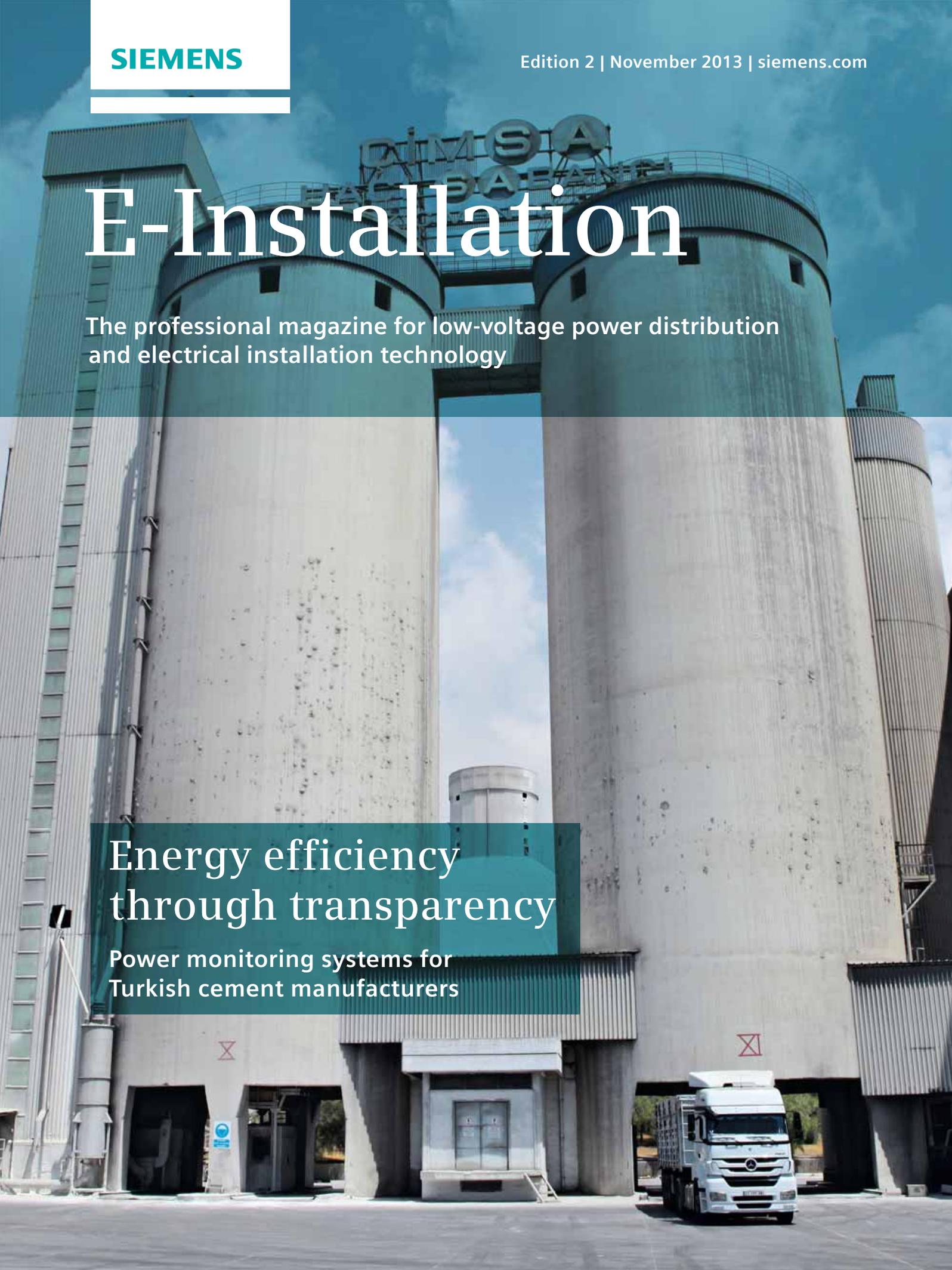


E-Installation

The professional magazine for low-voltage power distribution and electrical installation technology

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Global Industry Partner of WorldSkills International

Education is the future: WorldSkills Leipzig 2013

At WorldSkills every two years, the world's greatest talents in careers not requiring a college degree compete in an exciting contest. This year, the vocational world championships took place in Germany again, for the first time in 40 years – supported by Siemens.

More than 1,000 young professionals from 52 countries and regions vied for coveted world titles in the dramatic finale of the 42nd International WorldSkills Competition July 2–7 at the Leipzig exhibition grounds. The wide assortment of 46 occupations represented ranged from skilled crafts and trades to service careers to industrial and technical work. Evaluated by expert teams based on numerous predefined criteria, the participants, who were up to 22 years old, quickly and convincingly carried out various challenging tasks over the course of several days.

Unforgettable experiences for the participants

The journey to Leipzig alone posed many challenges for the title contenders. In a selection process lasting several months, the “athletes” first had to prove themselves in regional and national competitions and prevail against numerous competitors. New priorities

were set on a daily basis, from diagram drawing and troubleshooting, to installation and programming, to visualization and commissioning.

The candidates usually receive intensive support in their countries from WorldSkills experts. Once the competition task is known – generally six months before the international competition – and the national competitions are over, the training can start. “And then there is practice, practice, and more practice,” said André Röthlin of Switzerland, WorldSkills International (WSI) technical chief expert for Skill 19 Plant Electrics. He also belongs to the team that defined the task for the plant electricians. “This is in no way simple to do. If it’s too easy, then the challenge is not great enough. If the task is too hard, the candidates can become frustrated. This year’s challenge was a bit borderline. After all, the candidates had 22 hours to deal with tasks that usually need more than double that amount of time. But they all did well.”

The Siemens contribution

At WorldSkills Leipzig 2013, in addition to Plant Electrics, Electrical Installation, and Polymechanics/Automation, Siemens also supplied several CNC disciplines with current industry products from its portfolio, in cooperation with the venue naming rights partner DMG / Mori Seiki.

For Skill 18, Electrical Installation, various Siemens components were used, including miniature circuit breakers, RCBOs, Neozed fuse systems, and Insta contactors, as well as perfectly matched control cabinet system kits and command and signaling devices. With this equipment plus personal knowledge and a great deal of concentration, the participants were required to complete one installation task for building installations in the residential and office area, a second task in the area of commercial installations involving Knx programming, and a third task involving troubleshooting in a prebuilt system.

Ultimately, two gold medals for this skill went to the participants from Japan and Switzerland, followed by three bronze medals for the teams from Korea, Sweden, and England. The German participant in this skill finished in 11th place, only 20 points behind the first-place finishers. In the overall standings of this year's WorldSkills, which are calculated from the total medal points earned, the first three places were occupied by Korea, Switzerland, and Chinese Taipei, with Germany in 7th place.

Within the scope of the Siemens Automation Cooperates with Education (SCE) program, Siemens supported WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 particularly in the area of industrial automation. In addition, at a booth under the slogan "Discover your skills and opportunities together with Siemens," Siemens presented the roughly 200,000 visitors with ongoing education

concepts in Germany as well as offerings related to dual study, a combination of study and vocational training. Because, according to Siemens SCE project manager Roland Scheuerer, "Education is our future. That's why we support the best professionals with our first-class equipment, along with training and technical support in the preparation phase."

Through SCE, educational institutions worldwide benefit from Siemens' knowledge of automation and drive technology, with a range of hardware and software packages, adaptable teaching materials for practical lessons, and special continuing training courses.

Partnership with societal impact

At the last competition, WorldSkills 2011 in London, Siemens equipped the competitors with components for automation and drive technology. Alongside companies like Samsung, Würth, and Festo, Siemens has been a Global Industry Partner of WSI since 2010.

For Simon Bartley, president of WSI, Siemens is very important: "With their world-class competencies, partners like Siemens make an important contribution to always keeping WorldSkills in contact with the requirements of the future labor market. With this partnership, Siemens can also present itself to young people as an attractive company." ■

INFO AND CONTACT

siemens.com/worldskills
lehmann.ottmar@siemens.com

For the current Siemens video on WorldSkills,
 visit sie.ag/WSL13E

Install and wire, ...



check everything again, ...



and test it at the end – subtask complete.

