



newsletter

Business in Berlin, Brandenburg &
the German-Polish Border Region

EDITION III/2012



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FRANKFURT (ODER) - SLUBICE



IHK Ostbrandenburg

news

Third time in succession: Brandenburg wins dynamism prize

Brandenburg has been able to continue its positive development and, for the third time in a row, has been ranked the most dynamic of all 16 German states by the New Social Market Economy Initiative and „WirtschaftsWoche“ magazine. Criteria such as gross domestic product, income development, availability of kindergarten places and job market data were used for this assessment. „The economic upturn in Brandenburg has become more wide-reaching. Outstanding investments are being made right across growth industry sectors and maintenance of the existing company substance has proven worthwhile. We will continue to push forward with the linking together of commercial business and innovation to form strong clusters like energy management, healthcare, mobility/logistics or metal“ explained Brandenburg’s Minister for Trade & Industry Ralf Christoffer in response to the results of the survey. | [more info](#)



A good advert for a dynamic location – in October 2012 the Berlin-Brandenburg Capital region also embarked upon a presentation offensive at the largest trade fair for real estate, EXPO Real, in Munich. More than 30 companies and institutions from the capital region presented their products, services and industrial and commercial premises on an area of more than 500 m². (Photo: Runze & Casper Werbeagentur)

Neuhardenberg: Gigantic Solar Park supplies 48000 households

The largest solar project in Germany, developed by ENFO AG in conjunction with the owner of Neuhardenberg airfield, Airport Development A/S, was completed on 30.09.2012 according to schedule – following the deployment of 2000 workers – in a record construction time of just 5 weeks. The huge photovoltaic system on the grounds of the airfield in Neuhardenberg has a power of 145 MW and covers an area of around 240 hectares, equivalent to the size of 336 football pitches. The system is due to be connected to the grid and officially commissioned before the end of the year. The airfield in Neuhardenberg continues to be fully available for use by aircraft despite the size of the project, and is due to be gradually expanded as a business location. | [more info](#)



Welcome to the energy revolution. 600 000 PV modules by various manufacturers line the 2400 m long landing strip of Neuhardenberg airfield. The new solar park not only generates clean electricity for the equivalent of 48 000 households but it is also considered a new tourist attraction for the region. (Press photo: ENFO AG/Sommerreich)

Record: Europa University Viadrina with more than 7000 students

For the first time since the Europa University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) was reestablished in 1991, it now has more than 7000 registered students. Just under a quarter of these students come from abroad, increasingly from neighbouring Poland. Its most popular courses are those in International Business Studies and German and Polish Law and, since it was founded, 8400 students have already graduated from the university. In October of this year, the Europa University will be founding a joint research institute with the Adam-Mickiewicz University in Poznan, which will be based at the Collegium Polonicum in Slubice, Frankfurt (Oder)’s neighbouring town. A cooperation treaty is also scheduled to be agreed soon with the world-famous Sorbonne University in Paris. | [more info](#)



View of the campus: With modern learning conditions, a direct line from students to teaching staff and attractive courses with an international orientation, the Europa University has been able to establish itself on the German university scene for the long term. (Photo: Kuhnert Medien)



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The Potsdam-Shanghai Business Center: New point of contact for investors

In future things will be made even easier for Chinese investors in Brandenburg. In August, a milestone was reached in business cooperation between Brandenburg und China with the opening of the Potsdam-Shanghai Business Center. As a result there will now be a permanent point of contact in Potsdam for investors from China. The building, which has been refurbished by Chinese business representatives for 2.8 million euros, will provide offices and workspace across a surface area of 2500m². The facility can offer services such as dealing with authorities for companies. Managing Director Zhiqi Fan is convinced the business model will be a success: „More and more Chinese companies want to locate to Germany but, due to the differences in culture and the language, many have difficulties at the outset and are looking for simple solutions. This is where we can help.“ | [more info](#)



China is Brandenburg's most important Asian trading partner. Business relations between the two regions have been growing continually since Germany's reunification. In 2011, Brandenburg exported goods to the value of more than 232.4 million euros to China, which represents a growth of 16.2 % compared to 2010. In 2011 imports from China to Brandenburg totalled 618.7 million - 10.7 % more than in 2010. (Photo: Kuhmert Medien)

High-tech aircraft company moves headquarters to Brandenburg

AC&S Aerospace Consulting & Services GmbH is moving its company headquarters from Langenargen near Lake Constance to Wildau in the German capital region. Beneficial economic conditions and the availability of highly-qualified staff were the key factors in this decision. The company will create 25 new jobs here in doing this and is geared towards further growth. In a statement, Dr. Steffen Kammerdt, CEO of Brandenburg's Economic Development Board (ZAB), stressed that: „The relocation of AC&S represents an outstanding contribution to the further strengthening of the aircraft sector in the German capital region. It is particularly pleasing that the company is so technology-oriented. This fits perfectly to the location and demonstrates how the airport's surrounding area is developing more and more into a region of excellence.“ | [more info](#)



AC&S Aerospace Consulting & Services GmbH was founded in 1986. Since then, AC&S has combined competence with reliability for the preparation of high-quality products and services in the areas of engineering, training, consultation and personnel leasing for the civilian and military aircraft industry. (Photo: Fotolia)

Two companies selected as new „locations in the land of ideas“

Two companies from the growth area Frankfurt (Oder)/Eisenhüttenstadt have been chosen as „locations in the land of ideas“ by the German federal government. Unitechnik from Eisenhüttenstadt impressed the jury with its development of an automatic luggage loading system for airports known as Unipack. Thus the company is appointed as one of a number of companies in Germany that have been deemed to stand for particular future orientation and innovation. Christian Wolf on the other hand won over the jury with an entirely different business idea. His company purchases used electronic consumer goods such as mobile phones via its own online portal „WIRKAUFENS“, then restores these and resells them via the internet. More than 400 devices arrive at the company's premises daily which recently moved into larger headquarters at the TeGeCe Commercial Park in Frankfurt (Oder). | [more info](#)



WIRKAUFENS can look back on an exciting foundation history. Founder Christian Wolf (photo) and his team are one of the most successful startups in the region over the past few decades. Its numerous prizes and awards are a testament to the success of WIRKAUFENS (Future Prize Brandenburg, Website Award Berlin and, at present, a „selected location for 2012 in the land of ideas“). (Press photo: asgoodas.nu GmbH)



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Newsticker

Frankfurt (Oder)/Eisenhüttenstadt: Welcome Centres opened

Families and local businesses are to become more closely interlinked. To this end, the project „Location Factor: Family“ has been started up in Frankfurt (Oder) to aid professionals and their families relocating to Frankfurt (Oder) or Eisenhüttenstadt, and to help them become accustomed to living in their new working and living environment. Both cities will set up Welcome Centres, which will work together to provide new citizens with competent information on which authorities to register with plus surveys on living standards, information on childcare and leisure activities. | [more info](#)

Brandenburg: First for cycle paths throughout Germany

Brandenburg scored the top marks of all German states when it came to quality of cycle paths. This was the result of a survey conducted by the Allgemeiner Deutscher Fahrradclub ADFC (General German Cycling Club). More than 4300 kilometres of paths have now been certified - more than in any other German state. Three or four stars were awarded to 13 long-distance cycle paths in Brandenburg. | [more info](#)

Poland at the fore: Economy in Berlin becoming more and more international

The economy in Berlin is increasing its international appeal. This was the conclusion reached by an updated, new edition of a Berlin Chamber of Commerce study, which looked at the international orientation of the economy in Berlin. The percentage of foreign business operators rose in the last year by 1.4 percent to just under 14 percent, with the most foreign companies in the city run by operators from Poland with 7368 companies, followed by Turks with 5370 companies. Overall, 170 nationalities are represented among business operators in Berlin, according to the IHK in Berlin. | [more info](#)

EuroSpeedway Lausitz: Giant wind turbine commences operations

In Klettwitz in the south of Brandenburg, one of the most powerful wind turbines in the world has officially started operations. Standing some 200 metres high and weighing around 2800 tons, it is located on the EuroSpeedway Lausitz circuit and has an installed electrical power of 7.5 megawatts. This will result in the generation of around 17000 MWh of electrical energy for the EuroSpeedway Lausitz or can also be used to supply 5000 households. The wind turbine is operated by the company Windenergieanlage Lausitz GmbH & Co. KG.

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