

# Thuringia Focus

## **i** Investment News

**Automotive supplier continues growth strategy in Gera – Stahlo Stahlservice GmbH & Co. KG** in plans to invest EUR 45 million in a new plant. After the existing hall in the Gera-Langenberg business area was no longer large enough for the requirements, the Friedhelm-Loh Group company acquired an adjacent area of 4.5 ha. This will create a state-of-the-art machining center for rolled steel strip on an area of more than 22,000 m<sup>2</sup>. A roll of high and ultra-high-strength steel used mainly for car body parts weighs up to 40 tons. The new plant will be unique in its processing capacity in Europe. In the future, the plant can annually double the current 150,000 tons of steel processing. The railway connection was also an important criterion for selecting the location; approx. 80 percent of the material supplies will arrive by rail in the future. In addition to the existing experienced team, new appointments are planned until 2019 to increase the number of employees to around 120. (*maa*)

**US subsidiary grows at the Thuringian site – Carlisle Construction Materials GmbH** has started construction of a new plant in Waltershausen on an area of 11,600 m<sup>2</sup>. EUR 42 mio will be invested in a new production and logistics hall with administration and training center. It is the company's largest investment in Europe. The current 55 employees will be initially increased by ten. Carlisle produces coated liner sheets for technical use. (*maa*)



The LEG headquarters in Erfurt, Mainzerhofstrasse. Photo: LEG Thüringen

## 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 Kölldeda 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*)

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**i** *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 m<sup>2</sup> 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)*

**i** *Dates*

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

› **EXPO REAL**  
Oct. 4-6, 2017 | Munich

› **FAKUMA**  
Oct. 17-21, 2017 | Friedrichshafen

## 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.thuringen-international.de](http://www.thuringen-international.de)



*„Satisfied customers and employees guarantee the success of our company.”*

**Franziska Bartsch, Team Trade Settlement, ComTS**

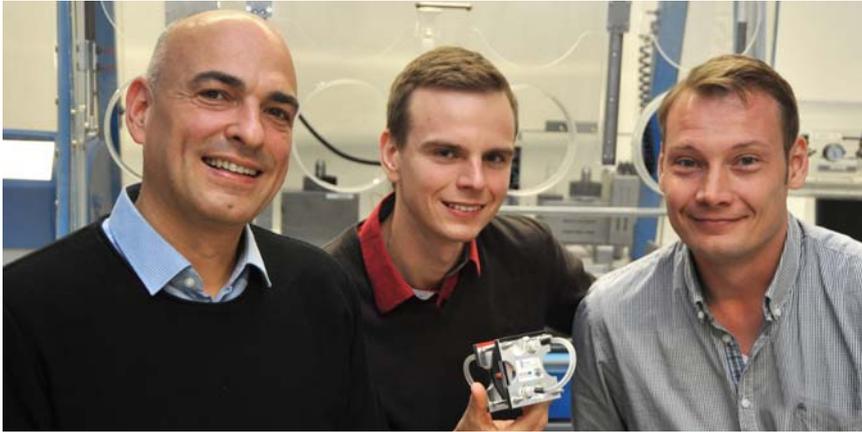
## ComTS expands service offer in Erfurt

**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](http://www.deliverycenter.org)



The researchers from the CEEC. Photo: Anne Günther, FSU Jena

## New home for the battery of the future

**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 m<sup>2</sup>. 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*)

@ [www.ceec.uni-jena.de](http://www.ceec.uni-jena.de)

### **i** *Technology News*

#### **Award-winning innovation from Thuringia**

The portable socket from Obergebra was awarded the German Federal Prize for Outstanding Innovative Performances for the Trades in 2016. Developed jointly by Elektro-Müller and Axsol, the mobile solar plant has been produced in large series since this year. The production of „Arvey“ began in a 500 m<sup>2</sup> hall in the industrial area in Obergebra (Northern Thuringia). The first orders are already coming from Sweden and Turkey. The mini generation plant can also be particularly beneficial for countries with poor power supply, thus a prototype – developed together with the company UST Umwelt-Systemtechnik GmbH – supplies energy for a water treatment plant, which runs without fuel and exhaust fumes. In Sierra Leone, schools have already been equipped with the system in order to be able to run PCs. In Ethiopia, too, a pilot project is running together with a university under the purview of founding of microbusinesses. In Thuringia, a workforce of approximately 60 employees will have developed by the end of the year. (*maa*)

## 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

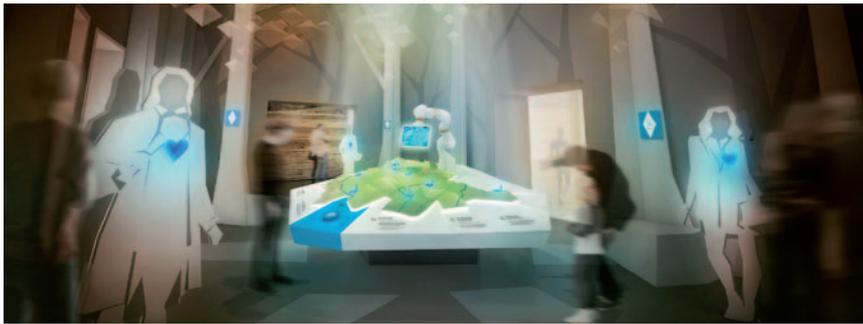


The state-of-the-art IOF building. Photo: Fraunhofer IOF

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*)

@ [www.iof.fraunhofer.de](http://www.iof.fraunhofer.de)



Virtual showcase for Thuringia. Photo: TRIAD, Berlin

## Discover Thuringia digitally!

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 techno-

logical 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](http://www.thueringen-entdecken.de)

### **i** Dates

#### › Achava-Festspiele Thüringen

Aug. 31 – Sept. 10, 2017

Erfurt, Weimar and other places

Concerts, discussion, exhibition, meetings on ideas concerning inter-culturality and inter-religiousness

#### › Blütezeit Apolda

Until Sept. 24, 2017

Garden show Apolda



The Genius Loci Festival. Photo: Genius Loci

## 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.

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 Stadtschloss, Weimarahallenpark, 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)

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