



Traditional Zwickau Company Celebrates its 140th Anniversary by Entering a New Market

GAZ is evolving from a "mere" battery manufacturer into a provider of complex energy storage solutions as the company enters new markets. As part of its parent company Bochemie Group, GAZ soon opens a third site in Saudi Arabia.

Founded in 1884 as Friemann & Wolf, the company developed from one of the world's leading manufacturers of miner's lamps into a no less important battery producer. In recent decades, GAZ has specialized in nickel-cadmium batteries for industrial applications, including energy generation from renewable sources. GAZ and its parent company Bochemie will now also offer [battery storage systems made from lithium-ion cells](#) for this application.

In its 140-year history, the company has experienced many significant changes, including the takeover by the Bochemie Group in 2019. Even before that, the two companies worked closely together, as the Czech chemical company [Bochemie](#) was the sole supplier of important materials and electrode parts for GAZ. Since the acquisition, however, the group of companies has been able to cover the entire value chain. GAZ's turnover has almost doubled since 2019 and the company now supplies over 120 markets. Among other things, GAZ founded a US subsidiary in Houston last year and is building a third production facility in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, from which GAZ will supply markets in the Near and Middle East.

"Not only GAZ, but also Bochemie is celebrating an anniversary this year, namely 120 years. Together we are now opening up a new market segment, and not just by adding another battery chemistry to our product portfolio. We will be offering a whole range of battery storage systems based on lithium-ion cells and incorporating electronics and other auxiliary systems developed in-house. We are therefore evolving from a manufacturer of accumulators to a provider of integrated and scalable solutions for energy storage and peak shaving. Their unique selling point is not only European top quality, but also an unprecedented emphasis on safety," says David Vodička, Managing Director of Geräte- und Akkumulatorenwerk Zwickau.

The newly developed battery storage systems are based on lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cells, which have a longer service life and slightly lower acquisition costs compared to other types of lithium-ion cells, but above all have little tendency to thermal runaway. GAZ will offer these storage systems in three different capacity ranges, namely 115 kWh, 372 kWh and 5 MWh. Whether in cabinet or container size, each system has a modular design and therefore enables further scaling of the storage capacity.