Zeiss invests EUR 300 million at the high-tech location Jena

Major investment in Jena: By 2023, the Carl Zeiss optics group intends to consolidate its existing locations in Jena into a single location and thus establish its second largest location worldwide.

Jena will then become an integral part of Zeiss’ global investment strategy and will connect seamlessly to a series of international projects for the expansion, modernization, and reorientation of locations that Zeiss has been carrying out since 2011, including projects in Germany, Europe and Asia. “As a global technology leader, our investments are aimed at utilizing the existing potential in our growth markets,” says Prof. Dr. Michael Kaschke, CEO of Carl Zeiss AG. “This is why we need an even stronger presence and better networking with innovation hotspots.” In Jena, this would mean close cooperation with institutions such as the Friedrich-Schiller-University, the Ernst-Abbe-University of Applied Sciences, the Ilmenau University of Technology, universities of applied sciences in the region, and local institutes such as the Max Planck Society, as well as with partner companies and local suppliers.

The current grouping of over 2,000 employees at the foundation site is possible because the optics specialist will purchase a partially unused Schott operating site, renovate it, and erect new buildings for an integrated high-tech location. During the course of this major investment, Zeiss intends to recruit around 500 new employees and also to create a dynamic growth environment for start-up companies, thus further increasing the attractiveness of Jena as a high-tech and knowledge location. (gro)

Excellent results for investments in 2017 – Thuringia again maintains its reputation as an excellent investment location this year: 49 companies have invested close to EUR 500 million and have created approximately 2,600 new jobs. The share of foreign investments amounts to about a quarter of all projects. Among them are companies from the USA, Canada, Asia, Australia, Austria, Italy, Denmark, France and the Netherlands. The investors come from different sectors, industry being dominant. However, Thuringia is also regarded as a particularly popular location for logistics projects, which is not least due to its extremely favorable geographic location in the middle of Germany and Europe.

Particularly noteworthy is also the increase in recent years in investments from those already located here, i. e. by companies that have been based in Thuringia for several years and whose local operations have been so successful that they are expanding their capacities or diversifying their portfolio in Thuringia. This clearly shows that the economic environment is very favorable for companies in Thuringia. Whether it’s motivated specialists, fast approval procedures, or the excellent research landscape, Thuringia offers all the conditions for successful businesses. Last but not least, the competent and comprehensive support of the State Development Corporation of Thuringia (LEG Thüringen), which acts as one-stop-shop for investors. (maa)
Ever Pharma lays the foundation for a EUR 100 million investment
The Austrian pharmaceutical manufacturer is investing heavily in expanding its production capacities in Jena. The laying of the cornerstone for a new production hall and a new laboratory building recently took place in the heart of the Thuringian life sciences industry. Over the next four years, more than EUR 100 million will be invested in the Thuringian site. Among other things, the company produces ready-to-use syringes, hormone preparations, and anesthetics. At present, their headquarters are still in the city center of Jena. According to CEO Ulrich Nütz, the goal is to relocate completely to the new location in Jena-Lobeda by 2025. A new logistics center was built there last year. The number of employees will then increase to about 300. (maa)

Online wholesaler Lesara creates 200 jobs in Thuringia
The e-commerce company that is headquartered in Berlin will build a new logistics center in the Erfurt freight traffic center on a 55,000 m² premises. An average of 33,500 packages, increasing to 85,000 packages at peak times, are to be handled daily and delivered to customers in 24 countries. The opening is planned for August 2018 and the site will continue to be expanded in subsequent years. The company specializes in the sale and marketing of fashion and lifestyle products. The advantageous geographic location and the transport infrastructure of Erfurt were decisive factors in the company's selection process of this operational location, which serves as further proof of the excellent investment conditions in Thuringia for logistics companies and other companies that rely on a central location. (gro)

Thuringia strengthens good relations with Japan
Thuringia’s and Japan’s business and science communities have a multitude of excellent opportunities for cooperation and investment, especially in the context of the advanced negotiations on the JEFTA free trade agreement, which are very promising for both countries. This is the conclusion drawn by the Thuringian delegation trip to Tokyo, Hamamatsu and Kyoto, which took place in October 2017 under the leadership of Wolfgang Tiefensee, Thuringian Minister for Economics and Science.

During their stay, the 40-person business and university delegation from Thuringia completed around 50 meetings, including talks with political representatives and universities as well as cooperation exchanges.

In addition, discussions and meetings with Japanese companies were the main focus of the trip, which included the photonics cluster in Hamamatsu, several parent companies of businesses in Thuringia (including Meidensha, DMG Mori, NIDEC and Nissha), as well as other companies where opportunities for future investments and cooperative research were also explored.

In terms of university cooperation, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, among others, confirmed its further close cooperation with the JAXA space agency in the field of remote sensing and the analysis of extraterrestrial materials. The Ernst-Abbe-University Jena will continue its ten-year cooperation with the Tokyo University of Science in materials research. (gro)
The automotive and supplier sector is facing significant shifts in the next years. Photo: Fotolia/rook76

Series: Clusters in Thuringia – Networked for success!

In the course of globalization and specialization, networks and clusters are playing an increasingly important role for the sustainable success of companies in many industries. In Thuringia, there is a whole range of effective industry clusters. In our new series, we introduce the most important technology and industry clusters in Thuringia. The opener is the automotive thüringen e. V. automobile cluster (hereinafter, at).

at starts its fourth quarter of 2017 with a new address and new managing director: Rico Chmelik heads one of the largest industry networks in Thuringia from the company’s Ilmenau headquarters. Started in 2000 with just eight companies, the at network now counts over 100 member companies, which currently employ around 30,000 people and have revenues of about EUR 4.42 billion and an export volume of EUR 1.16 billion.

The automotive and automotive supplier industry is facing significant shifts in the face of product, process and market changes, both within and outside of Thuringia. It makes even more sense to network closely at an early stage and actively support this process. As a result, at and the PolymerMat plastics cluster will cooperate and exchange ideas in the future, especially in the field of lightweight construction. Thanks to the geographical proximity to the Ilmenau University of Technology and the Thuringian Innovation Center for Mobility (ThIMo), there is also a close link between the automotive industry and automobile-related science. (gro)

www.automotive-thueringen.de

EUR 100 million investment for a research institute in Jena

The Friedrich Löffler Institute – FLI (Federal Research Institute for Animal Health) in Jena obtains a new research and laboratory building. The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture will be investing around EUR 100 million at the site over the next few years.

The Thuringian Institute Director and the FLI President presented the project to the public during the open house in September of this year. The start of construction is scheduled for autumn 2018, and the building, which is equipped with state-of-the-art security technology, will be ready for occupancy by 2021.

The FLI is a federal research institute for the health of food-producing animals with headquarters on the island of Riems and has a total of 11 locations in Germany. For more than 60 years now, research has been carried out at the Jena site on bacterial animal diseases and infections that can be transmitted to humans (zoonoses), and currently has 130 employees.

The reference laboratories in Jena diagnose animal diseases for German authorities and the World Organization for Animal Health. The Thuringian institute advises the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture in this specialist area.

This investment underscores the high degree to which the work of the federal research institute is respected and appreciated both nationally and internationally, from basic research, to work as a national reference laboratory for notifiable animal diseases, to policy advice. (maa)

Technology News

University of Jena supports junior researchers

Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU) can provide its junior researchers with 12 new tenure-track professorships. FSU will receive a total of up to EUR 11.3 million for the creation of the new professorships as part of the federal and state program with the same name. These professor positions are initially time-limited, but during probation they will be converted into tenure-track positions after six years at the most.

FSU is thus creating a new path to professorship and paving the way for outstandingly qualified young scientists to take up permanent positions; the tenure-track professors will have career security if the agreed performance targets are met. In addition, they also benefit from tailor-made offers of career advice, mentoring, and further qualification. Thuringia’s Science Minister, Wolfgang Tiefensee, convincingly states, “The systematic anchoring of the tenure track will make it possible to retain young talent in Thuringia.”

Within the context of a further approval round in 2019, the other Thuringian universities will also be given the opportunity to create a total of 16 tenure-track professorships for the Free State of Thuringia. (gro)
Since December 2017, Erfurt has been at the intersection of two of Germany’s most important ICE (high speed train) routes. This makes Thuringia the fast-track center of Germany and an even more attractive location for business, conferences, tourism, work and life.

The commissioning of the Erfurt ICE hub decisively shortens the travel times to the cities of Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt am Main and Dresden. E.g., it now takes exactly one hour and 50 minutes for a train passenger to get from Berlin to Erfurt. Travelling at a speed of up to 300 km/h, it takes that same passenger two hours and 15 minutes to get to Thuringia from Munich. More than 33,000 travelers arrive in Erfurt every day. This creates interesting investment and development opportunities, especially for the area around Erfurt’s main railway station, the ICE-City Erfurt. Commissioned by the state of Thuringia and in close cooperation with the city of Erfurt, LEG Thüringen is an experienced project developer responsible for the new and redesigned urban quarter around the ICE junction. In the next decade, hotels, modern offices, parks and conference and residential centers are to be built on an area of initially 30 hectares. Thanks to corresponding connecting trains, the other parts of Thuringia will also benefit significantly from the new ICE junction in the fast-track center of Germany.

LEG supports tomorrow’s top athletes

In 2017, LEG Thüringen and the Thuringian Sports Aid Foundation will continue to support hopeful athletes from Thuringia.

In mid-November 2017, LEG’s two managing directors Andreas Krey and Frank Krätzschmar, as well as the 1st chairman of the Thuringian Sports Aid Foundation, Dr. Kuno Schmidt, confirmed sponsorship of four young Thuringian athletes: Luisa Görlich (ski jumping), Nils Dunkel (gymnastics), Tom Meier (javelin throw), and Michael Zachrau (skeleton). “We are pleased to be able to make a contribution to the support of these four talented Thuringian athletes,” said the two LEG managing directors. Since 2007, LEG Thüringen has been involved in promoting young talent and junior athletes in Thuringia in coordination with the foundation. As a result, top athletes from Thuringia have received significant support even before their breakthroughs, e.g., Olympic javelin throw champion Thomas Röhler, European team champion in luge Dajana Eitberger, and Olympic speed skating champion Stephanie Beckert.

Thuringia is the fast-track center of Germany

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