Weimar – The Legefeld business park has seen the laying of the foundation stone for the new building of Antennenotechnik Bad Blankenburg GmbH. The move to Weimar was necessary because of the lack of expansion area at the old site. At the new 1.9-hectare site, with its excellent autobahn access, a sum of €4.1 million is being invested in a production building along with a two-story edifice for administration, R&D and staff facilities. The production building is being erected by the Thuringian Industry Leasing (ThIV) and leased to Antennenotechnik, leaving the company with more financial resources available for R&D, marketing and other investment. It is also planned to expand the workforce. The product range comprises multiband antennas for trucks, buses and special-purpose vehicles. Besides the new mobile telephony generation, a future division will be devoted to the technology and software behind the antennas. Customers include the Daimler truck division, MAN, Scania and John Deere. (maa)

Langewiesen – A new, bigger headquarters building, but still located near Ilmenau University of Technology (TUI) – these were important criteria for senTech Elektronik GmbH’s new building. Created in 1999 as a spin-off from TUI, the company develops solutions and complex systems for measuring temperatures in inaccessible places using radio transmission. It also develops microprocessor modules, and is playing a pioneering role since 2008 in the field of radio sensor networks. For example, every new vehicle undergoing preproduction testing throughout the world is equipped with senTech sensors for measuring the brake disk temperatures. (maa)
Big in Japan: Strong demand for optical know-how from Thuringia

As part of a series of events for the internationalization of selected clusters in the east of Germany, a Thuringian delegation from the optics and photonics industry traveled to Japan at the end of August. Organized by GTAI (Germany Trade & Invest), Optonet e.V. and LEG Thüringen, and headed by Iris Gleicke, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and Commissioner of the German Federal Government for the New Federal States, the destinations were Tokyo and Hamamatsu.

Thuringia has already enjoyed a technology partnership with the city of Hamamatsu for many years now. The outstanding know-how existing in Thuringia in the field of optics technology encounters a world-beating photonics sector in Japan, offering a high level of potential for cooperation between the two. In addition to two investor events, each with around 100 participants, cooperation forums with over 30 matches, various company visits also took place.

Accelerating efforts to develop growth markets

Today, Mexico is one of Thuringia’s most important trading partners in Latin America, with the export volume quadrupling during the last ten years. It is therefore only natural that in early October, a 30-man trade delegation headed by Thuringia’s Economics Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee should have travelled to Monterrey, Mexico City and Querétaro. The visit resulted in the conclusion of further cooperation arrangements, especially relating to the much sought-after products in the fields of measurement and control equipment, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and machine tools.

A similar success was achieved by a visit to the end of September by 20 representatives of business and the science sector under the leadership of State Secretary for Economic Affairs Georg Maier to India. Practical results of the visit include the opening of the Thuringia International Office in Delhi as well as cooperation agreements with the Indian federal states of Maharashtra and Delhi. Additionally, the Thuringia-based companies GBneuhau and Lehmann+Partner were able to conclude concrete cooperation agreements with their Indian partners.

German-Brazilian Economic Forum in Thuringia

This year, more than 500 representatives of the German and Brazilian business sectors found their way to Thuringia. Thanks not least to the innovativeness, cultural diversity and economic dynamism of the state of Thuringia with its location at the heart of Germany, Weimar presented itself as an ideal venue for this year’s bilateral conference. Brazil is Thuringia’s most important economic partner in Latin America, with almost 100 business enterprises from Thuringia engaged in activities there. On the fringes of the meeting, agreements were signed on expanding the cooperation between universities in Thuringia and the State of Santa Catarina. The State Development Corporation of Thuringia (LEG Thüringen) also organized an attractive program of accompanying events, with company visits and business matchings with interested firms from both countries.
Chasing criminals with the aid of a ten-print scanner

With the world’s smallest ten-print scanner, Jenetric GmbH from Jena is causing quite a stir. The FBI-certified scanner is a useful tool in a wide range of applications.

It is small. Very small. Weighing just 113 grams and measuring only 11 by 12 centimeters, it is the smallest of its kind, but is still able to do a great job. “We have reduced the size, weight and power consumption of the scanner to a minimum and are able to offer our customers a made-to-measure solution for the development of portable detection kits and mobile devices,” states Roberto Wolfer, one of the founders and managing directors of the Jena-based biometrics company. The ten-print scanner can be easily fitted into mobile devices or special case solutions. As a result, the scanner not only facilitates the work of criminalists. The innovation from Jena also makes the performance of mobile border controls or the registration of voters much easier. (gro)

For its recently completed new headquarters building in the “Erfurter Kreuz” industrial complex near Arnstadt, Born Senf und Feinkost GmbH has received an award from the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB). Together with Goldbeck, the company responsible for the planning and construction of the new building, Born has been awarded a Platinum Certificate by the DGNB for creating a new administration and logistics center that fulfills all the latest principles relating to sustainability and energy efficiency. “To my knowledge, this is the very first Platinum Certificate that has ever been awarded by the DGNB for an investment project in Thuringia,” said Andreas Kiermeier, Goldbeck branch manager. The new building is CO2-neutral, a photovoltaic system supplies power via an integrated energy store to – among other things – four electric filling stations for supplying part of the BORN Senf vehicle fleet, and efficient heat pump technology and a green roof, paired with innovative solar protection inside the cavity between the glazing, ensure a pleasant, energy-saving indoor climate. (gro)

High accolade for Lindig Fördertechnik

Lindig Fördertechnik, a logistics company based in Krauthausen near Eisenach, Thuringia, has received the highly prized “Global Leadership Award” in recognition of its corporate management and staff handling approach.

At Lindig Fördertechnik, how to optimally manage and motivate the staff and foster their development is not just theory; it is actually lived and put into practice in the best possible way, every single working day. This is the firm conviction of the jury of this year’s “Global Leadership Award”, which is presented by the training company Crestcom. As one of the first companies from Thuringia, the supplier of forklift trucks and aerial work platforms was awarded the highly prized distinction at this year’s event in Vancouver in recognition of its innovative, people-focused corporate culture. The family-run business, which is now in the third generation, employs some 300 people at presently six locations, including Erfurt, Göttingen, Kassel and Eisenach. (gro)

www.jenetric.de

www.lindig.com
Small part. Big effect.

Top technology from a small firm in Thuringia helped track cycle champion Kristina Vogel sprint to Olympic Gold in summer 2016.

A lead of a mere four thousandth of a second was all that separated Erfurt cyclist Kristina Vogel from her British rival Rebecca James in the sprint finale in Rio, but was nevertheless big enough for the girl from Thuringia to win gold. In achieving this success, however, the world champion track cyclist and Olympic winner was able to rely not only on her strategic skills and muscles, but also on a cycle component made by the Australian firm of Kappstein GmbH. In 2011, LEG Thüringen succeeded in convincing the company of the benefits of setting up an operation in Gotha. The component in question – a “sprocket” weighing a mere 19 grams – takes care of optimum transmission of power between the wheel and chain and works virtually wear-free. Kristina Vogel and many other professional cyclists are thrilled by the precision of the Kappstein product. (gro)

A dance between the classical and modern

In October of each year, writers, publishers, artists, media professionals and bookworms all head for the same destination: the Frankfurt Book Fair. With an impressive shared stand, Thuringia’s publishing and media enterprises once again presented themselves jointly at this year’s event, the biggest book fair in the world.

Under the motto “Thüringen – Tanz zwischen Klassik und Moderne” (“Thüringen – A dance between the classical and modern”), Thuringia’s presentation at the fair, which was organized and looked after for the sixth time by the State Development Corporation of Thuringia (LEG Thüringen) on behalf of the Thuringian Ministry of Economic Affairs, brought together 16 Thuringia-based companies all under one roof. Alongside classical book publishers, such as Eckhaus Verlag from Weimar, the Thuringian exhibitors also included providers of digital services in everything to do with books, e.g. the firm of Zeilenwert GmbH from Rudolstadt. The latter has grown into one of the leading independent providers of digital publishing services, and was able to achieve its next major milestone at the fair: After last year taking over Libreka, the biggest distributor of e-books in Germany, Zeilenwert this year concluded a collaboration agreement in Frankfurt with the Polish operator of the e-book portal Legimi. (gro)

Jena to be home to German Optical Museum

To mark the 200th birthday of Carl Zeiss this year, it is planned to create a “German Optical Museum” in Jena in order to showcase the importance of Carl Zeiss and the history of optics. To this end, the existing Optical Museum in Jena will undergo a thoroughgoing transformation to become the “German Optical Museum”, establishing it as a leading museum on the national and international museum scene. “The existing museum already attracts many interested visitors from the whole world who come to experience the comprehensive collection. A new concept would enable us to position ourselves even more successfully at international level,” says Rolf Ferdinand Schmalbrock, Managing Director of the Ernst Abbe Foundation. A new foundation has been set up for the specific purpose of moving the project forward. (gro)