

> 9,000 passengers per year: Zefir on course for success



The „Zefir“ is 25m long and can carry around 90 passengers. The cruise vessel has two decks, and the heated lower deck can also be used for conferences and other events.

Thanks to the EU-funded project „The River Oder for Tourists 2014“ two new passenger ships have been providing boat tours along the River Oder for more than a year now. Trips are offered from Krosno, Eisenhüttenstadt, Frankfurt (Oder), Slubice and Küstrin. With 9,000 passengers alone, the cruise vessel „Zefir“ can look back on a highly successful year. At the request of many passengers, longer cruises will commence operation between these individual locations over the coming year. The time-tabling and booking systems are also set to be further optimised next year.

① www.oder2014.de

> New president at EUV



Slavicist and Eastern Europe expert Prof. Dr. Alexander Wöll is the new president of the European University Viadrina (EUV) in Frankfurt (Oder). He succeeds Dr. Gunter Pleuger, whose period in office came to an end in 2014. „I'm convinced that European University Viadrina constitutes a highly attractive location for international academic work for both students and researchers. I also see lots of exciting potential for developing the Viadrina over the next six years to become a German-Polish university,” said Prof. Wöll.

① www.europa-uni.de



VIEW ON THE NEW GANTRY CRANE AT THE INTERMODAL TERMINAL ROAD/RAIL IN FRANKFURT (ODER)



**GROWTH AREA
FRANKFURT (ODER)
EISENHÜTTENSTADT**

Growth Area News 2/2014



First-class conditions for business and families

A modern and attractive region with huge future potential awaits companies, employees and families in the growth area of Frankfurt (Oder)/Eisenhüttenstadt:

- Fully-developed industrial areas, including sites for large-scale projects
- Prices on industrial estates from 10 euros/m²
- Multiple redundancy electricity supply for 380 kV, 110 kV or 20 kV
- High-pressure and medium-pressure gas lines (84 bar or 4 bar)
- High-capacity water supply and waste water disposal (installed capacity approx. 500–750 m³/h).
- Direct motorway connection (A12/E39), rail connection via Terminal for Combined Transport Frankfurt (Oder), harbour connection at inland port Eisenhüttenstadt
- Trade tax coefficient: 380% to 400%
- Direct cash-back incentives for labour or investment costs
- Credit sureties and subsidies for R&D projects
- Established educational institutions (European University Viadrina, Sixth Form College, bbw, DAA, Gauß High School etc.)
- Sophisticated business and research competence
- Proven family-friendliness, numerous kindergartens
- Comprehensive cultural and recreational opportunities (Kleist Forum, Brandenburg State Orchestra, Friedrich-Wolf-Theatre, cabaret, trade fairs)
- Plethora of lakes and forests, dense network of cycle paths and waterways
- Express trains to Berlin every 30 minutes
- Airport Berlin (SXF/BER) reachable by car in 45 minutes

Need more information?

The Investor Center Ostbrandenburg gives you helping hands on all matters related to investments in the growth area of Frankfurt (Oder)/Eisenhüttenstadt – free-of-charge, professionally and in strict confidence.

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> NPP: Production enhanced due to growing demand



An NPP worker inspects catering packages following production and prepares these for dispatch. From its production site in Frankfurt (Oder), the company, which originated in Belgium, supplies individual packaging solutions to customers around the world.

Following a successful production launch, the Belgian company NPP NEW product-packlab GmbH, which located to Frankfurt (Oder) in 2013, is currently in the process of doubling its production space in the city. Due to its large number of incoming orders, the manufacturer of organic and recycling plastics products will be taking over a second assembly-hall at the TeGeCe (Technologie- & Gewerbecenter) in Frankfurt (Oder). The main customers for the manufactured products are from the food and drinks industry in the areas of tourism, industry and retail. Staff at NPP work with the latest equipment in a round-the-clock,

multiple-shift operation. The company is also planning to commence construction of its own production building in 2015, in the direct vicinity of the A12/E30 motorway.

„NPP's recipe for success is combining qualified staff and state-of-the-art technology at the right location. Frankfurt (Oder) offers us ideal conditions for further growth.“

**Wim Michielsen, Plant Manager
at NPP NEW product-packlab GmbH**

> Super-battery for AMEH



During a site visit: Brandenburg's former minister of economic affairs, Ralf Christoffers (r.) listens to an explanation of the super-capacity accumulator, which equals to a total of around 700 car batteries.

A gigantic accumulator battery recently commenced operation at the premises of the ArcelorMittal steelworks in Eisenhüttenstadt (AMEH). It will provide self-sufficient power to guarantee production at the steelworks even in case of a total power failure. The lithium-ion battery, which was developed in a joint project between the energy provider Vulkan Energiewirtschaft Oderbrücke (VEO) and Siemens, has a power of 1.2 MW and a capacity of 720 KWh. If required, it can start up a 40 MW gas turbine, via which electricity can then be generated for the steelworks.

① www.veo.de



> **Astronergy increases its module production**



Good reasons to look forward: Thomas Volz, CEO and plant manager of Astronergy in Frankfurt (Oder), views the plant in Frankfurt (Oder) as being well on course to meet its targets. In September the company was in the black again for the first time since the takeover of the factory at the end of 2013.

Following the successful takeover of the former Conergy solar factory by the Chinese solar panel manufacturer Astronergy, the 210 staff in Frankfurt (Oder) are already producing solar modules with a combined total power of 180 megawatts on three of the maximum possible five production lines. This corresponds to an annual quantity of around 750,000 modules. Production is due

to increase to four lines again soon. Further consideration is also being given to developing the location in the areas of logistics and R & D. Initial talks have been taken place with the Leibniz Institute for Innovative Microelectronics in Frankfurt (Oder) and the Fraunhofer-Institut in Freiburg. ① www.astronergy.com

> **TRANSINET: IT solutions for logistics providers**



The TRANSINET GPS locating device enables precise geographical vehicle data to be forwarded to the TRANSINET server, which can then be called up and read from anywhere. This enables e.g. goods recipients, that a message is sent entirely automatically when the vehicle with the goods is located 30 minutes from its destination and a loading ramp needs to be provided for unloading.

TRANSINET GmbH, which was founded in 2010 in Frankfurt (Oder), is continuing to foster the development of the TRANSINET system, an IT system for innovative GPS locating and international fleet control. The IT company provides customers with an own-developed GPS locating system in combination with an unique web-based software. This enables all participants from the logistics industry to be interconnected for optimal fleet management and supplier chain coordination. The devices are designed to be used for fixed-installation and for mobile use. Road hauliers can access to their fleet and all important documents round-

the-clock, regardless of their location. With the help of this digital linkage, day-to-day processes at all participating logistics companies are simplified, thereby making them more efficient. At present, the company employs seven staff members and has various plans for further growth: „We receive extensive support with our staff recruitment from several parties.“, as CEO Dirk Müller explained, adding: „If our software continues to enjoy such positive feedback from our customers, we will naturally have to double our staff in the near future.“ ① www.transinet.eu

> **Zinc robot at work**



Until now, the slag which is constantly formed in the galvanising bath had to be removed by workers under extreme high ambient temperatures. Now a robot performs this complex task.

The fully-automatic system for slag removal in the galvanising bath has been proven highly successful in practice. Being a global first, the robot was developed as a joint venture by the companies Unitechnik Eisenhüttenstadt and Richtsteig Anlagentechnik. The steel group ArcelorMittal is now considering the use of these robots at its plants worldwide. ① www.unitechnik-eh.de

> **State-of-the-art brewery**



The new filling system manages 13,000 bottles of beer per hour. According to a survey by the CoCo new media GmbH, Neuzeller Kloster-Bräu is the most famous brand of beer in Brandenburg.

In order to improve its competitiveness and align itself to the future market, the brewery Klosterbrauerei Neuzelle has invested one million euros – half of which was subsidised by the State of Brandenburg – in a new bottle filling and labelling machine. The new labelling machine will considerably improve the appearance of its products for the 0.5 litre bottles as well as for the 0.33 litre bottles, which are now also fillable by the new machine. As stated by the company, this increased flexibility contributes to strengthen the opening up of further market segments in the near future. ① www.klosterbrauerei.com

> **Arquimea: Space technology from Frankfurt (Oder)**



Welcome to Frankfurt (Oder): Markus Kappes, CEO of the Investor Center Ostbrandenburg (right), welcomes Ferran Tejada, Manager of Arquimea Deutschland, to its new offices in the Business and Innovation Centre at the Technologiepark in Frankfurt (Oder).

Arquimea Deutschland GmbH, a design company with Spanish roots, will in future be developing its radiation-hard 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)!“, as Ferran Tejada, Manager of Arquimea Deutschland pointed out. Following the local development, the chips are also partly produced at the Institute for Innovative Microelectronics (IHP) for their use in space satellites. ① www.arquimea.com

> **Successful expansion of the intermodal terminal**



A giant has commenced operations: In the presence of numerous guests from the worlds of politics and business, including Jörg Vogelsänger, Brandenburg's former minister of infrastructure and Dr. Martin Wilke, lord mayor of the city of Frankfurt (Oder) (right picture, from left to right), loading and unloading of HGVs via the new gantry crane was demonstrated.

Following a joint investment of ten million euros, invested by the city of Frankfurt (Oder), the State of Brandenburg, the German Federal Republic, the EU and the terminals operator PCC Intermodal (PCCI), construction works at the terminal for intermodal transport road/rail in Frankfurt (Oder) have finished on time. In October, the new gantry crane and several new handling tracks were officially handed over for operation. This new technology is designed to significantly increase the speed of transshipment on site. The new gantry crane is capable of moving up to 41t

over the 640m long handling area. Due to the expansion, PCCI is optimistic that the handling capacity can quickly be doubled from 50,000 containers per year at present to 100,000 containers in the near future. Additionally to the transportation of containers, the transport of crane-compatible semi-trailers from and to Luxembourg, the international seaports and Poland is in planning. The public terminal in Frankfurt (Oder) offers ideal prerequisites as an interface for HGV and container train transport between Eastern and Western Europe. ① www.kv-terminal.de

> **Transport hub growing**



At a weight of 600 tons and a length of 74 metres, the bridge over the Oder-Spree Canal at Pohlitz forms an important connection to the Oder-Lausitz federal road, which is currently under construction.

Construction of Oder-Lausitz federal road, which will ensure faster connections within the growth area of Frankfurt (Oder)/Eisenhüttenstadt, is progressing rapidly. For the 10 km long construction of the Wiesenu and Finkenheerd bypass alone, eleven new bridges need to be constructed first. Recently a stretch between Frankfurt (Oder) and Eisenhüttenstadt was opened for traffic.

> **Linde invests millions**

The technology group Linde will be constructing a new air separation plant in Eisenhüttenstadt by 2017 for 85 million euros. The plant will be supplying oxygen and nitrogen to the ArcelorMittal Eisenhüttenstadt (AMEH) steelworks as well as liquid products for the regional gases market. „Besides the larger oxygen capacity, we are also pledging greater safety in oxygen supplies and significantly greater flexibility for our steel production“, explained Pierre Jacobs, President of the Board of Management at AMEH.

① www.arcelormittal-ehst.com



A total of two oxygen production systems are in operation at the Eisenhüttenstadt site. The older system will now be replaced with a new, more high-performance version.