

Thuringia Focus



Thuringia offers investors a great variety of greenfield sites: The industrial park 'Erfurter Kreuz' is just one example. Source: State Development Corporation of Thuringia (LEG Thüringen) / Heiko Wagner, Erfurt

Thuringia paves the way for a fresh round of investment

On behalf of the state of Thuringia, the State Development Corporation is forging ahead developing industrial land with the latest facilities so that new businesses can move in as soon as possible.

In a third phase of development of the 'Erfurter Kreuz', already the largest industrial estate in Thuringia, a further 100 hectares is being developed. As contiguous sections of this size are becoming harder to find in Germany and therefore much in demand, the Corporation will not be dividing the land into small sections. Work is also under way at 'Kiebitzhöhe' industrial estate in Kölldeda, where a further 57 hectares will soon be available for all the companies that wish to be 'on the ground' close to Daimler subsidiary MDC Power. And Gera, too, is crea-

ting physical space for new investment by developing an estate named 'Cretzschwitz' in anticipation of new businesses moving in. "Gera needs to broaden the horizons of its economic development. We believe developing this land will give industry in the whole region a real boost," said Thuringia's Minister of Economic Affairs, Wolfgang Tiefensee, when he handed over the decision on funding to the city late last year. The first stage will be to develop approximately 42 hectares for which priority will be given to businesses that require up to 8 hectares of land. (gro)

i News

Arnstadt – N3 Engine Overhaul Services, a joint venture between **Lufthansa Technik** and **Rolls-Royce**, has been maintaining and repairing aircraft engines in Thuringia since 2007. Recently, the company has announced that it will take over the technical work on the new Rolls-Royce Trent XWB engines, exclusively used in the Airbus A350 XWB, in autumn this year. Thus, the company expands its product portfolio to a total of four different engines. N3's staff has grown to 600 and it now overhauls 100 large civil Rolls-Royce Trent aircraft engines each year.

Gera/Jena – D+S communication center is increasing its call center activity in Thuringia and taking on more staff. The inbound business for customers of the telecommunication and entertainment sector seems to flourish. By the end of this year, 140 new jobs will be created in Jena and a further 60 in Gera, taking the company's staff to 840.

Rudolstadt – The laying of the foundation stone for the construction of a new factory at Rudolstadt-Schwarza was celebrated recently in the presence of the Thuringian Minister of Economic Affairs. **J.C. Binzer HyFi GmbH** is planning to manufacture filters and non-woven filters made from paper for applications in machinery and automobile manufacturing in the new factory. It will invest approximately EUR 10 million, which will initially lead to the creation of about 20 jobs. The company purchased the 2-hectare section in the grounds of a former chemical fiber combine from the State Development Corporation of Thuringia, which had converted the whole area to an up-to-date industrial estate.

i News

Germany tops 'Best Countries' list

According to U.S. News & World Report magazine, Germany is the 'Best Country in the World'. In a joint project with brand strategy firm BAV Consulting and Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, the magazine identified and ranked the 'best countries' in 10 categories, including 'adventure', 'quality of life', 'power' and 'entrepreneurship', using a questionnaire distributed to 16,000 people in 36 countries. Germany scored full marks for 'entrepreneurship' and high rankings for 'well-educated population' and 'properly functioning bureaucracy'.

Data processing center in Jena expanded

Internet provider EUser Internet, which launched in Thuringia in 2005, is planning to expand its data processing center. Where currently 2,000 servers operate around the clock, there will soon be 4,000. "With this investment in expanding the center, we are laying a foundation that will enable us to provide our clients with reliable services that meet their needs promptly and efficiently," says Managing Director Dirk Seidel. Continuous investment and the establishment of a highly motivated regional team would allow the company to adapt rapidly to a fast-growing market, he said.

i Dates

> 25 – 29 April 2016

Hannover Messe,
International Trade Fair, Hanover

> 23 – 27 May 2016

Metallobrabotka,
International Exhibition for
Machine-tool Technology, Moscow

> 21 – 24 June 2016

Automatica, Trade Fair for Automation and Mechatronics, Munich

A 'must' for the Thuringian Optics Sector

Thuringian businesses and researchers in the optics field were pleased with their participation in international events for the photonics, optics and laser industry in San Francisco and Shanghai in February and March.

A total of 32 Thuringian businesses and researchers travelled to the west coast of the United States to present their latest developments at **Photonics West**, the world's biggest trade fair for photonics, laser and optical technologies. The group comprised mainly small- and medium-sized companies alongside optics heavyweights Jenoptik and Carl Zeiss and a number of start-ups from Jena. Exhibiting at the event has become a 'must' for many Thuringian companies – and their order books show why. "Sixty-six per cent of the turnover of these companies comes from exports, which shows how strong their international links are. The international market is predicted to continue growing in the coming years, especially in Asia and the United States," says Klaus Schindler, Managing Director of the Thuringian photonics network, OptoNet e.V. Attending Photonics West proved particularly worthwhile for three up-and-coming researchers from the Institute for Applied Physics at Friedrich Schiller University in Jena: Thomas Gottschall, Sven Breikopf and Helena Kämmer received awards for the results of their research. Thomas Gottschall won the 'JenLab Young Investigator Award' for developing a laser source



Thuringian companies attended the Laser World of Photonics in Shanghai. Source: State Development Corporation of Thuringia/Spiegler

the size of a shoebox, i.e. 20 times smaller than comparable systems, which is in demand for medical imaging processes. The eight Thuringian companies that made their way to **Laser World of Photonics Shanghai** in China in March also found the trip well worth it. Supported by the LEG Thüringen's team Thuringia International, three of the companies exhibited at the shared Thuringian stand at this trade fair, while the other five had their own stands. All made a lasting impression on customers from the rapidly growing Asian market. (gro)

Exporting shows solid growth

Thuringia continues upward trend for exports, records best result since 1991.

In 2015, the value of goods exported from Thuringia reached EUR 13.5 billion, an increase of 4.2% on the previous year. "The value of exports in 2015 was the highest since 1991," says Thuringia Statistics Office President Günter Kromholz. To give just one example of a company contributing to this growth, medical technology manufacturer Geratherm, from Geschwenda, last year increased its annual turnover by double digits. A manufacturer of fever thermometers that concentrates on exporting, it recorded

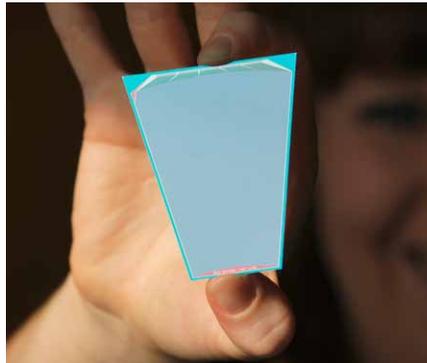
annual growth of 15.4% and a turnover of EUR 21.6 million in 2015 – its best result ever – despite the subdued mood on international markets. With the support and guidance of the State Development Corporation's team Thuringia International, more and more small- and medium-sized companies are venturing out onto the international scene.

There is one gloomy segment to report, however: for the many businesses whose main foreign customer is Russia, EU sanctions against that country in the wake of the conflict in the Ukraine made the figures for 2015 rather skimpy. (gro)

Cooperation between CiS and CERN gets fresh impetus

New research contract: the CiS-Research Institute for Microsensors in Erfurt is to join 11 other partners in Europe working on next-generation high-performance sensors for CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, at its main site in Meyrin, Switzerland.

The sensors, for which the researchers have received funding of approximately EUR 3.9 million from the European Union, are a key part of the planned expansion at CERN for the high-performance particle accelerator with up to 10 times more energy for particle collisions. The CiS has been working with CERN for 16 years and has made a substantial contribution to many major CERN experiments, including proving the existence of the Higgs boson elementary particle in 2012. The new research project, known as STREAM – Smart Sensor Technologies



A new research project has started at the CiS in Erfurt. Source: CiS

and Training Radiation Enhanced Applications and Measurements – gives 17 young scientists the opportunity to conduct research in the field of intelligent sensor technology and write their doctoral dissertations. Their new insights into particle physics that will come thanks to the CiS in Thuringia are eagerly awaited. (gro)

@ www.cismst.org

i Technology news

Funding for photonics cluster

The Thuringian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Science has announced approximately EUR 272,000 in funding until 2018 for the activities of the state's photonics cluster, SpectroNet, to assist with keeping Thuringia 'on the map' as a center for optical measurement technology. The money will be put into developing a new office and setting up a center for applications and training. In the years to come, SpectroNet will facilitate the development of new products and applications services, intensify inter-business cooperation and cooperation between businesses and research institutes and open up new markets.

New laboratory for film coating

The Fraunhofer Institute for Ceramic Technologies and Systems (IKTS) in Hermsdorf is extending its research department, which develops innovative battery systems, by investing in a new laboratory for manufacturing ceramic films. Two new units will make it possible to pour films that will soon be able to be used in lithium ion batteries, which are used in smartphones and notebook computers. The IKTS worked closely with MKF GmbH in Lederhose, Tridelta Thermoprozess GmbH in Hermsdorf, Suchy Textilmaschinenbau GmbH in Korbußen and other companies in the region.

At last – a qualification for patent engineers

Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences in Jena, now offers a further qualification for engineers to become patent engineers. The only Master's course of its kind in Germany can be studied part-time alongside work. The five semesters of study cover how best to obtain protective rights for a firm's new developments. This fills a significant gap in the qualifications available in Germany: thanks to engineers with this additional training, firms will be able to protect their innovations from the very beginning.

Industry in the age of digitalization

Ilmenau University of Technology receives approval to build a new center of competence, 'Mittelstand 4.0' (Mid-sized sector 4.0), designed to enable Thuringian companies to maximize the growth and competitive benefits of industrial digitalization in the future.

Continual advances in modern information technologies, and the way they are being integrated in all processes, technologies and sectors, is posing huge challenges for more and more companies. At the same time, digitalization of the workplace offers opportunities for growth that the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) estimates as being worth additional turnover of EUR 200 to 400 billion in Germany by 2025.

As one of 10 such centers of competence in Germany, the Thuringian center will soon begin its work of supporting small and medium-sized companies in the state with all aspects of digitalization and the application of Industry 4.0. Members of the consortium, under the leadership of the Thuringian Center for Mechanical Engineering (ThZM) at Ilmenau University



Technologies for automating production processes, including for manufacturing automobiles, are increasingly in demand.

Source: shutterstock/Blaz Kure

of Technology, are putting together an application for funding. Existing initiatives, such as the 'Wirtschaft 4.0' Thuringian Center of Competence and the State Development Corporation of Thuringia's broadband center of competence, will be closely linked with the Thuringian Center for Mechanical Engineering. (gro)

@ www.tu-ilmenau.de

Lakeside strolling in Zeulenroda

A mobility-friendly promenade built in Zeulenroda in January is whetting people's appetite for a view of the water. Visitors can now stroll along a three-kilometer-long stretch of the reservoir and enjoy the beauties of the outdoor recreation area in the Vogtland.

The new trail is part of the 45-kilometer-long network of certified hiking trails around the former drinking water reservoir that links two favorite tourist destinations – the public swimming and recreation area near BioSeehotel and the swimming beach. "Tourism is booming in the Vogtland region. The new opportunities for wellness and nature tourism around Zeulenroda Lake will



The former drinking water reservoir is developed into an attractive outdoor recreation area. Source: Bio-Seehotel Zeulenroda

make the region even more attractive for visitors," says Thuringia's Minister of Economic Affairs, Wolfgang Tiefensee. A new wellness area currently taking shape at BioSeehotel, called 'Panorama Spa', will also be open to the public. (gro)

@ www.zeulenrodaer-meer.de

Honoring the Ernestines

On 24 April, Thuringia opened a new state-wide exhibition dedicated to its royal ancestors and the many and various ways they influenced Europe.

'Eine Dynastie prägt Europa' (A dynasty shapes Europe) is the title of the exhibition in Weimar and Gotha, where almost everything revolves around the Ernestines, one of the most important ruling families since the 14th century. Until 28 August, visitors can meander through at least 4,000 square meters of exhibition space as they immerse themselves in more than 400 years of Ernestine history. While visitors to Weimar will learn about the role of the

Ernestines in faith, empire and science, those who go to Gotha will gain insight in the royals' daily life outside the public eye. The exhibition also briefly covers the family's significance for the flowering of the arts and the development of Thuringia and central Germany. The loss of the electorship in 1547 meant that the influence of the Ernestines was restricted to central Germany for many years. Against a background of a breakdown into as many as 10 branches of the family line at times, a plurality of cultural life arose that is still tangible in Thuringia and its neighboring regions today. (gro)

@ www.ernestiner2016.de

New face at Bauerfeind AG



NBA star Dirk Nowitzki has become a brand ambassador for a family-owned company in eastern Thuringia. Source: Bauerfeind AG

Basketball star Dirk Nowitzki is promoting top-quality products from Thuringia. A player for NBA team the Dallas Mavericks for many years, he recently became the global brand ambassador for Bauerfeind AG, a family-owned company founded in 1929. Bauerfeind, which has 2,000 staff around the world, is based in Zeulenroda, in eastern Thuringia. It develops and manufactures bandages, braces and supports, compression socks and orthopedic insoles. (gro)

i Dates

> 5 May – 19 June 2016

'Köstritzer Spiegelzelt'

A wide range of music and top-class cabaret in a huge marquee, Weimar

> 13 May 2016

Thuringian 'Schlössertage'

Concerts, tours and lectures at castles throughout Thuringia under the banner 'Aufgespielt! Rendezvous der Künste' (Let's play! The arts come together)

> 21 May 2016

'GutsMuths Rennsteiglauf'

The largest trail-running event in central Europe – in the Thuringian Forest



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