The large power station was established to supplement three older electricity works in response to the general uptake of a new energy system of electricity in both factories and private households. Industry was switching from steam engines to electric engines, while in ordinary homes, gas and kerosene lamps were being replaced by electric light bulbs. In 1915-16, Copenhagen's growing demand for electricity spurred the City of Copenhagen to establish the new power station on a landfill site by the waterfront in Sydhavn, the south harbour. The station was named after H.C. Ørsted, who had discovered electromagnetism almost a century earlier. Only a part of the site is open to the public, the DieselHouse museum, but the power station may be viewed from the perimeter.