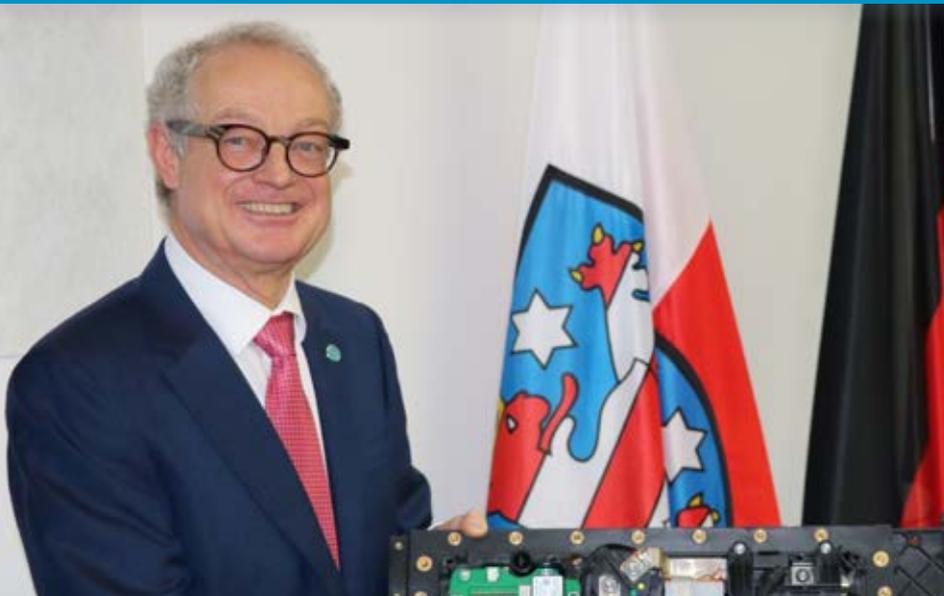


Thuringia Focus.



Dr. Harald Marquardt, CEO of the Marquardt Group, and Economics Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee (from left) at the press conference announcing the expansion plans. Source: Marquardt GmbH

Bosch plans battery production in Eisenach

The automotive supplier Robert Bosch Fahrzeugelektrik, which has been based in Eisenach since 1992 and produces sensors and other components with 1,800 employees, is now entering series production of a 48-volt battery. In order to do this, 80 million euros are being invested at the site, a hall has already been built, and preparations are currently underway for series production. The novel energy storage system – an essential component of 48-volt hybrid systems in vehicles – has already been developed in Eisenach. According to Bosch, the systems can reduce the fuel consumption and thus also the emission of carbon dioxide of a combustion engine by up to 15 percent. Bosch has already been active in Thuringia for four years as a lead company in this project of the future and supported the launch of the first generation of the 48-volt vehicle battery in China. The Eisenach plant has now prevailed in the race for the European production site, and so the second, more powerful generation will go into series production in the summer of 2021. Several customer orders are already expected for the European market. Bosch obtains the battery cells required for the 48-volt batteries from the Chinese company CATL, with which a long-term cooperation agreement has been signed. At present, the cells still come from China, and in the future they will come from the CATL plant at Erfurter Kreuz. According to Bosch, Eisenach was chosen for its geographical location, competitiveness and highly qualified specialists. Comprehensive expertise is available in automated production and production and logistics planning. (maa)

New Marquardt investment means strong commitment to Thuringia

The automotive supplier Marquardt from Baden-Württemberg is significantly expanding its commitment in Thuringia: The mechatronics specialist is investing a double-digit million euro sum to expand its production at the “Erfurter Kreuz” location. Marquardt is planning to manufacture battery management systems, which are of great importance for electromobility. Over 100 new jobs will be created.

“In Thuringia, we can competitively produce top quality goods for our customers,” Dr. Harald Marquardt, CEO of the Marquardt Group said. “The traffic-favorable location of the industrial area at the Erfurter Kreuz and short transport routes, qualified employees and the high level of industry competence in the region are further advantages that we appreciate.” The entrepreneur expressly praised the support from the state and LEG. “This service is unparalleled throughout Germany; I only know such perfect support from abroad,” he said. The company is more than tripling its floor space for pro-

duction, logistics and administration to 40,000 square meters; it also acquired a 15-hectare site from LEG adjacent to the existing production facility.

Until now, Marquardt has been manufacturing products for the interior of premium vehicles south of the Thuringian state capital. With the battery management systems new high-tech products are added to the product range: While driving, these products measure voltage, temperature and currents, act like the “brain” of an electric car, and thus belong to the key technology for the mobility of tomorrow. The company’s decision to locate the plant in Thuringia has also been encouraged by the investment of the Chinese battery cell manufacturer Contemporary Amperex Technology (CATL) at the same industrial site “Erfurter Kreuz” in Thuringia; the global market leader in the production of lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles is investing 1.8 billion euros in Thuringia and creating 2,000 new jobs. (hw)

Small high-tech company on course for growth

Kahla – The still young company 2b-special has recently realized the first investment after its founding. In Kahla near Jena, 2b-special is active in the optical industry and produces glass with different refractive indices, which is used in special optics and special fibers. The products are tailored directly to the customer and are manufactured in very small quantities; mass production is not available here.

Founded at the end of 2016, the company quickly established itself on the market. So far, 2.5 million euros have been invested and 10 employees process customer orders from all over the world. The export share is a noteworthy 60%, with a focus on companies active in medical technology. In its second year, the TÜV awarded it the ISO certificate, which is always a springboard for new markets. (maa)

French company Faurecia now in Thuringia

Eisenach – The internationally active automotive supplier with its headquarters in Nanterre near Paris has recently opened up a production site in Eisenach. The French company manufactures exhaust systems for the new Opel Grandland model, which is built at the Opel plant in Eisenach. Proximity to the OEM is very important for just-in-time delivery and so Faurecia Clean Mobility was able to rent an existing hall on the site of the Opel plant.

Faurecia is a reliable partner for the world's leading car manufacturers, with products at the cutting edge of technology. As the global market leader in its four divisions of Seating, Interiors, Clarion Electronics Clean Mobility, the Group maintains a global research, development and production network with a total of 122,000 employees at 300 locations in 37 countries. (maa)

Green light for new premium hotel in Oberhof

Momentum for Thuringia's tourism industry: Austrian investor Ernst Mayer is building an exclusive four-star family hotel in Thuringia's number 1 winter sports resort for about 50 million euros. The hotel is scheduled to open in late 2021.

The hotel marks one of the most significant investments in Oberhof in recent years. Since the official ground-breaking ceremony in November 2019, work on the construction of the "Grand Green – Familux Resort" is in full swing. After completion, guests

can look forward to 105 family suites and 12 exclusive chalets with a total of 540 beds, which, according to Mayer, will leave nothing to be desired in terms of relaxation and well-being. The new hotel is therefore particularly attractive for families with the highest standards of leisure, service and quality. The hotel will be the new workplace for 140 employees; up to 140,000 additional overnight stays per year are expected in Oberhof. (gro)

www.familux.com



This is how the Oberhof Family Lux Resort including the outdoor area should look like. Source: PAB Architekten Erfurt/München/Hamburg, Frau Dr. Krista Blassy

Comprehensive service for success in distant markets

Entrepreneurs in Thuringia who are committed to internationalization benefit from a wide range of support from the "Thuringia International" (TI) LEG team. This applies both to the traditional markets of Europe and North America and to the emerging growth markets in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

In 2020, TI will continue to focus on the organization of trade missions: For example, a trip under the motto "New Silk Road – from Western China to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan" in September 2020 focuses on the opportunities offered by the "Belt and

Road Initiative" (BRI). TI also supports networks in Thuringia, including the events of the German-Indian Roundtable (GIRT) and the Tatarstan company network. TI offers an efficient way of participating in international trade fairs abroad through attractive participation packages. The range of services also includes information events and workshops with targeted intercultural training for successful business contacts. Last but not least, the service of six foreign representatives on four continents will also be part of TI's service offering in 2020. (hw)



In the avatera training center: the surgical robot transmits the hand movements of the surgeon precisely and tremor-free to the laparoscopic instruments. Source: avateramedical

First German robot-assisted OP technology from Thuringia

The company avateramedical GmbH developed the first German system for robot-assisted, minimally invasive surgery (MIC). After successful CE-certification, the company is now entering the European market with its “German robot.”

Exactly tailored to the needs of future users, this new generation of robots from Thuringia enables precise keyhole operations (laparoscopies) with a maximum of safety for patients and the best possible

comfort for users. The highly innovative system was developed in close cooperation with surgeons and OP teams. The construction of a campus with production facilities for series production is to start this year, and the company has chosen Ilmenau for this purpose. Here in Thuringia – traditionally well positioned in microsystems technology – the company finds the best conditions as well as the required highly qualified specialists, including engineers and software developers. (hw)

Between Vladivostok and Vancouver: Technology from Jena flies with you

The small, but highly innovative Jena-based company Somag AG has a major customer known worldwide: Google Maps, which like many others, greatly appreciates the company’s special products.

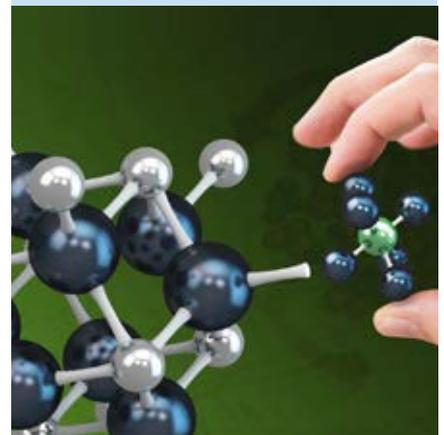
Somag AG manufactures stabilization platforms, otherwise known as mounts. This stabilization technology is used for aerial cameras and sensors and is applied worldwide. Around half a dozen sizes and weight classes are available for the systems, which ensure the

smoothest possible camera movement on water and in the air, and thus very accurate data. With the help of these platforms, precise data collection on Google Maps is supported, pipelines are flown, and this technology from Jena is also on board when an Airbus A319 commutes between Vladivostok and Vancouver as part of the “Open Skies Agreement.”

Thuringia makes an impression with its variety of small and medium-sized technology leaders – Somag AG is a good example of this. (hw)

Push for materials research in Ilmenau

The Ilmenau University of Technology will receive 1.75 million euros for further research into self-forming materials. The money from the German Research Foundation will be used to further advance the “MorphMater” project initiated together with Saarland University and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. The knowledge gained in this way can be used at micro level to simplify the production of ever smaller microchips. At the macro level, these materials can contribute to increasing production rates in the automotive industry, for example, by joining batteries and contacts, or can be used to further develop the joining of metals with thermoplastics. (gro)



Source: Glatt

Germany scores points with innovation

World class in innovation: Germany ranks first in the Bloomberg Innovation Index 2020, ousting South Korea and Singapore. For the survey, the US business service examined 105 economies for their innovative strength and analyzed, among other things, productivity, R&D expenditure, number of researchers, value added, patent applications and high-tech density. Germany scores above all in terms of value creation in manufacturing, patent activity and concentration of high-tech companies in the country. Thuringia is also heavily involved: Around 100 world market leaders are active in the state, including highly innovative medium-sized companies, but also global players such as Zeiss, Jenoptik etc., whose research expenditure accounts for a considerable round about 10 % of revenues.

Bach lures visitors to Arnstadt

A new multimedia exhibition about Johann Sebastian Bach attracts music lovers from all over the world to Arnstadt. Under the slogan of “We hear each other in Thuringia,” this year the Free State of Thuringia is also honoring its other musical talents at numerous locations throughout the state.

Every year, thousands of visitors are drawn to the Bach Church in Arnstadt, the former place of activity of the talented young man, where his world career began. Recently, Arnstadt has also been attracting lovers of baroque music with the new permanent exhibition, “Audible Faith: Johann Sebastian Bach in Arnstadt” in the Palace Museum. The exhibition focuses on Bach’s organ rehearsal, his service to the Neue Kirche and religious life around 1700. An outstanding exhibit is the original organ console of the Wender organ from 1703.

Also: The church of St. Bartholomäs in Dornheim, where Bach married his first

wife Maria Barbara at the age of 22, is only a few kilometers from Arnstadt and always worth a short detour. Also when visiting Weimar, Eisenach, Erfurt, Jena, Altenburg, Gotha, Rudolstadt or Greiz, you can hear a very special side of Thuringia thanks to this year’s musical theme. (gro)

www.thueringen-entdecken.de



Multimedia exhibition in Arnstadt.
Source: Tino Sieland

New hotel enriches ICE City Erfurt

We are open: With the new Prizeotel the Thuringian state capital of Erfurt has a modern hotel located in the immediate vicinity of the main railway station. It represents the first building block of the new ICE City Erfurt.

A lot is also happening with regard to the next building blocks of the urban district: The renowned Viennese architectural office Delugan Meissl is the winner of the architectural competition for Tower West and East. According to the jury, Delugan Meissl’s idea is captivating because of its

successful connection of the new Atlantic Hotel in Tower West to Erfurt’s old town, among other things. The characteristic feature of the 50 meter high Tower West will be a wood and glass façade, which is based on the original buildings in Erfurt’s old town, especially the half-timbered houses of the Krämerbrücke. With Tower West, the Atlantic Hotel Group is investing around 45 million euros and building a modern four-star-plus category hotel with around 200 rooms. According to current plans, it will be opened in three years.

www.ice-city-erfurt.de



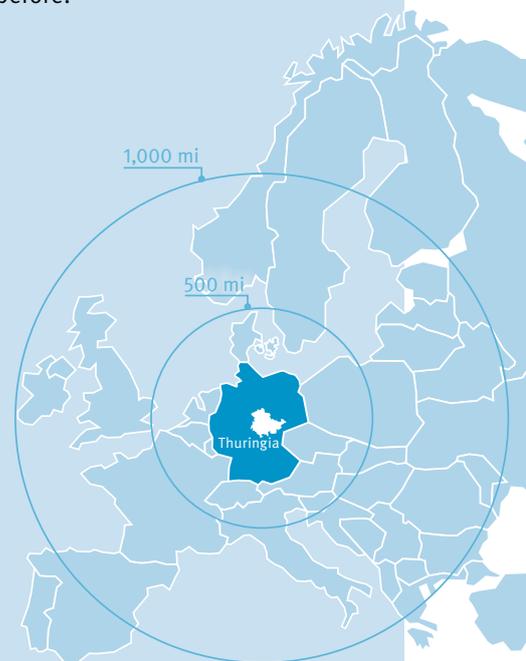
The new Prizeotel is located in the immediate vicinity of Erfurt’s main railway station.
Source: www.prizeotel.com

Latest News

Dear Readers,

Normally, we inform you about forthcoming events in this place. But the global outbreak of the corona virus has changed daily business routines overnight and posed challenges to companies worldwide. Firms in Thuringia as well are looking for information and hoping to quickly return to “normal” day-to-day business activities.

Rest assured, we will continue to support and help you with all your current economic needs in hope that we all withstand these hard times and come out more stronger than before.



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