25 years of LEG Thüringen!

We are also celebrating our 25th anniversary this year. Shortly after the German reunification, the State Development Corporation of Thuringia (LEG Thüringen) was founded, and since then we have been committed to the state’s development as an innovative location for business and investment.

Attracting businesses from all over the world represents – alongside with a comprehensive scope of tasks – a focal point of our activities. In order to continue to offer land to investors for their projects, we also include the development of modern industrial areas in our range of responsibilities.

In order to attract investors, we focus on promoting the excellent business opportunities that Thuringia has to offer because of its central location, good accessibility, but primarily owing to the know-how of local companies, universities, clusters and research facilities and the availability of qualified workforce. It has brought us success that is visible in our statistics: Since 1992, our work has resulted in investments of around EUR 10.2 billion and more than 67,000 new jobs. Success stories such as those of the Lufthansa and Rolls-Royce joint venture N3 for the maintenance of aircraft engines began in Thuringia. The two Daimler subsidiaries MDC Power and MDC Technology for the production and upgrading of diesel engines in Kölleda and Arnstadt also got initiated on a customized LEG industrial space. We do not just provide solutions to investors locating in Thuringia: Since 2004, the area of foreign trade promotion has also been a part of the LEG Thüringen portfolio. During our 86 trips to various countries, we have been able to pave way for Thuringian companies to enter international markets. More than 1,100 participants have taken advantage of this opportunity. We will continue to fully support companies in the realization of their business idea. (gro)

www.invest-in-thuringia.de
**Investment News**

**STS Systemtechnik GmbH expands in Schleiz** – The automotive supplier wants to expand the site due to a considerably large order. A new building with a 6,000 m² new production line is planned. On one side, the material is delivered. On the other, the trucks dock for the dispatch of the products; about 35 trucks daily. STS manufactures plastic components, such as glove compartments, center brackets or trunk linings, by injection molding. The new production line - into which a double-digit million Euro amount is invested – is also equipped with lamination and laser technology. Production is scheduled to begin in March 2018. It is planned to expand the existing workforce of about 350 employees by about 150 to 200 new employees until 2019. (maa)

**Magna subsidiary in Schleiz creates 40 new jobs** – 300 employees already produce rear-mirror systems for the automotive industry in the Schleiz industrial area – mainly for vehicle brands from the VW group. Now the automotive supplier **Magna Mirrors Schleiz GmbH** is benefiting from the stronger demand for cars from the Skoda brand. Order books are full; there are three production lines for the Octavia model in Schleiz alone and one for the Superb and the Yeti. New production lines for the A8 successor Audi D5 and for the new A6 and A7 are already being planned. Annually, 1.5 million exterior and 1.4 million interior mirrors are produced in Thuringia. For the year 2017, Magna in Schleiz expects a considerable increase in sales. (maa)

**North America is a launch pad for Thuringian companies**

North America has been and continues to be an important export and investment partner for Thuringia. It was proven once again at the end of May during the Thuringian delegation trip under the joint leadership of Minister-President Bodo Ramelow and Minister for Economic Affairs Wolfgang Tiefensee.

The program for those Thuringian entrepreneurs, scientists and cultural ambassadors traveling to the USA in mid-May was tightly organized. The approximately 50 participants wanted to make the most of their time in Detroit, Chicago, Rochester, Spartanburg and New York to showcase Thuringian skills, culture and economic power and to launch new partnerships.

The extent to which measurable successes for the Thuringian companies are developing from the trip will show in time. Today, around 335 Thuringian companies already have commercial relations with the USA, including Jenoptik, Zeiss and Mitec. Among the foreign investors in the state, the US ranks first. In order to inspire more US companies to come to Thuringia, interested entrepreneurs were introduced to the business location of Thuringia as part of an investor event.

The visit to Canada in November will also be important for the Thuringian companies from the point of view of expansion and initiation of new business connections. The focus of the trip, which begins in Rochester (USA) and then moves on to Toronto, will be the optics and medical engineering sector. (gro)

(www.thueringen-international.de)

**ComTS expands service offer in Erfurt**

It ensures that financial transactions run smoothly: The Commerzbank subsidiary **ComTS** is now active in seven locations in Germany for the service as well as for processing the Bank’s business processes. Also at the Delivery Center in Erfurt. As a result of further expansion, around 100 new jobs will be created there.

The reason for further expansion of the Erfurt site, which currently employs around 400 people, is a new security-related business area being expanded by the Commerzbank at ComTS in Erfurt. We are looking for employees with a commercial qualification, as well as career trainees and specialists with good proficiency in English. While the focus of the establishment of the branch office in Erfurt in 2007 was on mail services, document management, payment transactions and customer service, the range of services from ComTS has steadily expanded since then: Today, the company also assumes a wide range of tasks in finance, accounting, compliance and market operations. (gro)

(www.deliverycenter.org)

**Dates**

› IAA 2017
Sept. 14-24, 2017 | Frankfurt/Main

› EXPO REAL
Oct. 4-6, 2017 | Munich

› FAKUMA
Oct. 17-21, 2017 | Friedrichshafen
The Center for Energy and Environmental Chemistry in Jena (CEEC) is growing: By 2022 a new research facility will be built, which offers ideal conditions for the development of future battery systems.

The new building will expand the existing, already fully exploited research areas by around 2,500 m². For housing the development of material research for the coming generations of energy storage systems, approximately EUR 28 mio will be invested. After the first building complex and the CEEC innovation center “this new research facility represents the next step towards a globally visible battery research center, which will be complemented by a future application center,” explained CEEC Director Prof. Ulrich Schubert.

Today, CEEC is already a leader in material and battery research: On the basis of saline solution and polymers, the Jena researchers developed a novel redox-flow battery. The so-called “plastic battery” can be produced sustainably, is durable and consists of environmentally friendly materials. In April 2017, CEEC researchers Prof. Ulrich Schubert, Dr. Martin Hager and Tobias Janoschka received the Thuringian Research Prize for their research on future battery forms. (gro)

New home for the battery of the future

25 years of Fraunhofer in Thuringia

The Fraunhofer Society is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its Institute for Applied Optics and Precision Engineering (IOF Jena). For the future, the research company has great plans in the field of microelectronics in Thuringia.

Just in time for its 25th anniversary, IOF Jena is inaugurating the new state-of-the-art technology center: After two years of construction, the building offers space for its own pulling of optical fibers, which is particularly in demand for the development of a new generation of powerful lasers worldwide.

The IOF Jena began work in 1992 with 60 employees and an initial equipment of DM 2.7 mio. During the last 25 years, the institute has developed very positively and successfully launched more than 2,400 projects. It is one of a total of 19, which after the reunification was established by the Fraunhofer Society in the new federal states and which is still regarded as a fixed size of the research landscape of the Federal Republic. As was recently announced, Fraunhofer also plans to invest in a new project center in Erfurt, thereby further intensifying its research in the field of microelectronics. In the project center, which is initially planned for five years, 20 employees will firstly be involved in a close exchange with local companies as well as with the Ilmenau University of Technology and the University of Applied Sciences Erfurt. Later the number will be increased to around 60 employees. (gro)
Soon visitors will also be able to experience the whole of Thuringia via „Digital Showroom – 360 degrees“: The digital shop window at Erfurt’s main station will be launched in time for the opening of the high speed train (ICE) express route Berlin - Munich in December.

Although digital exhibition rooms are already being used very successfully for planning and presentations within many industries, such as the automotive industry, Thuringia is the first federal state to initiate such a concept, according to the Minister for Economic Affairs, Wolfgang Tiefensee. From the interactive map of Thuringia to audiovisual VR glasses, the showroom will use all technological possibilities to make the state’s information an interactive experience. Under the slogan „360 degrees – Discover Thuringia digitally“, visitors of the showrooms can compile individual theme tours or go on an exploration tour on an interactive Thuringia model with a robot guide. (gro)

www.thueringen-entdecken.de

Discover Thuringia digitally!

In Erfurt, culture lovers have the possibility to enjoy „The Troubadour“ at the Domstufen Festival this year. The ensemble of Erfurt Cathedral and Severi Church offers an impressive backdrop for the Verdi opera. No less imposing is the scenery of the Weimar summer: With the locations Stadt- schloss, Weimarhallenpark, Notenbank and Cranachhaus, the classicism capital presents itself from its best cultural side and invites to completely different music, theater and exhibition experiences on mild summer evenings.

The city celebrates, among other things, Goethe’s 268th birthday in the illuminated Park on the Ilm, the University of Music Franz Liszt invites to their master classes, the video mapping and facade projection festival Genius Loci makes Weimar constructions veritable story-tellers and the lakeside musical experience that includes everything from rock, pop to jazz to classical music. The summer days will be equally fabulous in Jena with the Kulturarena or in Meiningen with the Kleinkunsttagen. (gro)

Summer events in Thuringia

It is hot in Thuringia! And it’s not just due to the summer temperatures but also to the numerous open-air events which the state offers; that shows a glimpse into the Thuringian Summer Festival program.