

EUROPEAN TRANSFORMER

LEAD TIME INDEX

Q2 2026 EDITION

Real procurement intelligence from 14 manufacturers across 6 European countries.

Published by Fred ARNAUD · GridReadiness · May 2026

14	6	5 YEARS	€200–600K
Manufacturers Tracked	Countries Covered	Max Lead Time (Major OEMs)	Avg Unit Cost (50–150 MVA)

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The State of European Transformer Supply — Q2 2026

NO IMPROVEMENT AT MAJOR OEMs

ABB, Siemens Energy and Hitachi Energy continue to quote 48–60 month lead times for large power transformers (100 MVA+). No meaningful capacity additions are expected before 2028 at these manufacturers. Their order books are full through 2028–2029.

SECOND-TIER MANUFACTURERS REMAIN THE BEST OPTION

Pauwels (Belgium), TMC (Italy) and Efacec (Portugal) continue to offer 20–32 month lead times for medium power applications (10–100 MVA). Efacec has marginally improved following a Q1 2026 production expansion. For projects targeting 2028 commissioning, these manufacturers represent the most realistic procurement path.

US BUYER PRESSURE IS TIGHTENING EUROPEAN SLOTS

North American enquiries to European transformer manufacturers have risen significantly. Several manufacturers report that North American projects now represent 15–25% of their enquiry volume. This is absorbing available European production capacity and will extend lead times further over H2 2026.

USED MARKET PRICING UP 40–60% SINCE 2023

The secondary market for quality HV transformers continues to tighten. Tested, certified units from European industrial decommissioning (cement, steel, paper) are being absorbed faster than they become available. Average pricing for 50–150 MVA used units has risen 40–60% since 2023.

SWITCHGEAR COMPOUNDS THE PROBLEM

Medium voltage switchgear lead times of 18–36 months mean that transformer delivery is not the only bottleneck. Projects that have secured transformer slots still face switchgear constraints. The compound lead time — transformer + switchgear + installation — means 2028 commissioning requires immediate procurement action.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Any AI data center, semiconductor fab or Physical AI facility requiring a 50 MVA+ transformer and targeting commissioning before Q1 2029 must initiate procurement immediately. There is no timeline left for deferral.

Large Power Transformers — 100 MVA and above

Data gathered through direct manufacturer contact, procurement intelligence and public earnings disclosures. Lead times represent time from order confirmation to delivery on site, excluding installation.

Manufacturer	Country	Q2 2026 Lead Time	vs Q2 2025	Trend	Notes
ABB Power Grids	CH / DE	52–60 months	+2 months	▲	Order book full to end 2028
Siemens Energy	DE	48–56 months	unchanged	—	Prioritising utility clients
Hitachi Energy	SE / CH	50–58 months	+1 month	▲	New capacity in 2028
GE Vernova	FR	44–52 months	-2 months	▼	Slight Q2 improvement
Schneider Electric	FR	36–44 months	unchanged	—	Sub-100 MVA focus
Brush Transformers	UK	40–48 months	+3 months	▲	UK demand surge
WEG Transformers	DE / BR	38–46 months	unchanged	—	German ops expanding

ANALYSIS

The large power transformer market shows no signs of lead time normalisation. The slight improvement at GE Vernova is attributable to a specific Q2 slot opening rather than structural capacity expansion. ABB's continued lengthening reflects order book absorption from North American AI infrastructure demand. No major OEM is expected to return to sub-36 month lead times before 2028.

Medium Power Transformers — 10 to 100 MVA

Manufacturer	Country	Q2 2026 Lead Time	vs Q2 2025	Trend	ANSI Export
Pauwels Transformers	BE	24–32 months	unchanged	—	Yes
TMC Transformers	IT	20–28 months	-1 month	▼	On request
Efacec	PT	20–28 months	-2 months	▼	Yes
Schneider Electric	FR	18–26 months	unchanged	—	Yes
Trasfor (dry-type)	CH	12–20 months	unchanged	—	On request
Tamini	IT	22–30 months	+1 month	▲	Limited
SGB-SMIT	DE	28–36 months	+2 months	▲	Yes

Grid Connection Timelines by Country

Country	Grid Operator	Connection Timeline (50MW+)	Power Price	Recommendation
France	RTE	18–36 months (brownfield)	EUR 50–70/MWh	BEST OPTION
Germany	50Hz/Amprion	36–60 months (Frankfurt: avoid)	EUR 80–110/MWh	EAST GERMANY ONLY
Belgium	Elia	24–42 months	EUR 75–95/MWh	MODERATE
Netherlands	TenneT	36–54 months (Amsterdam: avoid)	EUR 70–90/MWh	AVOID MAJOR CITIES
Portugal	REN	24–36 months	EUR 60–80/MWh	UNDERRATED OPTION
UK	National Grid	24–48 months (SE: avoid)	EUR 75–95/MWh	SCOTLAND/NORTH ONLY

Second-Hand HV Transformer Availability — Q2 2026

Unit Spec	Origin	Condition	Indicative Price	Availability
20–50 MVA, tested, IEC certified	FR/DE cement	Good	EUR 200–500K	Limited
50–100 MVA, OEM, documented	BE/DE steel	Very Good	EUR 400K–1.2M	Scarce
100–200 MVA, major OEM	DE/FR heavy industry	Good	EUR 800K–2.5M	Very Scarce
200 MVA+, industrial origin	DE/FR smelter	Variable	EUR 1.5–5M+	Exceptional
Dry-type 5–30 MVA (Trasfor/ABB)	Various	Good	EUR 80–300K	Moderate

Note: Prices have risen 40–60% since 2023. Units sourced from industrial decommissioning require independent DGA oil testing, insulation resistance measurement and grid operator acceptance before deployment. GridReadiness maintains active sourcing relationships with European industrial decommissioning networks.

What These Lead Times Mean for Your Project

- 2026 commissioning: IMPOSSIBLE without existing on-site transformer. No new unit can be delivered in time.
- 2027 commissioning: Only possible with used transformer sourced and ordered immediately, or second-tier EU manufacturer ordered now.
- 2028 commissioning: Achievable with second-tier EU manufacturer ordered in Q2/Q3 2026. Major OEM: too late.
- 2029 commissioning: Achievable with major OEM if ordered in Q2 2026. Standard planning horizon.
- 2030+ commissioning: Full choice of manufacturers. New EU fab capacity may reduce lead times slightly.

Lead time data is gathered through: (1) direct contact with manufacturer commercial teams, (2) procurement intelligence from data center and industrial developers, (3) job posting analysis revealing production constraints, (4) public earnings call disclosures. This report reflects market conditions as of May 2026. Lead times can change rapidly. GridReadiness updates this index quarterly. Next edition: September 2026.