

Investing is becoming even more attractive

Let yourself be won over by the benefits that Thuringia offers and learn about the location and its infrastructure, skilled workforce, education, research, and innovation.



Screenshot Invest-Homepage.
Image: LEG Thüringen

Where do I find the right commercial or industrial space or property for my company? Are there any interesting suppliers, clients, or technology partners in Thuringia? Which sectors generate in the highest revenue? And why should you invest in Thuringia anyway? You can find the answers to these and many other interesting questions at our new website at www.invest-in-thuringia.de/en.

At that address, the homepage has been completely revamped in terms of its technical and optical aspects, and primarily its content. During the redesign process, particular attention was paid to adjusting the content to the needs of our target audience, in addition to the modern design. As such, with very little effort, you can gain a detailed overview of the benefits that the state of Thuringia has to offer with respect to the core competencies and range of services offered by LEG Thüringen. Our aim is to make it easy for the visitors to our site to quickly find a clear overview of the range of products and services we offer.

As usual, we will use our new news webpage to regularly update you on the industries and technologies in Thuringia, as well as investment projects and commercial spaces. We hope you have fun exploring our homepage! (cdo)

@ www.invest-in-thuringia.de/en

LEG Thüringen actively seeking investors for the tourism sector

Vacations in Germany are trending up. The visitor and overnight stay figures are increasing nicely. In Thuringia, too. Because Thuringia has a lot to offer: Beautiful landscapes, great hiking trails, and a multi-faceted range of cultural activities shape the image of the state. The central location and excellent accessibility mean that Thuringia is becoming an increasingly popular vacation destination. So, it is only logical that investment activities in the hotel and accommodation sector is taking center stage, as there are huge opportunities and great potential for long-lasting growth for businesses, income, and revenue.

Strategically highlighting this potential and the opportunities for investments in Thuringia is the objective behind the

range of intriguing services that LEG Thüringen offers to investors in Thuringia. Supported by extensive experience and successful developments in creating new jobs in the manufacturing sector, the next step is to gain sustainable structures and investments in the tourism sector too. (maa)



The recently finished investment of the Bio-Seehotel Zeulenroda: Construction of the 1,600 m² panorama spa.
Photo: Bio-Seehotel Zeulenroda / Peter Eichler

i Dates

› **GutsMuths-Rennsteiglauf**
May 26, 2018 | Schmiedefeld
Europe's biggest cross-country race through the Thuringian Forest

› **27th MDR Musiksommer**
June 30, - Sept. 1, 2018 | Thuringia, Saxony, and Saxony-Anhalt
Concerts in castles, on open-air stages, or in churches, ranging from classical to crossover

› **25th Cathedral Steps Festival**
August 3 - 26, 2018, Erfurt
Carmen (Georges Bizet)



Publisher:

State Development Corporation of Thuringia (LEG Thüringen)

Editorial Staff: Dr. Holger Wiemers (V.i.S.d.P.), Christoph Dolata, Christine Maas
Copy Deadline: 29/03/2018
Translation: Toptranslation GmbH, Hamburg
Layout: RITTWEGGER + TEAM
Werbeagentur GmbH Erfurt, Suhl
Printed by: Druckerei multicolor

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Thuringia Focus

Attracting investors in the tourism sector – the new task in LEG Thüringen's portfolio
Read more on page 4

i Investment News

Vivisol Deutschland GmbH, belonging to an Italian group of companies, is expanding and merging its existing Thuringian locations at the Erfurter Kreuz in Arnstadt. There, on a 12,000 m² plot, Vivisol is investing 2.5 million euros in a new office building, where 130 employees will work. The company specializes in devices related to oxygen therapy and home mechanical ventilation.

The **Logistics Center of the Austrian Doka Group** - built in Apolda in 2013 - will now be expanded to become a European distribution center. At the time, Doka had already invested 14 million euros in the 111.4 ha location. Now, there will be additional investments of 6 to 8 million euros for another 2.5 ha of land and construction. Like before, the decision was made in favor of the location Thuringia, due to the central location in Germany and the excellent traffic infrastructure.

Schuster Kunststofftechnik, belonging to the Japanese **Nissha Corporation**, recently inaugurated its new logistics building in Waltershausen. 1.5 million euros were invested in the 2,800 m² property, and further investments are planned for the location. The automotive supplier with its 180 employees is specialized in plastics processing. Using a process developed within the company, 3D-molded films are produced for sensors, antennae, and other automotive components. The firm won the Central German Innovation Award for this achievement.



Groundbreaking for the E-Commerce logistics center at the Erfurter Kreuz (from left to right): Uwe Möller (Mayor Amt Wachsenburg), Andreas Krey (LEG Thüringen), Petra Enders (Head of District Ilm-Kreis), Wolfgang Tiefensee (Economics Minister), Alois Kobler (Managing Director, Germany, XXXLutz) and Dirk Dietrich (XXXLutz). Photo: XXXLutz

XXXLutz sets the foundation for an investment of 90 million euros at the Erfurter Kreuz

By 2022, there will be a warehouse space spanning 200,000 m², which will be built in several construction phases at the 25 ha site.

The Austrian furniture supplier XXXLutz, which operates across Europe, is investing around 90 million euros in a logistics center at Erfurter Kreuz. The project, which will create more than 400 new jobs in two stages, involves an expansion specifically for online business. On March 9, the foundation stone for the eCommerce logistics center was laid. As such, the company is taking the next step in its rapidly growing eCommerce segment and further enhancing the interplay between classic brick-and-mortar retail and online business. "The choice of location for the logistics center is primarily due to the perfect infrastructure at the location of the industrial estate," explains Alois Kobler, XXXLutz

Managing Director, Germany. In addition to jobs in the warehouse field, there will also be created step-by-step skilled positions: Programmers, web designers and call center staff will eventually be recruited.

"With the establishment of the new logistics center, Thuringia is further building on its position as a leading location for logistics in Germany," emphasizes Wolfgang Tiefensee, Thuringia's Minister for Economics. LEG CEO Andreas Krey also states: "The groundbreaking investments made by XXXLutz will enrich and enhance the Erfurter Kreuz industrial area, which LEG has successfully been developing and marketing for over ten years now." The first construction phase, involving a commercial space of around 75,000 m², is scheduled to be completed in late summer in 2019, the entire project is planned to be completed in 2022. (cdo)

i Investment News**American online retailer invests in Altenburg**

Due to the favorable transport conditions at the tri-state area of Thuringia, Saxony, and Saxony-Anhalt, the German subsidiary of the USA-based online car dealer, **COPART**, will open a new branch at the industrial estate at the Leipzig-Altenburg airfield. The NASDAQ-listed company is therefore investing around 11.6 million euros in expanding its European business. "We are delighted to have found this location, thereby making progress towards Germany-wide coverage and improving the service for our customers," said Alain van Münster, CEO of Copart. In the long term, there will be 50 to 70 employees working at the branch. *(maa)*

Record number of visitors to the Thuringian Foreign Trade Day

In these uncertain times of Brexit and protectionist tendencies, countless Thuringian entrepreneurs visited the Jenaer Sparkassen-Arena on March 7 to learn about the opportunities in and changes to export markets. That's how the 11th Foreign Trade Day, organized by the Thüringen International team at LEG Thüringen, was able to attract a new record number of about 300 participants. The schedule included prominent figures, such as keynote speaker Dr. Stefan Traeger, Chairman of the Board at Jenoptik AG, and other Thuringian entrepreneurs with export experience. Thomas Röhler, an Olympic javelin champion, spoke on the topic of mental training and motivation. Moreover, there were foreign experts from all over the world as well as export service providers giving tips related to foreign trade. Thuringian companies' success hinges increasingly on exports, which are continually growing. In 2017, the Thuringian export revenue exceeded the 15 billion euro mark for the first time. *(maa)*

i Dates

› **Hannover Messe**
April 23 - 27, 2018 | Hanover

› **Delegation visit to China**
May 26 - June 2, 2018 | Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong

Good logistics begins in Thuringia

The Austrian company **Berger Logistik GmbH** is yet another logistics company investing in Erfurt. At a site of approximately 10 ha, a new logistics complex costing approximately 38 million euros intended for the distribution of quality wines and spirits of the **Mack & Schühle AG** will be built at the ILZ (Internationales Logistikzentrum Erfurt). Initially, 100 new jobs are set to be created.

At the end of last year, the groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of construction for the new logistics facility took place in Erfurt-Stotternheim. The first phase includes three halls with a total of 30,000 m² of floor space and was put into operation on April 1. Once construction is completed, the 96,536 m² property will be home to six warehouses with a total of 54,000 m² of logistics space and 1,200 m² of office space. There will be 60 docking gates with nine gates for oversized HGVs.

This multi-user warehouse – the core of **Berger Contract Logistics** – is being built

and certified in accordance with the German Sustainable Building Council's gold standard. The property stands for optimal efficiency and green logistics – made possible by quality construction with an intelligent, end-to-end sustainability concept. "The Erfurt location – situated centrally within Europe and Germany, with all the advantages of the location and optimal transport connections – will allow for professional and efficient execution of all logistics services for our customers," the company stated. *(maa)*



The new logistics center of **Berger Logistik GmbH** in Erfurt-Stotternheim. Photo: **Berger Logistik GmbH**, 04/2018

Thuringian companies present at an international trade fair in the USA

SPIE.Photonics West is one of the most significant trade fairs for optics and photonics worldwide. It is considered to be the global industry meeting place for research and business. Being a combination of a symposium and a trade fair, **Photonics West** is one of the leading international conventions for optical technologies, and also attracts numerous German exhibitors. The leading minds of the optics industry will present product innovations to a wide-ranging specialist audience, composed of purchasing specialists, representatives from industry, scientists and researchers.

Every year, over 1,200 exhibitors and over 20,000 visitors are drawn to the trade fair in San Francisco, in order to learn about the latest research findings and discover the newest devices and systems in optics and laser technology, including state-of-the-art medical technologies. This year, 40 exhibitors from Thuringia were represented, which was

also the biggest German contingent. The exhibitors from Thuringia presented a broad spectrum of technologies, ranging from infra-red technology and lab instruments to laser optics, laser technology, measurement technology and optical instruments, right up to optical measuring instruments and sensor technology. *(cdo)*

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. This time, the focus is on the **medways e.V. cluster in the healthcare sector**.

The healthcare sector is one of the fastest-growing and labor-intensive industries in Thuringia, and encompasses fields such as medical technology, biotechnology, and pharma.

These are the fields in which **medways e.V.** is active, an industry association of leading German research institutions, industrial companies, and universities,

based in Jena. The association aims to develop innovative diagnostic and therapeutic processes for illnesses, as well as medical technology products suitable for the global market. As such, **medways** advises companies on medical product certification, establishing quality management systems, and market launches.

The close cooperation between businesses and research is part of the recipe for success for developing Thuringia's economy. More and more companies, associations and research institutions are building networks with additional relevant actors, in order to work together to drive the development of the sector forward. *(cdo)*

i Technology News**Ilmenau University of Technology tops the rankings**

The **Ilmenau University of Technology** has been given three top spots in the latest **WirtschaftsWoche** rankings. Once a year, the business magazine evaluates the best universities in Germany. Once again, the **Ilmenau University of Technology** in Thuringia is among the top 10. This year, for the degree courses in business informatics and industrial engineering, and once again for the IT degree course. For **Jürgen Petzdolt**, Prorector for Education, the excellent rankings awarded to the **TU Ilmenau's** degree courses is no coincidence. He considers it to be an affirmation of the highly practical orientation of the tuition: "Here, the students are in contact with professional life from very early on, for instance by completing internships with businesses. It's not uncommon for these businesses to later employ our graduates." *(maa)*

Innovation center for quantum optics and sensor technology established in Thuringia

Over three million euros of funding awarded to the universities in Jena and Ilmenau.

In Jena and Ilmenau, a new innovation center for quantum optics and sensor technology (**InQuoSens**) is being established. To this end, Thuringia's Economics Minister, **Wolfgang Tiefensee**, awarded two grants to the **Friedrich Schiller University** in Jena and the **Ilmenau University of Technology** at the end of last year. The funding will primarily be used for procuring lab equipment and staff. Both universities will support the new, cross-facility innovation center.

The investments in the fields of quantum optics and sensor technology underline the state of Thuringia's intention to make Thuringia a pioneer in the field of industrial measuring technology. "The new innovation center is intended to pool the competencies in the fields of quantum optics and industrial sensor technology that are already present in Thuringia, and will make them appli-

cable to new scenarios," Minister **Tiefensee** explains.

The close cooperation of the two complementary facilities will allow **InQuoSens** to cover the entire scientific process chain,

from the fundamental research and process development, right up to prototype development, allowing for the concrete demand for innovation to be better addressed. *(cdo)*



Handover of subsidy decision (from left to right): **Andreas Tünnermann**, **Walter Rosenthal** (**Friedrich Schiller University Jena**), **Wolfgang Tiefensee** (**Thuringian Economics Ministry**), **Kai-Uwe Sattler** und **Jens Müller** (**Ilmenau University of Technology**). Photo: **FSU Jena** / **Jan Peter Kasper**