Oktoberfest rides

Over six million people visit Munich’s Oktoberfest every year. To keep the show going, Siemens supplies drives, control and power distribution systems. Many of the festival’s rides – including major attractions like the Giant Ferris Wheel, the Wild Water Ride, the Power Tower and the Wave Flyer – rely on Siemens technologies.

- Forever fun: the Journey to Paradise, a 70-year-old roller coaster, is one of the highlights of this year’s Historical Oktoberfest. The traditional carousel is still powered by its original 11-horsepower Siemens motor.

- Produced by the Willenborg company, the Oktoberfest’s 50-meter-high Giant Ferris Wheel is the largest attraction of its kind in the world. First set up in 1978, the Ferris wheel has 40 gondolas – enough to carry 400 passengers – and weighs up to 540 tons. For this year’s festival, the ride’s technology was completely modernized and its automation systems updated with the installation of a Siemens SIMATIC S7 modular controller.

- Passengers in the Power Tower, an Oktoberfest favorite since 2002, fall 66 meters in less than five seconds. Two 450-kilowatt, 612-horsepower Siemens motors ensure that the tower’s 13-ton gondola, which holds up to 32 thrill-seekers, rises and falls quickly and, above all, safely. A quality seal from TÜV München, Munich’s technical control board, testifies to the ride’s safety. About 1,000 hours were spent testing the Power Tower before the first passengers were allowed to enter.

- From the outside, the Odyssee adventure ride looks like a Greek temple. But inside, Siemens technologies control lasers, video sequences, water screens and lighting effects.
The **Wild Water Ride**, the world’s largest mobile rough water attraction, covers an area of 60 x 40 meters, has a 650-meter-long track and contains 700 cubic meters of water. Siemens technologies not only support the pumps responsible for the ride’s water flows. A separate container, the so-called "power station", houses all the Siemens technologies needed to operate the attraction.

For the Wellenflug merry-go-round called **Circuswelt**, a Siemens system automatically measures total passenger weight and adjusts the hydraulic system to meet the ride’s precise energy requirements. An intelligent control system guarantees that passengers enjoy a smooth take off and a soft landing, while precisely measuring their total weight saves energy. The merry-go-round has been controlled by a Siemens SPS system for over 50 years.

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Further information and press pictures on Siemens technology at the Oktoberfest are available at: www.siemens.com/presse/oktoberfest