

Thuringia Focus.



The next step for the visionary investment of N3 at the Erfurter Kreuz industrial area has been taken: The N3 Managing Directors in Arnstadt Stefan Landes (4th from right) and Holger Sindemann (5th from left) with LEG Managing Director Andreas Krey (2nd from right) and other guests at the groundbreaking ceremony for the logistics center. Photo: N3

xDREAM growth program of Rolls-Royce and Lufthansa Technik

On July 17, 2025, N3 Engine Overhaul Services – a joint venture between Lufthansa Technik and Rolls-Royce – held a ceremonial groundbreaking to launch the next phase of its visionary large-scale construction project. Following the recent topping-out ceremony for the new production hall, construction has now begun on a state-of-the-art logistics center at the Arnstadt site. The total investment for the entire expansion amounts to approximately 150 million euros.

By 2027, the 19,500 square meter site will feature a three-story building complex, with its centerpiece being a fully automated high-bay warehouse measuring 26 meters in height and 123 meters in length. The new facility is designed not only to centrally manage and analyze warehouse operations in real time, but also to significantly enhance the efficiency and scalability of engine maintenance processes.

In addition to the warehouse, the site will include modern office and employee faci-

lities, including locker rooms for approximately 560 staff members and workstations for more than 30 people. The project is part of N3's comprehensive "xDREAM" growth program, which aims to increase annual capacity to up to 250 overhauled engines – a significant jump from the 155 engines serviced last year.

"An aircraft engine consists of up to 20,000 individual parts – and each part needs to be in the right place at the right time," emphasized Managing Director Stefan Landes. "The new logistics center will set us up for future-oriented processes and continued growth."

N3, with approximately 1,100 employees, is already one of the largest employers at Erfurter Kreuz. An additional 100 jobs are expected to be created over the coming years. The investment not only reflects the shareholders' confidence in Thuringia as a business location but also underscores the strategic importance of Erfurter Kreuz as a central logistics hub in Germany's heartland.

News

goFLUX: Carpooling app helps commuters and the environment at Erfurter Kreuz

Thuringia's largest industrial district is exploring new paths in mobility. By launching the goFLUX carpooling app, the ILM County government, the IEK (Initiative Erfurter Kreuz), and goFLUX Mobility GmbH are taking an active role in advancing sustainable and cost-effective commuting solutions. The goal is to promote carpooling and intelligently connect it with public transportation. The app has achieved impressive wins since the project began in March 2025: Over 20 percent of employees have registered at the pilot company, N3 Engine Overhaul Services. More than 670 rides have been arranged. The benefits are clear: reduced traffic, lower carbon emissions, less parking pressure, and stronger social connections – including for international staff. The service is especially attractive for shift workers who often travel outside regular public transportation hours. Other companies like XXXLutz, DB Schenker, and Marquardt Lighttronics are already preparing to join. ILM County is contributing 240,000 euros from the state's climate protection funds to support the initiative. The IEK initiative is adding 10,000 euros annually – sending a strong signal for modern, climate-friendly mobility in the region.

New industrial site in development

The Altenburg/Windischleuba industrial district in eastern Thuringia has taken a major step forward: on July 3, LEG Managing Director Andreas Krey and Altenburg Mayor André Neumann signed the development agreement. LEG will oversee the development of approximately 80 hectares of land on the northern edge of the city – all within commuting distance of the Leipzig metropolitan area. This project is considered a key initiative for the region's economic future. "In challenging times, we have to actively shape growth," said Krey. Neumann added, "This project opens up prospects – for jobs, investment, and increased tax revenue." Development costs are estimated at around 50 million euros, largely funded by the federal government. The goal is to provide companies with space for new operations and expansion – a strong signal for Altenburg and the surrounding region.

Thuringian-made laser communication: ready for space

Researchers at the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Optics and Precision Engineering (IOF) in Jena, in collaboration with TESAT and SPACEOPTIX, have developed a production-ready transmit-and-receive telescope for satellite-based laser communication. The system offers data rates of up to 100 Gbps and transmission ranges of up to 80,000 km, making it ideal for secure communication, even in remote regions. The telescope is part of TESAT's SCOT135 terminal and was specifically designed for deployment in medium and geostationary orbits. It combines both transmission and reception units, is highly resistant to environmental stress, and is thermally optimized for high-power laser use. The design was developed by Fraunhofer IOF, with manufacturing handled by SPACEOPTIX in Isseroda. Five units have already been produced, with plans to scale up to 50 units annually. This industrial-scale production of complex space optics sets new standards in the rapidly growing "new space" market. Supported by the ESA ScyLight program, the project strengthens Europe's technological sovereignty in laser communication – a vital step for future satellite networks and critical infrastructure.

Groundbreaking at MetraLabs: Kick-off for new company headquarters in Ilmenau

MetraLabs GmbH, a specialist in mobile service robots, has taken a major step into the future with its ceremonial groundbreaking at Robert-Bosch-Ring in Ilmenau. The company is building a state-of-the-art office and production complex with approximately 2,700 square meters of usable space and its own photovoltaic system right by TU Ilmenau. The new facility will also provide room for further growth. The total investment amounts to around 5 million euros, with approximately 850,000 euros provided through Thuringia's GRW funding program ("Joint Task for the Improvement of Regional Economic Structures").

The ceremony was attended by Ilmenau's mayor, Dr. Daniel Schultheiß, along with

numerous partners, employees, and long-time supporters. In his speech, Mayor Schultheiß emphasized the importance of the new building for Ilmenau as a hub for science and industry. MetraLabs' Managing Directors – Dr. Andreas Bley, Dr. Christian Martin, and Dr. Johannes Trabert – joined representatives from construction firm T&E Bau GmbH Gehren to symbolically lay the first stone and a time capsule. Founded in 2001, MetraLabs specializes in developing and manufacturing mobile service robots for retail, industry, culture, and research. In 2007, the company launched the world's first interactive shopping robot. Today, MetraLabs focuses on robotic solutions for inventory and transportation tasks, as well as interaction and advertising.



The mayor of Ilmenau also attended the event and delivered a speech. (left to right: Ilmenau Mayor Dr. Daniel Schultheiß with MetraLabs Managing Directors Dr. Johannes Trabert, Dr. Andreas Bley, and Dr. Christian Martin). Image: MetraLabs

Vietnam Day 2025: Building bridges between Thuringia and Vietnam



On August 7, 2025, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK) of Southern Thuringia in Suhl hosted Vietnam Day 2025 – a joint event organized by IHK and LEG Thüringen's Team Thuringia International. The focus was on exploring economic opportunities and fostering cooperation between Thuringia and Vietnam. Following welcome remarks by IHK President Torsten Herrmann and LEG Managing Director Andreas Krey, greetings were delivered by Thuringia's Minister of Economic Affairs, Colette Boos-John, and Professor Dang Hoang Linh from the Vietnamese Embassy. Around 150 participants attended, all expressing strong interest in collaboration with Vietnam.

Successful case studies from Thuringian companies showcased the sheer varie-

ty of partnerships. A panel discussion explored opportunities in a globalized world, while workshops offered practical insights into market entry, talent acquisition, and cultural understanding. A special highlight was the ceremonial welcome of new trainees as part of the Vietnam Project. The evening concluded with networking and a cultural program celebrating both traditions.

To gain first-hand insights, a business mission to Vietnam is planned for the fall, with stops in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Additional highlights in the schedule of the Team Thuringia International include a business delegation trip to China led by Thuringia's Minister of Economic Affairs, a market exploration trip to Azerbaijan, and a business mission to the Africa Tech Festival in Cape Town.

Groundbreaking for DICE – Demonstration and Innovation Center for Textile Circular Economy

A flagship project for sustainable textile recycling is taking shape at the Thuringian Institute for Textile and Plastics Research (TITK) in Rudolstadt. On July 30, Minister President Mario Voigt and TITK Director Benjamin Redlingshöfer laid the foundation stone for the new center. With an investment of approximately 11.5 million euros – including 8 million euros from the Thuringian state government – DICE represents the largest single investment in TITK's history.

DICE's mission is to develop industrially scalable recycling processes for cellulose and polyester fibers. This initiative represents TITK's response to new EU

regulations on textile waste and is driving transformation in the textile industry. The initiative has already attracted support from 63 partners, including Adidas, Vaude, and Continental. The new facility will include laboratories, offices, and a pilot hall. DICE is a watchword for innovation, sustainability, and regional value creation.

TITK also showcases its innovations at the EXPO in Osaka until October 2025, presenting a cellulose fiber that has been recycled three times – a world premiere. The fiber used is TITK's proprietary innovation, Lyohemp® – the first Lyocell fiber made from hemp pulp.



Thuringia's Minister-President Mario Voigt (4th from left) and TITK Director Benjamin Redlingshöfer (5th from left) at the groundbreaking, joined by Mayor Jörg Reichl, State Parliament Member Maik Kowalleck, LEG Managing Director Sabine Wosche, District Administrator Marko Wolfram, and Member of the Bundestag Diana Herbstreuth (left to right). Image: TITK / Steffen Beikirch

Siemens opens new site in Gotha

Siemens AG has officially opened its new production site in Gotha, marking a significant investment in the company's future in Thuringia. In operation since November 2024, the new site became necessary when the existing facilities in Waltershausen could no longer meet the rapidly growing demand. Siemens moved 22 employees to the industrial area Gotha-Süd, where they now produce switchgear systems for energy providers and industrial clients in a 1,600 square meter facility, with plans to double assembly capacity.

"The courage to make this decision is paying off – the facility and our order books are full," emphasized Christoph Menger, Head of Electrification and Automation at Siemens Germany. Minister-President Mario Voigt praised Siemens as an "industrial anchor for Thuringia." Key loca-

tion factors – such as proximity to the A4 highway, access to public transportation, and strong collaboration with the site's owner, the State Development Corporation of Thuringia (LEG) – were decisive in choosing Gotha.

The vacated space in Waltershausen is also being put to good use: a new testing facility has been established there. Siemens employs approximately 580 people across Thuringia. Subsidiaries in Rudolstadt manufacture vacuum components, X-ray tubes, and detectors for medical and industrial applications, while the Unterwellenborn site produces system solutions and system components for the automotive industry. The generator plant in Erfurt, however, is part of Siemens Energy AG.

News

ISEC 2025: International conference on superconductivity held in Erfurt

Erfurt hosted the 19th International Superconductive Electronics Conference (ISEC) from June 16 to 19, 2025. Around 100 researchers from more than 20 countries discussed the latest developments in superconductive electronics – from quantum computing and neuromorphic systems to energy-efficient electronics. The conference was organized by the CiS Research Institute and the Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology (IPHT) in Jena and held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Erfurt. Thuringia's Minister-President Mario Voigt opened the event, emphasizing Thuringia's role as a hub for innovation. TU Ilmenau President Prof. Kai-Uwe Sattler highlighted the importance of superconductive technologies in meeting future energy needs. A standout moment was the keynote by Prof. Frank Wilhelm-Mauch on the QSolid project, which focuses on developing scalable quantum computers. ISEC 2025 served as a platform for international collaboration and new partnerships – affirming Thuringia's position at the forefront of technological innovation.

TU Ilmenau earns top ranking in international quantum computing competition

A team from TU Ilmenau has secured second place in the Quantum Simulator Challenge 2024 hosted by Japanese tech giant Fujitsu. The competition brought together 46 teams from 13 countries to develop innovative quantum applications. The Ilmenau team made a splash with QuPIV, an algorithm that calculates cross-correlations for flow measurement – with applications in aerospace, automotive engineering and urban planning. The 30,000 US dollar prize will support researchers Julia Ingelmann, Philipp Pfeffer, and Theo Käufer in presenting their work internationally. Pfeffer accepted the award in Tokyo. "This recognition confirms TU Ilmenau's innovativeness and excellence in quantum computing. We're especially effective at applying quantum algorithms to real-world challenges," said Professor Jörg Schumacher. Theo Käufer is now conducting research at MIT in the United States. First place went to TU Delft, while third place was awarded to Japanese startup QunaSys.

Thuringia invests in cycling infrastructure: 36.6 million euros approved

Thuringia has supported 64 cycling infrastructure projects with a total of 36.6 million euros in funding over the past four years. The funds come from “Stadt und Land” (“City and Country”), a federal program that has allocated a total of 55 million euros for Thuringia by 2030.

The full amount is expected to be utilized, says the Ministry of Infrastructure. Depending on the project, federal sources may cover up to 100 percent of the funding. The

funds can be used for activities such as the construction and renovation of bike paths, bridges, and parking facilities, as well as measures to improve everyday cycling as part of the Climate Protection Program 2030. Minister Steffen Schütz (BSW) aims to accelerate approvals and drive expansion. High-speed bike routes are not a priority in Thuringia – according to the ministry, the necessary conditions have not been met for there to be at least 2,000 cyclists per day.



Photo: Daniel Santana

TeleVisionale: Media festival moves to Weimar in 2025



Photo: Sophie Schüller

The TeleVisionale film and television festival will take place in Weimar starting in 2025, marking a major shift after 36 years in Baden-Baden. From December 1 to 5, the Weimarahalle will become the new hub for German-language television and streaming productions. The festival will showcase outstanding films and series from public broadcasters, private networks, and streaming platforms. Awards presented include the Television Film Award of the German Academy of Performing Arts, the German Series Award, and the 3sat Audience Award.

The move is part of a strategic realignment: the Academy aims to broaden its reach and draw fresh inspiration from Weimar, a city steeped in cultural heritage.

For the city, the festival represents a cultural enrichment and opens up new opportunities for the media and events industries. All film screenings are open to the public and free of charge. The accompanying program features panel talks, jury discussions, and networking events tailored to professionals in the field.

Calendar

October 01
7th Thuringian AI-Forum, Erfurt

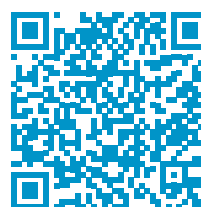
November 12/13
Precision Fair, s'Hertogenbosch/NL
(Thuringian joint booth)

November 17 – 20
Medica, Düsseldorf
(Thuringian joint booths)

November 18 – 21
SEMICON/productronica, Munich
(Thuringian joint booth)



Stay up to date:



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