

Record number of applications at Viadrina University



Beautiful square in Frankfurt (Oder) city centre: Just in time for this year's semester start, the new campus between Auditorium Maximumum and Main Building (left) was completed.

This year saw more than 4,550 applications for the some 1,200 university places available at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) for the 2010/2011 semester. Its three faculties of Business, Law and Cultural studies offer innovative, international-based bachelor and masters courses as well as a good staff-student ratio. In addition, the Viadrina University is Brandenburg's leading university when it comes to internationalism as it enjoys close collaborations with some 200 universities in other countries, which enable it to send some 400 students to study abroad each year. www.euv-frankfurt-o.de

Spotlight on Kleist



A ceremony took place to open the nationwide Kleist Year in March in Frankfurt (Oder). To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the death of the poet Heinrich von Kleist (1777-1811), exhibitions, performances of his plays and readings of his works will be taking place in the city over the next few months. The celebrations opened with the slogan „One House for Kleist“ with a first ground-breaking ceremony for an annex to Frankfurt's Kleist Museum, which will cost around 5.4 million euros. www.heinrich-von-kleist.org



**GROWTH AREA
FRANKFURT (ODER)
EISENHÜTTENSTADT**

Growth Area-News 2011



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- German capital Berlin accessible every 30 minutes via regional express train

Need more information?

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

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First Solar doubles its production in Frankfurt (Oder)



(Left to right) Burkhard von Westerholt, Plant Manager at First Solar, Ralf Christoffers, Minister for Commerce of the State of Brandenburg, Dr. Martin Wilke, Lord Mayor of Frankfurt (Oder) and Matthias Platzeck, Minister-President of the State of Brandenburg, at this year's topping out ceremony for the second plant in Frankfurt (Oder).



Current aerial photograph of the First Solar building site with the new factory in the foreground. The expansion of its Frankfurt (Oder) plant is part of First Solar's global strategy to increase its production capacity to more than 2.7 GW by 2012.



First Solar, the world's largest manufacturer of thin film solar modules, is to double its capacity in Germany. The US company held a topping out ceremony to celebrate its second plant in Frankfurt (Oder) on February 16th 2011, with its new production systems set to commence operations during the third quarter of 2011. On an area of just over 50.000 m², it will supply solar modules with a total annual output of more than 238 MW, thereby doubling its production in Germany to 477 MW overall. With the commis-

sioning of the second plant in Frankfurt (Oder), the number of employees is also set to rise to more than 1100. The solar manufacturer has become both an important and popular employer in the growth area of Frankfurt (Oder) and Eisenhüttenstadt. This is evident from First Solar having received another award from the "Great Place to Work Institute", for 2011 is the second year in succession it has been nominated among the best 100 employers in Germany and it remains the only manufacturing company in Eastern Germany to have been awarded this epithet.

www.firstsolar.com

Yamaichi expanding

At its site in Frankfurt (Oder), Yamaichi is growing considerably faster than planned, with orders from the solar industry, including from First Solar and Q-Cells. The production line was recently significantly extended for mass production of components from the new Y-SOL series. Connection boxes for silicon and thin-film modules, plug connectors and cables for solar modules with very high protection classes are manufactured at its Frankfurt site. Its staff numbers also recently increased to more than 200.

www.yamaichi.de

New boss for AMEH



On May 4th 2011, ArcelorMittal appointed the Frenchman Matthieu Jehl (photo) as President of the Board of Management at ArcelorMittal Eisenhüttenstadt GmbH (AMEH). He takes over the role from Thorsten Brand, who will now be taking up a post at ArcelorMittal Long Carbon Europe in Luxembourg.

www.arcelormittal-ehst.com



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> New world record for corrugated base paper mill in Eisenhüttenstadt



The corrugated base paper factory in Eisenhüttenstadt recently set its third world record for production speed since its commissioning in March 2010. According to Progroup AG, the paper mill can operate at a production speed of 1650 metres per minute for 30 hours. At full capacity, which it is scheduled to attain during 2011, it is to manufacture around 650,000 tons of base paper for corrugated cardboard per year.

① www.progroup.de

> Fraunhofer considering research in Frankfurt (Oder)



Material testing, certification and quality assurance procedures are becoming ever more important in the solar industry. For Conergy AG, which operates a solar factory in Frankfurt (Oder), the Fraunhofer Institute in Freiburg/BrsG. is already today one of its most important research partners in the area of silicon technology.

The Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE) in Freiburg is testing out the development of a project group in the Solarcity of Frankfurt (Oder) and has already opened a first office for this purpose at the Business & Innovation Centre in Frankfurt (Oder). Here, it will identify potential research topics and

prepare its projects, with the plan to open an ISE branch office with approx. 40 employees later on. Solar companies already resident in the city like First Solar, Conergy and Odersun have welcomed the plans of the ISE. They see it as an opportunity for the city, which already plays a key role as a production centre for solar modules, to become a centre for solar research and development, something which will create far-reaching synergies. With more than 1000 staff, the Fraunhofer ISE is the largest solar research institute in Europe. The work ranges from development of the natural scientific and technological basics of solar energy use to the development of prototypes and carrying out of demo systems. The institute plans, advises on and provides know-how and technical devices for services.

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> Getgoods – Germany's best online mobile phone store



An online business star – the HTM company, nominee of the Oskar-Patzelt prize for innovative medium-sized businesses is set to dispatch 1.6 million of its packages during 2011. Purchasing, sales, a logistics line with pickers and a customer call centre are all based at its Frankfurt site.

According to a survey by the news channel n-tv, the German mobile phone web-shop of the year for 2010 comes from Frankfurt (Oder). HTM GmbH runs eight web shops offering an extensive range of products, such as www.getgoods.de and www.handyshop.de. HTM stocks most of its products itself, thereby reducing delivery times considerably – a strategy its customers have rewarded amply. Its annual sales forecast for 2011 is between 250 and 300 million euros and, in three years, staff numbers have risen from 4 to 94. ① www.htm-gmbh.com

> Solarpark in operation



At the Drachenberg in Frankfurt (Oder), 2,555 modules with a total power of 300 kWp have been installed on 200 tables. The DSW solar testing park was renowned as "landmark in the land of ideas" by the German Federal Government in 2009.

Deutsche Solar Werke has added 15 manufacturers of the latest solar technologies from the areas of module construction, inverters and subconstruction to its testing platform in Frankfurt (Oder). The comparative testing procedures will enable further product improvements for the participating companies. ① www.dsw-solar.com

> Opening of labour market

Since May 1st 2011, the labour market in Germany has been open to citizens from the eight Eastern European countries Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which joined the European Union in 2004. Polish citizens will from now on no longer need a work permit to work in Germany for example. This will enable companies in the German-Polish border region to easier fill positions with candidates from neighbouring EU states.

① www.bmas.de/portal/51614

> Combined Traffic Terminal on track: New routes planned



Due to a huge increase in handling, dynamic expansion of the CT Terminal in Frankfurt (Oder) is currently taking place and new routes are being prepared. As well as new track connections, a crane runway is being installed and the connection to the B112 is going to be optimised by a new section. Expansion of the existing East-West routes to Moscow and North-South routes to the Mediterranean ports of Trieste/Koper is also planned for the near future. ① www.ettc.de

> IHP and TU Berlin research new chip technology



Leading researchers in the area of optical chips: Prof. Kazumi Wada from Tokyo has the work of the IHP labs explained to him by Prof. Bernd Tillack and Jens Katzer. (left-to-right)

Scientists from the Leibniz Institute for Innovative Microelectronics (IHP) from Frankfurt (Oder) and the Technical University in Berlin are working hand-in-hand on a groundbreaking technology. Last year, a communal lab "Joint Lab Silicon Photonics", capable of processing both electronic

and light signals, was founded for the development of silicon-based chips. Photonic chips are considered among experts to represent a revolution in microelectronics and can process huge amounts of data in considerably less time than other chips. They also consume less energy and heat up less. Prof. Bernd Tillack at the IHP sees opportunities for the regional economy in this new technology, too. The IHP plans to collaborate with local and international companies wishing to make use of optical chip knowledge from research for their own innovations to enable prototypes or small preliminary series to be produced at the IHP for example. The IHP employs more than 250 people from over 20 countries.

① www.ihp-microelectronics.com

> Odersun AG to cooperate with façade manufacturer

Odersun AG based in Frankfurt (Oder) and Lithodecor, a manufacturer of façade systems, are to cooperate in the area of solar façades. This collaboration will focus on combining Lithodecor's Airtec photovoltaic system with customized CIS solar modules by Odersun AG. Besides natural stone or glass versions, Airtec façades will henceforth be available with multifunctional façade components made from photovoltaics enabling individual customisation.

① www.odersun.com



Odersun AG develops and produces flexible, silicon-free solar products using a globally patented and trademarked thin film technology on a copper strip basis, which enables solar cells to be produced in virtually all sizes, powers and shapes.

> Fujifilm counts on Conergy



The Hamburg company Conergy AG, which runs a fully-integrated solar factory in Frankfurt (Oder), is to strengthen its presence on the growing US market. A solar installation with a 320 kW output using premium modules manufactured by Conergy has been installed, hand in hand with its Hawaiian partner 21st Century, on the Fujifilm North America branch office in Oahu on the island of Hawaii (photo). The 1,455 Conergy PowerPlus modules on the Fujifilm building have an annual electrical output of 483,391 kilowatt hours. "We opted for a partnership with Conergy and its premium modules because of their extreme toughness and high quality," explained Myron Thomson, CEO at 21st Century. "Their long service life and robustness combined with extensive warranties ensure a constantly high output, even after many years and in the climatic conditions that frequently prevail on Hawaii, such as strong winds and salty sea air.

① www.conergy.de

> 130 new jobs at Call24

The telemarketing company Call24 is expanding its range of services in the areas of tourism and media and will be appointing a further 130 permanent staff at its site in Frankfurt (Oder). The company, which has operated in Frankfurt (Oder) since 1998, already employs more than 300 staff and offers its own apprenticeships.

① www.call24-tm.de