



# newsletter

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

EDITION I/2014



Member of  
World Trade Centers Association

**WORLD TRADE CENTER**

FRANKFURT (ODER) - SLUBICE

## news

### Operating at full capacity - Astronergy considers production increase

The German manufacturer of solar modules Astronergy Solarmodule GmbH, which belongs to the Chinese CHINT-Group, has commenced operations at its fifth production line ahead of schedule in Frankfurt (Oder), Brandenburg. The management took the decision due to the high volume of incoming orders. According to Nan Cunhui, President of the Board of the CHINT Group, the company also considers the possibility of extending the site in the field of R & D. Talks are currently running with the Leibniz Institute IHP - Innovations for High Performance Microelectronics, which is also based in Frankfurt (Oder), and with Fraunhofer Institute in Freiburg. Sven Starke, Plant Manager of Astronergy in Frankfurt (Oder), also announced that new products will be developed during 2015. The CHINT Group took over this state-of-the-art factory of Conergy AG in December 2013 and currently employs 270 staff in Frankfurt (Oder). | [more info](#)



Attended the official launch of the 5th production line: Lord-Mayor of Frankfurt (Oder) Dr. Martin Wilke, Astronergy-Plant Manager Sven Starke, President of the CHINT board Nan Cunhui, Prime Minister of the State of Brandenburg Dietmar Woidke and Astronergy CEO Chuan Lu. (left to right) (Photo: Heinz Köhler)

### Pharmaceuticals Group Takeda to expand in Brandenburg

The Japanese pharmaceuticals company Takeda shall continue to develop its production site in Oranienburg, Brandenburg. The company is intending to invest 100 million euros, creating an additional 158 jobs and 25 apprenticeships in the process. Ralf Christoffers, Minister for Economics and European Affairs of the State of Brandenburg, expressed his delight at this development: „The investment of Takeda represents good news for the city of Oranienburg and the State of Brandenburg as a major location for healthcare. This will constitute a premium investment that will strengthen the competence of Oranienburg as a location within this global corporate network. The healthcare sector is a future-reliable cluster within the Berlin-Brandenburg capital region and the investment of this international group reflects positively on the cluster.“ | [more info](#)



A worker during pharmaceutical tablet production at the Takeda plant in Oranienburg, State of Brandenburg. The group is represented in more than 70 countries worldwide, with Germany as one of the company's largest bases. Around 1,700 employees are employed in Germany, about 600 of them in Oranienburg. (Photo: Takeda)

### CLINTON Group to build European headquarters for 57 million euros

The global fashion company CLINTON Group continues to grow and will be developing its corporate site in Hoppegarten in the State of Brandenburg to become its European headquarters. The fashion group, which has been situated just outside Berlin's border since 2001, is now currently building a 55,000 m<sup>2</sup> large logistics centre with an office complex, from where all its logistics operations will be handled in future. This ultramodern site is scheduled to commence its operations at the start of summer 2015. The construction to its European headquarters will lead the company to create a further 100 jobs at this site. The CLINTON Group was founded in 1993 and ranges among the leading providers of casual clothing and jeans in German-speaking countries with its two menswear labels CAMP DAVID and JAY-PI and its womenswear label SOCCX. | [more info](#)



The ultramodern new premises at the site in Brandenburg will cost around 57 million euros. It will be financed to the amount of 16 million euros by the State of Brandenburg. Developing its company headquarters will enable the CLINTON Group to do justice to its concentrated course of international expansion and hasten this still further. (Photo: CLINTON Group)



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## WTC Seoul visited WTC Frankfurt (Oder)-Slubice

A complimentary breakfast networking event was hosted by WTC Frankfurt (Oder)-Slubice in cooperation with Investor Center Ostbrandenburg and Chamber of Commerce and Industry East Brandenburg as a business meeting with representatives of WTC Seoul and the Korea International Trade Association. The meeting was held in the Adlon Kempinski Hotel Berlin with direct view to the Brandenburger Tor. The foreign representatives were part of the business delegation of the president of South Korea Park Geun-hye, who took the chance to meet with Germany's Federal President Joachim Gauck in Bellevue Palace during her visit in Berlin. During the business breakfast the main topic was the exchange of qualified business leads to foster the international exchange between the two countries on a concrete project base for mutual benefit. It was agreed to continue the discussion in the near future. | [more info](#)



Agreed to foster the internal exchange between both regions: Moon koo HUH (Executive Director of KITA Brussels Center), Markus Kappes (Managing Director of Investor Center Ostbrandenburg), Duck-soo HAN (Chairman KITA), Thomas Herrschelmann (Head of Foreign Trade Relations Chamber of Commerce and Industry East Brandenburg), Christopher Nüßlein (Head of WTC Frankfurt (Oder)-Slubice) and Jeong soo KIM (Director of Eurasian Department KITA) (left to right) (Photo: ICOB)

## European Logistics Conference 2014 in Frankfurt (Oder) a great success

At the European Logistics Conference 2014, which was held on June 4th and 5th in Frankfurt (Oder), around 100 participants from Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia, Lithuania, Austria, the Netherlands and Ukraine took the chance to inform themselves about the rise in commercial trade between Eastern and Western Europe. Following 10 years of EU expansion to the East and in particular due to Poland accession to the EU, Frankfurt (Oder) has successfully developed itself as a logistics location from a site on Europe's former periphery to an intermodal hub for East-West traffic in the heart of the EU. In 2013, just over 3 million HGVs passed by Frankfurt (Oder) on the A12/E30. As well as the current extension of the terminal for combined transport with an overhead crane runway, experts in particular envisage opportunities for the marketing of logistics real estate in the freight village of Frankfurt (Oder). | [more info](#)



At the conference, Herald Ruijters, in charge of DG MOVE B1 at the European Commission, praised the efforts of the city of Frankfurt (Oder) in developing its infrastructure: „Frankfurt (Oder) clearly acts as a role model along the TEN-T corridor. The interlinking of road and rail as an intermodal location at a location that is at the same time the most important interface in Europe's East-West traffic, is precisely the way forward.“ (Photo: ICOB/Thomas Ritter)

## New jet engines - Rolls Royce to invest 300 million euros

The British manufacturer of jet engines Rolls Royce is planning to produce a new type of jet engine for aircrafts of the future at its plant in Dahlewitz, south of Berlin. Therefore, the company will be investing more than 300 million euros over the next few years. Using innovative technologies, the company's aim is to develop more lightweight, less expensive, low-consumption but yet still more powerful jet engines. At the ILA airshow 2014, the company announced it will be building a global competence centre for reduction gearing in Dahlewitz. As part of this massive investment, 200 new jobs will be created for highly qualified personnel. Rolls Royce currently employs 2,200 staff at its site in Brandenburg and the investment will promote the German capital region as a location for industry even further. Around 150 companies (including suppliers) in the aircraft sector are located in the region. | [more info](#)



Work on jet engines at the Rolls-Royce plant in Dahlewitz, State of Brandenburg. Since its opening in 1993, more than 5,000 jet engines have been manufactured here. During the last five years alone, the company has invested more than 200 million euros in the development, manufacturing and testing of jet engines at its site. (Photo: Rolls Royce PLC)



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## *Newsticker*

### **ILB offers new funding opportunity for innovative companies in Brandenburg**

Since May 2014, the business promotion bank in the federal State of Brandenburg (ILB) has been making access to funding easier for companies located in Brandenburg. With its new „Brandenburg Garantie Innovativ“ funding model, the ILB relieves the principal bank of risk by 60 percent of the guaranteed credit amount. Due to collaboration between the ILB and the guarantee bank of the State of Brandenburg (Bürgschaftsbank Brandenburg), the guarantee can even be increased to up to 80 percent for small and medium-sized companies. | [more info](#)

### **Frankfurt (Oder)-Slubice European twin city merges even further**

Following the successful establishment of a cross-border bus service and a common logo, the neighbouring towns of Frankfurt (Oder) and Slubice on the German/Polish border continue to merge together even further. Construction work recently commenced on a district heating pipeline across the River Oder and, starting from 2015, the two cities will supply each other reciprocally with heat.

### **European University Viadrina starts worldwide web portal for Polish Studies**

The first academic online platform for international exchange of ideas in the field of Polish Studies called „Center for Interdisciplinary Polish Studies“, or for short “Pol-Int“, recently went online at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder). Students, academics and specialised journalists can inform themselves and exchange ideas about the latest trends in the area of Polish Studies. The center is headed by Hans-Dietrich Genscher as honorary director. | [more info](#)

### **Frankfurt (Oder)/Eisenhüttenstadt: New movies online**

With the help of various new movies, people can now get an idea of the life quality and the local benefits of the growth area Frankfurt (Oder)/Eisenhüttenstadt. The new movies, which have been made available on the internet, provide a fascinating cross section of images and impressions of the local economy, logistics, culture, leisure time and tourism. | [more info](#)

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