

Thuringia Focus.



At the laying of the foundation stone for the new building of Carlisle in Waltershausen. Photo: Carlisle

On the growth track: US investor Carlisle expands operations in Thuringia

Plastics specialist Carlisle is growing and investing around EUR 50 million in a new production facility in Waltershausen, Thuringia. The expansion is proof positive that Thuringia's excellent site conditions and all-round service make a compelling case even in times of crisis.

The company, a specialist in modern roof waterproofing, laid the cornerstone for the additional facility at the Gothaer Straße industrial estate in Waltershausen in July. "We have made Thuringia a key part of our growth strategy: It is an important production site with a promising future. This is where we have put down roots and where we want to continue to grow," said Christian Steyrer, VP Operations CARLISLE CM Europe. The new facility is planned to start production in 2022. It will add

25 new jobs and increase the Thuringian site's total internal area to 17,000 square meters. The company will also buy new equipment for producing its special waterproofing membranes. These products are a runaway success since they can be laid on almost all substrates and welded with a heat gun – no open flame required. The group parent is Carlisle Construction Materials, which is based in the United States and has gross annual sales of almost four billion US dollars. LEG has been guiding and supporting Carlisle's business trajectory in Waltershausen for eight years as part of its full service offering for investors interested in relocating and expanding. Carlisle Construction Materials GmbH has invested more in western Thuringia than in any other site in Europe. (gro/hw)

Intercord dedicates new R&D center

Mühlhausen has long been a production hub for technical yarns, especially for the automotive industry. Its footprint is now set to grow: A new development center was officially commissioned on Intercord's Mühlhausen premises in mid-June. The company enlarged the research department, too. Intercord will conduct tests at the new development center, while customers and suppliers will have an opportunity to perform material testing of their own. Intercord's Managing Director Ramazan Yasbay believes the center will provide a comprehensive overview of the products and materials that customers want. The CEO described the sale of the company last October to US-based Beaver Manufacturing Company (BMC) as a "lucky thing" and called the family-owned company a good choice. Electric mobility, too, is an important issue for Intercord. New engines will mean new requirements for technical fibers. The company and its 90 employees appear well prepared. Its next investment is already in the pipeline: Intercord plans to build a new factory on an adjacent plot in 2023. (maa)



Ramazan Yasbay, Managing Director Intercord and Michael Dubin, President & CEO BMC at the new development center. Photo: Intercord

Business delegation travels to Austria and Slovakia

Around 30 participants visited Salzburg, Graz, Vienna and Bratislava under the leadership of the Thuringian Economics Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee in July 2021. Workshops and cooperation talks were held during the five-day event. There were also visits to companies including EVER Neuro Pharma, the Familux hotel group, ams, Andritz, Magna Steyr, VW Slovakia and MicroStep. An investor dinner was held to showcase Thuringia as a business location along with meetings with representatives of ACStyria, a mobility cluster; various tourism associations in Austria; and several research institutions. The Thuringian delegation included representatives from the automotive, robotics, biotechnology, mechanical engineering and measurement and sensor technology sectors. The trip was organized by LEG, which provides Thuringian companies with the full range of services aimed at optimizing their international operations. (hw)



Company visit at EVER Neuro Pharma in Unterach. Photo: LEG Thüringen

Successful year for Thuringian startup

room AG, a Thuringian startup, has successfully completed a Series A funding round: The Jena-based specialist for digital and hybrid events, augmented and virtual reality (AR, VR) and 3D solutions now has another four million euros at its disposal. It intends to use these funds to grow the company and enter the US market, where it plans to provide its innovative solutions for the creation and use of 3D business content. Demand for interactive online events and platforms increased last year due to the worldwide pandemic. room AG benefited significantly from this trend and increased its headcount to 70 in 2020. (gro)

Investor Maximator builds plant for hydrogen fueling stations

Late last year, ground was broken on a nearly 3 ha plot in Nordhausen for two factory buildings in which hydrogen refueling stations will be manufactured. Thuringia will soon boast the largest production facility of its kind in Germany.

Maximator is sought after all over the world for its highly sophisticated hydrogen refueling and storage systems. The company describes its refueling stations as the most effective worldwide.

In addition to Maximator the Thuringian state government, too, is investing in the cutting-edge technology. For example, it is providing more than three million euros in funding to establish and expand the new “HySON Institute for Applied Hydrogen Research” in Sonneberg. Another EUR 10.3 million is going toward the Fraunhofer Battery Innovation and Technology Center BITC in Arnstadt for its research

into innovative hydrogen technologies and battery systems. One of the applied research center’s goals is to advance hydrogen production through large-scale stack technology and the industrial use of hydrogen. According to Economics Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee, much scientific and technological groundwork is needed before hydrogen technologies can actually play a central role in the energy economy, especially with regard to making hydrogen production and use economically viable. (gro)



The use of hydrogen holds great potential. Photo: iStock/style-photography

Horsch Maschinen GmbH expands in Eastern Thuringia

Horsch held a groundbreaking ceremony back in February 2021 as part of a drive to continue expanding its Ronneburg site. This is clear proof that Thuringia is an attractive industrial center where companies can grow successfully.

Horsch Maschinen GmbH is investing around EUR 17 million to expand its site in Ronneburg, Thuringia, located directly on the A4 highway, an important east-west link. By spring 2022, this global leader in innovative agricultural technology will build a new assembly hall and a new office building on a roughly 11,000 square

meter site. HORSCH expects to double its current sales in the future as a result of the expansion. As the company grows, so will its staff numbers. The company, which has been at the East Thuringian site since 2007, plans to focus more on employee health and satisfaction going forward. It wants workplaces to be bright, modern and healthy. “We are all incredibly grateful to the owner family for their deep confidence and willingness to invest in the Thuringian site and in the local workforce, which is doing excellent work,” said Dr. Cornelius Weiß, Site Director in Ronneburg. (gro)



Horsch offers state-of-the-art solutions for agriculture, e.g. for soil cultivation. Photo: Horsch/Daniel Brandt

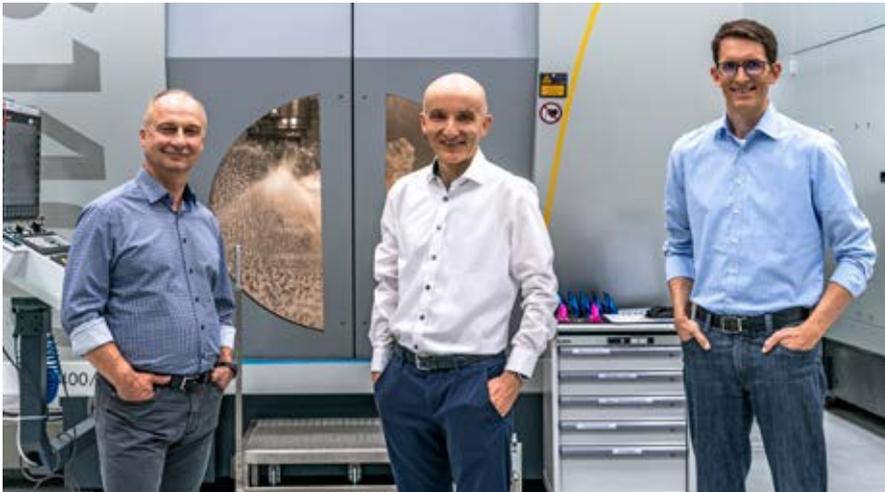
Next generation of microchips developed in Thuringia

Ultraviolet light with extremely short wavelengths is the secret to EUV lithography's success. It powers the production of next-generation microchips.

Our world is getting smarter all the time: a connected home where the refrigerator knows that it is about to run out of milk, adaptive robots that can control important production processes in companies, self-driving cars, you name it. All these new applications of information technology and artificial intelligence systems generate vast amounts of data that need to be processed in ever-shorter timeframes. That's not a problem for a new generation of microchips. These chips are based on innovative EUV lithography, which uses ultraviolet light and makes the chips significantly smaller,

cheaper, more powerful and more energy-efficient.

New EUV lithography technology is largely supported by corporate researchers at Zeiss and Trumpf as well as academic researchers at the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Optics and Precision Engineering in Jena (IOF). The core of the technology consists of sensors jointly developed by the Ilmenau University of Technology and Micro-Hybrid Electronic, a company based in Hermsdorf. Micro-Hybrid Electronic specializes in miniaturized electronic circuits and infrared sensors. The innovative microchips have been used by leading manufacturers of smartphones and semiconductor products for just over two years, with more added every day. (gro)



Successful together: The team of experts from the Fraunhofer Institute IOF in Jena, Zeiss and Trumpf receives the German Future Prize 2020 for the invention. Photo: Deutscher Zukunftspreis

Thuringia's quantum research gets energy boost

Thuringia is on its way to becoming an internationally sought-after high-tech location for quantum technology. A grant now allows players to pool more resources and raise their collective profile.

The State of Thuringia is supplying around six million euros in funding for the new "Quantum Hub Thüringen" center of excellence for quantum technology. Thuringia has long been at the forefront in laying the foundations for groundbreaking quantum technologies. Eleven research outfits have now joined forces to pool their knowledge and capabilities for a greater cause. Their goal: to make Thuringia a high-tech location for quantum

technology and industry by specifically aligning scientific and business excellence.

A quick review of all the possible applications of quantum technology shows how far-reaching and forward-looking this research is: Controlling individual quanta, i.e. the smallest building blocks of light and energy, enables disruptive applications in fields such as data processing (quantum computers), communication (tap-proof communication) and analysis and measurement technology (quantum imaging, quantum sensor technology). (gro)

Thuringia gains in patent applications

Bright Thuringian minds continue to drive up the number of patent applications filed in the state: Thuringia is the per-capita leader of Germany's eastern states. It ranks in the middle nationwide with 606 applications and notched up an increase of 18 percent in 2020. Most of the patent applications come from Thuringia's medical equipment sector, followed by the optics industry and applications for electrical machines or devices. The German government has responded to this welcome trend by significantly expanding its Patent and Trademark Office in Jena. It plans to create around 110 additional jobs and three new departments in the City of Light by 2024. (gro)

Thuringia's Leibniz Center for Photonics in Infection Research (LPI) gets millions in funding

The current pandemic is teaching us just how dangerous infectious diseases can be for mankind. That highlights the need to vigorously promote the development of new diagnostic and treatment tools. Many of the most promising ideas for combating infectious diseases now come from Jena: The globally unique Leibniz Center for Photonics in Infection Research (LPI) has been established to develop optical processes and artificial intelligence that support the fight against life-threatening diseases. The LPI is not a research institute per se but rather a platform that provides everything necessary to translate successful research findings into applications. The LPI will thus facilitate the leap from in-lab diagnostic and treatment methods to broad-based bedside applications. Once the LPI building is complete, the technologies it incubates will be available to national and international users in industry, research and the medical community for infection research. The German Federal Ministry of Research is providing around EUR 127 million in funding to support the project in the years ahead. (gro)

Tourism is king! A refresh for the Thuringian Forest

Thuringia offers a high quality of life with its rich cultural scene and scenic countryside. LEG is involved in the 2025 tourism strategy to further leverage this potential. The key projects include two sites in the Thuringian Forest.

The first is an upgrade of Masserberg, a climatic health resort on the Rennsteig hiking trail. The upgrade mainly focuses on the bathhouse, which will feature a “forest” theme that incorporates light, sound and materials such as wood and stone. With attractive amenities such as a panorama

sauna, a forest spa, a mountain meadow blossom pool and a new restaurant, the bathhouse will allow forest bathers to indulge all their senses and make Masserberg the top forest bathing resort in Germany.

LEG is also supporting the redesign of the Inselsberg. This prominent mountain is being upgraded for tourism, with the plateau being completely developed and redesigned. Plans include an adventure world, new open-air facilities and parking areas. (hw)



Pure nature - the Thuringian Forest. Photo: LEG Thüringen/Gerlach

Prestigious cultural award for Bauhaus monument

Weimar in Thuringia is a site of high culture. Now, the “Haus am Horn” – an exemplar of the world-famous Bauhaus style – has won the European Heritage Award.

The Bauhaus was founded in Weimar in 1919 under the direction of Walter Gropius. It was formative for generations of architects, painters and designers. Famous artists such as Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, Lionel Feininger and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe worked here before bringing their vision to the US and other countries

all over the world. The “Haus am Horn” was built in 1923 based on a design by Georg Muche and closely follows the spirit of the Bauhaus guidelines. In 2019 – the centennial of the famous art school – the structure was extensively renovated and reopened its doors to visitors. The jury was so impressed with the historically accurate and authentic restoration that the European Commission and Europa Nostra, a pan-European federation for cultural heritage, awarded the Thuringian Bauhaus building the “Preservation” prize. (hw)



The Bauhaus monument “Haus am Horn” in Weimar. Photo: LEG Thüringen

Dates

7 – 12 September 2021
IAA Mobility, Munich

11 – 13 October 2021
ExpoReal, Munich

12 – 16 October 2021
FAKUMA, Friedrichshafen

20 – 24 October 2021
Frankfurter Buchmesse

15 – 18 November 2021
MEDICA, Düsseldorf

At these trade fairs Thuringia is represented with a joint stand.

Until October 10th, 2021 the Federal Horticultural Show (BUGA) will run in Erfurt and at many external locations.

www.buga2021.de



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