



newsletter

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

EDITION II/2013



Member of
World Trade Centers Association

WORLD TRADE CENTER

FRANKFURT (ODER) - SLUBICE

news

Astronergy purchases photovoltaic module plant in Frankfurt (Oder)

The Chinese module manufacturer Astronergy takes over the photovoltaic module production of German based Conergy AG in Frankfurt (Oder). The acquisition will secure 210 jobs on site for the long term. „We are delighted that, with the module plant in Frankfurt (Oder), we now have a German partner. We are utterly convinced about the high quality of production and the specialist knowhow available at the location. The plan is to integrate the company entirely into our existing structures“, explained Dr. Chuan Lu, Vice President of Astronergy. Insolvency administrators White & Case were also able to successfully sell off the other parts of the Conergy corporation. The US investor Kawa will be taking over Conergy’s global sales and service companies while the German investment company Nord Industrie Group GmbH will be purchasing the frame manufacturer Mounting Systems in Rangsdorf. | [more info](#)



The solar module factory in Frankfurt (Oder) is one of the most modern of its kind in the world. „In Frankfurt (Oder), we will continue to produce high quality modules. We will not only produce profitable, but also further develop this location in the long term“, said Dr. Chuan Lu, Vice President of Astronergy. (Photo: Kuhnert Medien)

30 years high-tech research and development: IHP celebrates anniversary

On December 16th, the IHP - Innovations for High Performance Microelectronics held a celebration of its three successful decades spent in research. Among the numerous guests from politics, science and research was Brandenburg’s Prime Minister Dietmar Woidke, who praised the IHP as a “flagship high-tech company”. At the same time, the anniversary was used to open the new extension to its premises. The annex was funded by state and federal subsidies to the tune of 8.7 million euros and will provide 70 new workstations for world-class research. It is equipped with state-of-the-art training and conference rooms. The IHP currently employs around 300 staff. A focal point of its research work is the wireless high-speed transfer of data for use in the automotive and aerospace industries and in medical technology. | [more info](#)



After celebrating the institute’s 30th anniversary, architect Gunter Henn, Frankfurt’s Lord Mayor Martin Wilke, Science Minister Sabine Kunst, IHP CEO Wolfgang Mehr and Wolf-Dieter Lukas from the Federal Ministry for Education & Research opened the new extension to the IHP building (left to right). (Photo: Kuhnert Medien)

Worldwide study: Berlin most attractive city in Europe for young people

Berlin is the most liveable city in Europe for young persons aged between 15 and 29 and, after Toronto (Canada), the second most popular city in the world. This was the result of the latest „Youthful cities index 2014“. Overall the index analyses 16 criteria and 80 indicators in various categories. These include entertainment and cultural offerings, quality of the environment, educational facilities, internet access and career perspectives. Berlin achieved particularly high scores in comparison with other metropolises for its living costs. On the list of the most expensive cities worldwide, Berlin currently occupies just 106th place. The city is particularly attractive for 25 to 30 year-olds. This age group, which particularly values Berlin’s good infrastructure for families and single parents, experienced the greatest growth in the city (+ 12%). | [more info](#)



Berlin is booming and offers excellent perspectives for young people: The number of jobs continues to rise above the average. In the third quarter of 2013, numbers in gainful employment increased by more than 30,000 according to the Berlin-Brandenburg Statistics Office, which is 1.7 percent more jobs than in the same period for the previous year and significantly above the national average. (Photo: Fotolia)



newsletter

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

EDITION II/2013



Member of
World Trade Centers Association

WORLD TRADE CENTER
FRANKFURT (ODER) - SLUBICE

Amazon opens new logistics centre in Brieselang, Brandenburg

The online e-commerce trader Amazon has opened a new logistics centre in Brieselang in the State of Brandenburg. It is already the company's ninth shipping warehouse in Germany. Over the next three years, Amazon is planning to create 1,000 permanent jobs in Brieselang and will in addition employ 2,000 seasonal workers. For Ralf Christoffers, Minister of Economic and European Affairs of the State of Brandenburg, the region of Berlin-Brandenburg is the ideal location for sales and distribution: „The German capital region is one of the leading logistics locations in our country. Potential for science and research that is industry-relevant, state-of-the-art transport management and its excellent networks are just some of the excellent reasons to invest here!“ | [more info](#)



Amazon was founded by the American computer scientist Jeff Bezos in 1994. The company sells and distributes millions of items online including books, music, electronics and fashion items. The German platform amazon.de opened in 1998. The company now employs approximately 110,000 staff worldwide with 9,000 in Germany alone. (Photo: Amazon)

Innovative: Brandenburg starts online business guide for investors

The state of Brandenburg has been using a new tool to promote itself as an industrial location. The online platform www.brandenburg-business-guide.de provides information about industry sectors, regions, companies and location factors while intelligently linking data, texts, photos and videos with ordinance survey maps and basic geographical information about the Brandenburg state. The result is an interactive map for Brandenburg as an industry location – something that is to date unique in Germany! The portal will make it easier for potential investors to find suitable land plots, suppliers or research partners. It will also become a new, comprehensive work and presentation tool for all business promoters in Brandenburg. Schools or leisure institutions can also be shown at the selected location. | [more info](#)



Present for the go-live of the new online platform on December 5th 2013: Daniela B. Estévez and Dr. Steffen Kammradt, from Brandenburg Economic Development Board (ZAB), Ralf Christoffers, Minister of Economic and European Affairs of the State of Brandenburg, Gundolf Schülke, CEO CCI East Brandenburg and Tillmann Stenger, President of the Board of the business promotion bank of the State of Brandenburg (from left). (Photo: ZAB)

Convincing ideas & commitment: Future-prize winners 2013 chosen

The future prize, which was initiated in 2004 by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry East Brandenburg and „Märkische Oderzeitung“ newspaper, celebrated its tenth anniversary this year. The 77 candidates for the prize from the whole of Brandenburg were eventually whittled down to six winners, who impressed the jury with their outstanding entrepreneurial performances and social commitment. Services that won over the jury ranged from the development of a flexible flood control system, to a navigation unit for surgeons, automation solutions for industry and the development of parts from high-performance ceramics. A special award was presented to Siegfried Erkner, who formed the highly-successful car trading Erkner Group which arised from a small car mechanics workshop back in GDR times. His company has since become one of the largest automotive traders of the VW, Audi, Skoda and Seat brands in the state of Brandenburg. | [more info](#)



The new prize-holders during the awards ceremony on November 8th 2013 in Neuhardenberg Palace. (Photo: IHK / W. Mausolf)

- BBF BIKE GmbH
- Emis Electrics GmbH
- enditec GmbH/Ofenexperte.de
- EXPERT-BAU
- Fiagon GmbH
- Fügetechnik Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH
- Special prize winner: Erkner-Gruppe



newsletter

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

EDITION II/2013



Member of
World Trade Centers Association

WORLD TRADE CENTER

FRANKFURT (ODER) - SLUBICE

Newsticker

Frankfurt (Oder)/Eisenhüttenstadt: Maximum EU funding extended until 2014

Frankfurt (Oder)/Eisenhüttenstadt will provisionally continue to be subject to the highest investment subsidies in Europe until and including June 2014. Companies that decide to perform research, service or production activities now stand good chances of obtaining 50% of the eligible investment costs as a direct subsidy. | [more info](#)

Road clear for major investments: New industry park on the A12/E30

In August 2013, city councillors from Frankfurt (Oder) voted in favour of the land utilisation and construction plan for a new industry park on the motorway A12 (E30). The park, which will represent an attractive location in terms of infrastructure, will cover a surface area of 450,000 m², thereby catering for the needs of industrial companies with above-average space requirements and offering the necessary reserves for growth directly on site. | [more info](#)

Cross-border success: Shipping for tourists on the River Oder resurrected

To stimulate the tourism between the State of Brandenburg and the voivodeship Lubuskie (Poland) two passenger ships, named "Zefir" and "Laguna", with a length of 25 metres and a capacity of 90 passengers each, have been built with the help of EU-funding in the EU program "River Oder for Tourists 2014". At first, the ship "Zefir" went on its maiden voyage from Krosno Odrzanskie (Poland) via Eisenhüttenstadt to Frankfurt (Oder) and Slubice. | [more info](#)

European University Viadrina: Top place nationwide for start-ups

The European University Viadrina (EUV) in Frankfurt (Oder) has become third in the category of medium-sized universities (5,001-15,000 students) in the total rankings for the German Industry Association's start-up radar. The start-up service by EUV advises graduates and employees about implementing their own company ideas and has accompanied more than 160 projects over the past nine years from the initial planning stage to successful foundation. | [more info](#)

Contact



Christopher Nüßlein
WTC Frankfurt (Oder) - Slubice
Phone: +49 335 557-1300
Fax: +49 335 557 1310
info@wtcbb.de

If you have any questions or wish to cancel your subscription to this newsletter, [click here](#) to send us an e-mail.

Imprint

WORLD TRADE CENTER FRANKFURT (ODER) - SLUBICE,
operated by Investor Center Ostbrandenburg GmbH
Im Technologiepark 1, D-15236 Frankfurt (Oder), Germany
Phone: +49 335 557-1300, Fax: +49 335 557-1310, E-Mail: info@wtcbb.de

www.wtcbb.de | www.icob.de

The team of World Trade Center Frankfurt (Oder) - Slubice wishes all our partners, friends, associates and their families a prosperous and successful Happy New Year!



2014