



newsletter

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

EDITION II/2014



Member of
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FRANKFURT (ODER) - SLUBICE

news

Astronergy continues to increase its solar modules production

Following the successful takeover of the former Conergy solar factory in Frankfurt (Oder) by the solar module manufacturer Astronergy, a subsidiary of the Chinese CHINT Group, things continue to look up for the plant in Frankfurt (Oder). The 210 staff members are already again producing crystalline modules on three out of the possible five production lines with a total power of 180 megawatts, which corresponds to an annual volume of around 750,000 modules. In September the company entered the black again for the first time since the takeover at the end of 2013, while there are also thoughts about developing the site in the area of Logistics and R&D. Initial talks have already taken place with the IHP Leibniz Institute for Innovative Microelectronics in Frankfurt (Oder) and the Fraunhofer-Institute in Freiburg to this end.

[| more info](#)



Dr. Martin Wilke (left), Lord Mayor of the City of Frankfurt (Oder), met the founder and CEO of the CHINT Group Cunhui Nan (second from left) as part of a business trip to China in December 2014. He took with him a highly original gift: A solar designed cockerel based on a 3D print. The cockerel is the emblem of the City of Frankfurt (Oder). (Photo: ICOB)

Logistics symposium: Intermodal Terminal Frankfurt (Oder) ideally located

The topic at the Logistics Symposium 2014 in December in Frankfurt (Oder), which more than 130 international participants took part in, was perspectives and opportunities of Frankfurt (Oder) as a logistics site in the face of increasing goods traffic between western and eastern Europe. Discussions at the event, which was organised by the Investor Center Ostbrandenburg together with the Polish company PCC Intermodal - operator of the Intermodal Terminal Frankfurt (Oder) - focussed on how to improve the flow of goods between east and west, thereby creating synergies in intermodal business and the role of Frankfurt (Oder), with its central location on the TEN-T corridor, can play in this. Dariusz Stefanski, CEO of PCC Intermodal, praised the rapid development of the Intermodal Terminal Frankfurt (Oder) and is anticipating further rises in its road-to-rail handling figures in the near future. [| more info](#)



As part of the Logistics Symposium 2014, participants were also able to view the new gantry crane at the Intermodal Terminal Frankfurt (Oder) after the conference. This gigantic crane runway can move up to 41 tons across all tracks over the 640 metre long handling area. (Photo: Kuhnert Medien)

Commitment: Daimler to build new Sprinter in Ludwigsfelde, Brandenburg

Daimler AG has made a firm commitment to its Ludwigsfelde site in the German Capital region by planning to build the next generation of its Sprinter van there too. Series production of the new model is scheduled to commence in 2018. In addition the automotive group has invested 150 million euros in modernising its production site south of Berlin thereby securing the long-term future of the plant, which currently employs 2000 staff. Numerous suppliers from the Berlin and Brandenburg region also stand to benefit from the decision too. The plant for vans in Ludwigsfelde plays an important role in its global production network and is the only European site where the Sprinter will be manufactured as an open prototype. The Sprinter is setting new standards for the vans sector and is sold in around 130 countries. [| more info](#)



Staff at the plant in Ludwigsfelde inspect the surface of a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter. Daimler AG has produced the van here since 2006 and, with 2000 workers, is one of the largest employers in the Federal State of Brandenburg. At the start of 2014, the 555,555th Sprinter rolled off the production line. (Press photo: Daimler AG)



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Arquimea: Chips for space travel made in East Brandenburg

Arquimea Deutschland GmbH, a design company originating from Spain, will in future be developing its radiation-resistant microchips and integrated circuits for the aerospace industry at the Technologiepark Frankfurt (Oder). Frankfurt (Oder) won the race to be selected as a location against competition from Dresden, Heilbronn und Munich. „The proximity to Berlin and possibilities for collaboration with the IHP were key to our decision to locate to Frankfurt (Oder)!“ Ferran Tejada, Manager of Arquimea Deutschland stressed. The chips are produced following development in small quantities at the Institute for Innovative Microelectronics (IHP) and are used in space satellites for example. Arquimea’s customers include the European Space Agency and Airbus Defence.

[| more info](#)



Welcome to Frankfurt (Oder): Markus Kappes, Managing Director of the Investor Center Ostbrandenburg (right), welcomes Ferran Tejada, Manager of Arquimea Deutschland, to his new offices in the Technologiepark in Frankfurt (Oder). (Photo: ICOB)

A global first: Polish town of Słubice builds monument to Wikipedia

The world’s first monument to the largest online encyclopedia Wikipedia has been unveiled in the Polish town of Słubice. „The statue is intended to remind onlookers that Poles are among the most fervent compilers of this unique lexicon,“ explained Tomasz Ciszewicz, Mayor of Słubice. The idea for the monument came from Krzysztof Wojciechowski, Director of the Collegium Polonicum, a joint institution of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) and the Adam-Mickiewicz University in Poznan. For him, Wikipedia is „the greatest communal work ever to be created by human beings.“ For this reason he decided to build a monument to the work and commenced planning more than three years ago. An international public assembled for its unveiling in Słubice, including active Wikipedia authors from Poland and Germany, representatives of the national Wikimedia Polska and Wikimedia Deutschland organisations and of the Wikimedia Foundation in San Francisco. [| more info](#)



The Wikipedia monument in the Polish town of Słubice is a bronze-coloured statue with a height of around 1.70 metres made by Mihran Hakobyank. It takes the form of the globe with a jigsaw puzzle design that is open at the top - Wikipedia’s logo - borne by two women and two men. The figures are located on a plinth that represents a pile of books. (Photo: Wikipedia/Mihran Hakobyank)

Role models: Brandenburg companies awarded the Future Prize 2014

Innovative, future-oriented and successful - 100 Brandenburg companies from various industry sectors entered the running for the Future Prize 2014 in Brandenburg. On November 7th, the jury awarded the much sought-after trophy to nine of these, plus a winner of a special prize in the Neuhardenberg Palace. For the first time, the prize was awarded by all six chambers of commerce i.e. the three industrial and commercial chambers and the three chambers of crafts. The winning company projects ranged, for instance, from the world’s largest textile printer for seamless film sets, an innovative remote ECG device for mobile monitoring of cardiology patients, the systematic renaturation of disused open-cast mines, patented UV-protective glazing for museum facades and a quiet-running refuse collection vehicle with a hybrid drive. [| more info](#)



- Big Image Systems Deutschland GmbH
- Drei Schilde Gebäudeservice GmbH & CO. KG
- GETEMED Medizin- u. Informationstechnik AG
- Hoffnungstaler Werkstätten gGmbH
- Hüffermann Transportsysteme GmbH
- MONT GmbH
- Nagola Re GmbH
- PolymerTechnik Ortrand GmbH
- Tischlerei Spatzier
- Special prize: Ulrich Zimmer

Prize winners 2014



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Newsticker

New president at the European University Viadrina

Slavicist and Eastern Europe expert Prof. Dr. Alexander Wöll was inaugurated as the new President of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) on December 3rd 2014. He succeeds Dr. Gunter Pleuger, who had been in charge of the Viadrina for the past six years. Prof. Dr. Alexander Wöll had previously taught at the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University Greifswald and Oxford University. Dr. Wöll speaks several Slavic languages and is president of the „German Ukrainianists' Association.“ | [more info](#)

Landesinvestitionsbank Brandenburg to build new headquarters

The business promotion bank in the federal state of Brandenburg (ILB) will be building a new headquarters for its 700 staff by 2016 across an office space of 20,000 m², a project in which it will provisionally be investing 94 million euros. The new building will be erected opposite Potsdam's main railway station. As well as the ILB, the building will also accommodate the Brandenburg Economic Development Board (ZAB) and the Landesagentur für Struktur und Arbeit. This will enable various institutions committed to business development to be concentrated at one location. | [more info](#)

bbw training centre expands to China

In cooperation with several Chinese vocational training centres, the bbw Bildungszentrum Ostbrandenburg GmbH is now active in China in the area of vocational training. The bbw Vocational Education Suzhou Co. Ltd. was founded in mid-October 2014. German practice-based education with its dual system is regarded as an archetype in China and there is great demand for it among Chinese companies. | [more info](#)

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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!