



## Thüringen Telegram

■ MITEC Automotive AG near Eisenach ranks among General Motors' 85 best suppliers. GM has 90 000 suppliers in total. MITEC CEO Dr. Michael Militzer was in Detroit recently to receive the "Supplier of the Year 2005" award. In the field of drive technology, the Eisenach based firm was the only German supplier to win this award.

■ IKEA's largest logistics center in the world has now been opened in Erfurt. The Swedish furniture giant has expanded its presence in the goods traffic center of Thüringen's capital and now covers an area of half a million square meters.

■ Thüringen boasts the highest concentration of businesses nationwide. With 81 businesses per 100 000 inhabitants, the region occupied the top spot in 2005, ahead even of Baden-Württemberg und Rhineland-Palatinate.



*Laying of the foundation stone for "N3" in Arnstadt (from left) the Mayor of Arnstadt Hans-Christian Köllmer, Rolls-Royce COO John P. Cheffins, Federal Minister of Transport and Building Wolfgang Tiefensee, Chancellor Angela Merkel, Lufthansa Chief Executive Wolfgang Mayrhuber and Thüringen's Minister President Dieter Althaus.*

## Hub Attracts New Business

It is a time of 'ground-breaking ceremonies', 'foundation stone laying' ceremonies and official openings in Thüringen: the region in the center of Germany is proving increasingly popular with investors, a fact which is reflected in the large number of companies setting up here in recent months. Locations in the town of Arnstadt, near the Erfurt autobahn intersection ("Erfurter Kreuz"), are particularly sought after. N3 Engine Overhaul Services, a joint venture between Lufthansa and Rolls-Royce, recently decided to locate its operational site at the new hub in central Thüringen. Chancellor Angela Merkel made the trip especially to lay the foundation stone for the new engine maintenance facility. The two global players are investing euro 100 million in this operation, creating 500 jobs in the process. "We will recommend this location to our business partners as well", said Lufthansa CEO Wolfgang Mayrhuber. Both Mayrhuber and Rolls-Royce COO

John P. Cheffins cited Thüringen's skilled workforce and optimum logistical location in the center of Germany as the main advantages over other business locations. These advantages have convinced other employers too: two partners in the Baden-Württemberg based firm Jung Bonbonfabrik, Jörg Dennig and Stefan Kühlbrey, are investing euro 5 million and building a production facility for promotional items. Right next door, Dörfel Midlog KG has already celebrated the official opening of its new factory: the engineering firm from the southern German town of Fellbach produces, among other things, conveyor equipment and fully automated storage systems for the food industry. In addition, US automotive supplier Borg Warner is expanding its production, thus increasing staff numbers by 150 and tripling its current production volume.

Most recently, Gonvarri, a major Spanish automotive supplier, announced that it too plans to set up an operation near the "Erfurter Kreuz". This decision will no doubt have been made easier by the fact that the Town Council and the State Development Corporation (LEG) are now going to further improve the accessibility of the Arnstadt sites with a new rail link. This means that the area next to the hub should see many more foundation stones being laid for some time to come.

**The German Idea Factory.**

THE FREE STATE OF THURINGIA





Aircraft engine manufacturer Thielert sets up operations in Altenburg.

## Boost for Eastern Thüringen

Well-known firms are choosing Eastern Thüringen as an investment location, providing a major boost for the up-and-coming region between Jena and Altenburg. Two companies have decided to set up new production facilities near Ronneburg, at a newly developed industrial area right next to the A 4 east-west arterial route: Horsch Maschinen GmbH and KWL Blechbearbeitung GmbH. The two

medium-sized companies are from Bavaria and Rhineland-Palatinate respectively and will be able to complement each other at this location in the future: while Horsch manufactures agricultural machinery, KWL makes system components which will be used by Horsch, among others. "The good connection to the autobahn was a crucial factor in our decision to invest in Eastern Thüringen", says Horsch CEO Horst Keller. His firm is investing euro 9.3 million, creating 42 jobs. KWL is

investing euro 6.3 million and will create 28 jobs.

Hamburg based company Thielert AG, on the other hand, has decided to set up an operation next to the regional airport Altenburg-Nobitz precisely because of the good air links rather than the autobahn. Altenburg is situated in the Jena-Leipzig-Chemnitz triangle and is developing into a center for aviation related industry. Thielert is investing euro 6.4 million and will create some 50 jobs. "It is only logical for

us as aircraft engine manufacturers to carry out the development of engine components at an airport", says Frank Thielert, the firm's CEO and founder. At its site in Eastern Thüringen, the company will continue its research, development and testing on its diesel aircraft engines.

## Springboard to China



For many of Thüringen's firms, this trip was a good springboard into the "Middle Kingdom": under the leadership of Minister President Dieter Althaus, a trade delegation from Thüringen visited China in April – the initial results of the trip include many new contacts and several signed cooperation agreements. The delegation, which included 70 businessmen, representatives of associations, professors, politicians and journalists, made a week-long visit to Peking, Shanghai and Thüringen's partner region Shaanxi. In addition to Minister President Althaus, Thüringen's Minister of Economics Jürgen Reinholz was also part of the delegation. The trip was organized by the State Development Corporation (LEG), which manages Thüringen's international contacts on behalf of the State Government, thus enabling domestic companies to access

foreign markets. "We have achieved our three objectives with this trip", says Andreas Krey, Chairman of the Board of LEG. "Firms from Thüringen have built up contacts and deepened relationships, and we have been able to interest Chinese companies in Thüringen as an investment location while also forming a better understanding of the structures and decision makers in the "Middle Kingdom". Investor and cooperation seminars as well as a business day brought businessmen from Thüringen and China together, with the main sectoral focus on optics, medical and analytical technology. Minister President Dieter Althaus agreed intensified cooperation in talks with Wang Jiarui, Head of the International Division of the Central Committee of the CP of China. In addition, he renewed the partnership agreement with Shaanxi.

In particular, Thüringen and the Chinese region want to work together in renewable energies in the future. The universities in Thüringen are also pursuing a strategy of cooperation: for example, cooperation agreements with Chinese universities have been signed by representatives of the Bauhaus University Weimar as well as the University of Erfurt and Erfurt University of Applied Sciences.

# A Strong Engineering Tradition



*Tools from Sandvik Coromant GmbH (Schmalkalden) are very popular with the major automotive manufacturers.*

Müller Weingarten AG operates the worldwide third-largest press manufacturing operation in Thüringen.

Deckel Maho Seebach GmbH, the largest machine tool manufacturer in Eastern Germany, is also represented in the region. And the Swedish tool manufacturer Sandvik is further expanding its production capacities here – Thüringen is an attractive location for the engineering sector. And for years, other firms, too – such as Jenoptik, Beyeler Maschinenbau GmbH and Demag Ergotech GmbH – have appreciated the advantages that this region in the center of Germany has to offer. Traditionally, Thüringen has been strong in specialized mechanical engineering, automation engineering and modern

toolmaking; other core competencies include laser technology, rapid tooling and robotics.

Even in the early days, Thüringen was an important center of engineering: it has always been home to tinkerers and technicians, and with 30 patent applications per 100 000 inhabitants, the region still leads the way among the Eastern German states today. Accordingly, a number of universities focus on the teaching of engineering sciences: one of the top European universities for engineering sciences is the Technical University Ilmenau; the Universities of Applied Sciences in Jena and Schmalkalden also offer specialized areas of study. Renowned research establishments have formed strong partnerships with local companies. They include “GFE – Society for Production Technologies and Development” (Schmalkalden), “IMG

Institute for Engines, Drives and Electronic Devices” (Nordhausen) and “CiS Institute for Microsensors” (Erfurt). In addition, there are the facilities of the Fraunhofer Society in Jena and Ilmenau as well as those of the Steinbeis Foundation Stiftung in Ilmenau and Suhl/Zella-Mehlis.

The dense business, university and research landscape is invigorated above all by cooperation on many fronts. The “INPROSYS” InnoRegio Initiative in southern Thüringen combines the technical know-how of the tool producers in the Schmalkalden region with the skills of the “Technology Region Ilmenau”. There is fruitful collaboration right across the field of “tools” between the University of Applied Sciences Schmalkalden, the Technical University Ilmenau, the GFE and the

region’s enterprises. These partners are working together in the fields of “precision and high-performance tools”, “intelligent tools”, “precision laser processing” and “rapid prototyping”.

An economic climate that is creative and open to innovation, a committed and flexible workforce and an excellent infrastructure: Thüringen offers engineering firms optimal conditions for investment and employment. This branch of industry is already the third largest employer in the region. Over 200 companies employ more than 15 000 people. The proportion of exports rose to 27.1 % in 2005; turnover was euro 1.8 billion. And the trend is upwards.



*Deckel Maho in Seebach, a subsidiary of the Gildemeister group, is one of the most innovative companies in mechanical engineering.*

# Summer of Festivals Attracts Visitors

- Site Selection and Counseling
- Counseling on grants and financing options, Tailor-made investment incentive packages
- Management of contacts with government agencies
- Project management
- Rehabilitation of land and buildings

## Site Selection and Counseling

In your search for a suitable location in Thüringen, you can draw on three up-to-the-minute databases operated by LEG. The online Site Information Service furnishes data on all industrial and commercial locations in Thüringen. For information just enter your site requirements. The database will then tell you all you need to know about the size of the pace available, the development status, rail (links, etc.). Through the Industries Information Service, you will be able, for example, to find a selection of companies that exist at a given location on a sector-by-sector basis, 'The Investors' Information Service provides details about businesses recently established at a particular site. This service will be made available to you by LEG staff. Once you have made your choice, LEG officials will be glad to accompany you to the location concerned.



Attracts thousands of guests to Jena: the 'Kulturarena'.

This year's long winter will be followed by an entertaining summer – in Thüringen at any rate. There will be one festival after another in the hot summer months, giving visitors a rich assortment of presentations and events to choose from.

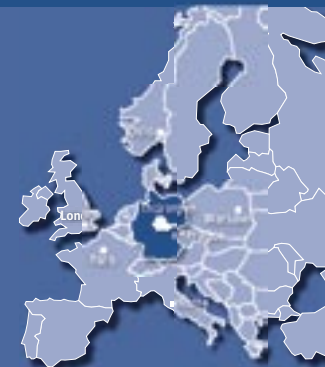
The 'XV. Kulturarena' in Jena from 6 July to 20 August will form part of the German-French Cultural Year. The fact that there will be a largely French theme in the city of Carl Zeiss and Ernst Abbe is, in part, due to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Jena and Auerstedt between Napoleonic and Prussian troops. Musical exports from France will include the multi-instrumentalist René Aubry and the band "Nouvelle Vague". In addition, there will be artists from India, Trinidad and Uruguay. The program will be further enriched by well-known German performers like Nina Hagen and "Element of Crime".

The 'Domstufenfestspiele' (Festival on the Cathedral Steps) in Erfurt will be a quite magical experience for visitors. This is not just because of the performance of Carl Orff's "Der Mond" (The Moon), whose story is inspired by the Brothers

Grimm. The enchanting backdrop of the imposing Erfurt Cathedral alone will make a visit to one of the performances between 12 August and 3 September an experience to remember.

Tying in with the theme of Orff's "Moon", this year's Kunstfest Weimar (Weimar Arts Festival) will be staged under the motto "Schlaflos – Frage und Antwort" (Sleepless – Question and Answer). This is the title of a piano piece by Franz Liszt, and the Romantic composer, who lived in Weimar for many years, will of course be a focal point of this year's series of events. Furthermore, Arts Festival Director Nike Wagner, great-granddaughter of Richard Wagner, is letting artists interpret this year's classical composer, Mozart, in different ways – from old to classical to modern. There will be classical and contemporary music, events, dance, theater and readings – the Arts Festival's rich diversity is what makes it so special. Roll on the summer!

[www.jenaonline.de](http://www.jenaonline.de)  
[www.erfurt-tourismus.de](http://www.erfurt-tourismus.de)  
[www.kunstfest-weimar.de](http://www.kunstfest-weimar.de)



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