

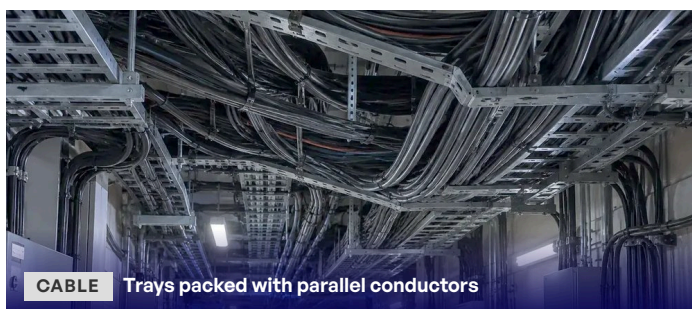
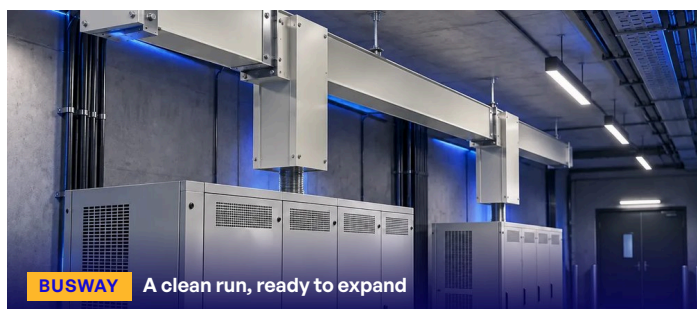
Busway vs. cable

How to choose the right low-voltage feeder and compare with real numbers.



Busway run in an electrical room · illustrative render

At low currents and on short runs, **cable is usually cheaper**. As current, run length and the need to add or move loads go up, **busway wins**: it takes less space, installs faster, arrives factory-tested and adapts as the building changes. The right comparison is not price per meter but **the total cost of the installed system**.



POINT-BY-POINT COMPARISON

	BUSWAY	CABLE IN TRAY OR CONDUIT
Space	One compact run (LVA from 125 mm wide) replaces a whole bank of cables.	At high currents it takes several parallel cables per phase, wide trays and generous bending radii.
Installation	Prefabricated sections joined with a single bolt, with no way to cross phases. Fewer hours on site.	Pull, dress, support and terminate every conductor. Labor-intensive, and the result depends on the installer.
Changes and expansion	Plug-in outlets ready for new loads. On Data Pro the box goes anywhere along the run, tool-free.	Every new load needs a new circuit from the panel, with its own raceway.
Electrical performance	Low, known impedance; published voltage drop. Current shared evenly between phases.	Parallel cables can share current unevenly if their lengths or arrangement differ.
Short circuit	Declared kA ratings, verified by type tests to IEC 61439-6.	Behavior depends on how the cable was secured on site.
Fire and smoke	Halogen-free insulation and fire barriers at floor and wall penetrations.	Large cable banks add a heavy fire load; LSZH cable must be specified.
Harsh environments	GM cast-resin busway: IP68, buried, submerged or corrosive. LVA up to IP66.	Each condition calls for special cable and raceway.
Maintenance and service life	Few joints, easy to check with thermography. Can be removed and relocated if the building changes.	Many terminations to inspect, faults hard to locate; usually scrapped in a remodel.
Material price	Higher per meter at low currents; competitive at medium and high currents.	Lower at low currents and on short runs.

Price per meter does not tell the whole story

For a fair comparison, add up everything around the conductor on both options:

Raceway and supports

Trays, conduit, hangers and anchors for every parallel cable.

Lugs and connections

Every conductor needs lugs, torquing and testing at both ends.

Space

Larger shafts, electrical rooms and ceiling voids are square meters you cannot sell.

Upsizing

On long runs, voltage drop forces a larger size or extra cables.

Labor hours

Pulling and dressing cable takes days; prefabricated sections shorten the schedule.

Future changes

Every expansion with cable is new construction; with busway you plug in a box.

Measured as a system, busway often matches or beats the installed cost of cable, especially with high loads, long runs and expensive space.

WHEN EACH ONE MAKES SENSE

Busway is the better fit if...

- ✓ You feed from transformer to main switchboard at medium or high currents.
- ✓ Your building has many floors and needs a riser with a tap-off per floor.
- ✓ Shaft and electrical-room space is scarce or expensive.
- ✓ Loads will change or grow (data centers, retail, industry).
- ✓ The run is outdoors, buried, wet or corrosive (GM).

Cable is the better fit if...

- The circuits are low current.
- The run is short with few bends.
- You feed individual final loads (equipment, receptacles).
- The routing is very irregular or still changing in design.

WHICH BUSWAY FOR WHICH PROJECT



LVA

250–5000 A · IP54–66

Risers in residential towers, retail, offices and industry. Strongest case above 10 stories and with high loads.

[Sales sheet →](#)

[Manual →](#)



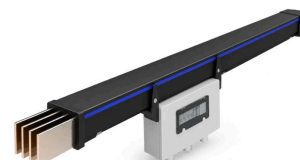
GM

400–5000 A · IP68

Buried, submerged or outdoor runs, or with salt and chemicals. Ports, petrochemical, hydropower.

[Sales sheet →](#)

[Manual →](#)



Data Pro

160–1000 A · IP42

Data centers and technical rooms: power above every rack row, boxes that move without tools.

[Sales sheet →](#)

[Manual →](#)