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Central German Airports Group

▶ Airports defy extreme temperatures

Cold air from Russia with night temperatures way below -10°C did not close down Saxony's airports and caused only minor problems.



Snow fighting fleets at Dresden and Halle/Leipzig were excellently prepared, and a total of about 200 staff are on duty during the winter to clear runways at the two airports and deice planes before takeoff.

Shovels and brooms are not enough to clear snow and ice from an area at Dresden which is as large as 68 soccer fields. Some 140 technical staff and personnel from PortGround, the ground handling company, make sure that planes can take off and land safely and reach apron positions.

Staff from the airport and PortGround have the latest snow clearing equipment at their disposal to keep Dresden Airport open

Their fleet of advanced removal vehicles includes sweeper and blower units, up to seven of which may be used on runways and taxiways at one time, a snow plow, two 320 hp snow augers with a spreading range of 30 m, a gritting vehicle and an inspection car.

After snowfalls, runways must be ready for takeoffs and landings within 35 – 40 minutes. A little more time, 90 – 120 minutes, is allowed for clearing parking spaces for aircraft.

This January some 100 planes had to have snow and ice removed from wings and tail units before takeoff at Dresden. For this purpose, they are sprayed with a bio-degradable glycol-water mix which is up to 80°C hot. Deicing a medium-range Boeing 737 takes about 10 minutes.



Leipzig/Halle Airport has somewhat larger dimensions than Dresden. The 60 staff who have been trained for snow fighting come from a number of departments. Their job is to clear snow and ice from the north runway, taxiways and airport roads, a combined area of 1.15m square meters, or about 139 soccer fields. Removing equipment consists of 20 vehicles converted specifically for airport duty.

Leipzig/Halle has already deiced over twice as many planes as last winter

PortGround staff who removed ice and hoar-frost from 255 planes between October and the end of 2005 alone. That was double the number reported for the same period of the previous year.

During the 2004/2005 winter season, the runway and taxiways had to be cleared and gritted on 34 days.

Aircraft deicing at Leipzig/Halle is a full-time job for

www.leipzig.aero, www.desden.aero and www.portground.com

Dresden Airport

► More freedom for Internet users

A wireless local area network (WLAN) has ushered in a new age for those surfing the www at Dresden Airport.

In the new terminal, business travelers, tourists and visitors can go on the Internet without cables. The service was established by the airport's communications department jointly with The Cloud, a British company that operates a neutral platform where mobile phone operators such as Vodafone D2 can offer their services.

Throughout the terminal, 11 strategically arranged access points make rapid radio connection with the client's notebook so that even presentations with large data quantities can be downloaded or sent. Vodafone customers pay on their phone bill, other clients may use credit cards.

W-LAN hotspots have already been installed at the Lufthansa lounges of Dresden and Leipzig/Halle Airports.

www.dresden.aero, www.vodafone.com, www.thecloud.net



▶ Helicopter hangar to be built at Dresden Airport

Construction is in full swing at the airport. In December, a new hangar for helicopters covering an area of 1,900 square meters is to be completed.



Excavation next to the Schenker warehouses will start in May, and the complex will eventually accommodate three police helicopters and a rescue helicopter operated by Deutsche Rettungsflugwacht.

The new hangar is needed, firstly, because the helicopters now parked in a building on the airport perimeter will no longer be able to take off and land once the runway has been extended. Secondly, more space in the building is required by EADS Elbe Flugzeugwerke. The company, among other things, converts passenger aircraft to freight planes

Deutsche Rettungsflugwacht started operating from Dresden Airport on Jan. 6, 2006

at the edge of the airport and now wants to work on two planes at a time.

Deutsche Rettungsflugwacht began regional air rescue operations in early 2006 with an advanced type EC 135 helicopter whose home airport will be Dresden.

Leipzig/Halle Airport

▶ Airfreight in Germany – as seen by experts

The opportunities and risks presented by air cargo handling in Germany over the next few decades were recently discussed by experts in Hamburg.

Presently, one out of every five tonnes of airfreight handled in Europe goes through one of Germany's airports. The country's excellent infrastructure has attracted the world's leading logistics companies. With two-digit growth rates expected, the cargo business can thus be a job engine as is seen in the siting of DHL to Leipzig/Halle.

At the TakeOff forum, Eric Malitzke, Managing Director of Flughafen Leipzig/Halle GmbH, cited infrastructure advantages and long-term planning predictability for investors and those establishing manufacturing and other sites in the area. At the center of an expanding region, Leipzig/Halle was near the intersection of two motorways, A 9 (Berlin-Munich) and A 14 (Dresden-Magdeburg), and had links to the German rail network.



This infrastructure, he said, was clearly superior to that of the new EU countries. On the other hand, Germany should not put up bureaucratic barriers which would again hamper their development. Malitzke added that bottlenecks in aviation could arise in Germany over the next few decades but not at Leipzig/Halle which was built to allow room for further growth.

Michael Reinboth, Managing Director of DHL Leipzig Hub GmbH, reaffirmed plans to create 3,500 jobs covered by social security over the next few years by 2012 at DHL's new European freight

Experts discussing airfreight (from left): Dr. Jürgen Vogt (LHU), Michael Reinboth (DHL), Heiner Siegmund (facilitator), Wolfgang Plantholt (Air France), Eric Malitzke (Leipzig/Halle Airport) and Toralf Sonntag (Swissport)

hub at Leipzig/Halle. The region's favorable infrastructure had been a major factor in bringing his company to the state of Saxony and was now instrumental in making long-term commitments at the airport.

Apart from Hong Kong and Wilmington/Delaware in the US, Leipzig/Halle will be DHL's third worldwide hub and is expected to start operation with 50 planes per day in 2008. Since September 2005, cargo from five aircraft per day has been regularly handled here on five weekdays.

www.dhl.com

▶ Economic news

▶ World's leading computer manufacturer expands in Halle

Dell from Austin/Texas is extending its only site in eastern Germany by adding a service and distribution center to be completed in autumn 2006.

With Dell temporarily setting up shop in an office development in September 2005, the company is now constructing its new complex near Halle's central station which will eventually accommodate up to 700 staff on a floor space of some 8,600 square meters.

The number of Dell employees in Halle is to reach up to 1,000 over the next 5 years, with 300 new jobs created this year alone. Since last fall the company has hired 330 staff, most of them for customer service in small businesses and the public sector.

www.dell.com

**► More cars from BMW plant****Output at Leipzig's BMW plant is to rise by 250 to 650 cars a day.**

From the middle of the year, production will be geared up accordingly. The number of employees is to reach about 5,500 by mid-2007, or 1,500 more than at the beginning of 2006.

The new plant which came on stream on March 1, 2005 has since made the new BMW 3 series.

www.bmwgroup.com

► Polish company is attracted to Dresden**Comarch Software AG from Krakow is moving into the German market.**

The company, which develops telecommunications software with a workforce of 1,800, plans to create about 100 jobs for computer scientists locally over the next two years and to erect an R&D center together with Dresden's Technical University. So far, Comarch which was established in 1993 has hired twelve staff in Dresden. Its German customers include such leading names as Siemens and O₂.

www.comarch.com

► Oldest chocolate factory is tourist attraction**Germany's oldest chocolate factory (200 years) that is still in operation is defying an industry trend.**

Sales at Halloren Schokoladenfabrik in Halle increased 8% within a year, to more than €29m. The group of companies with a workforce of about 250 makes over 100 chocolate products. The most popular is the Halloren Kugel which account for 54% of overall output.

The factory's chocolate museum is attracting more and more visitors – 110,000 alone in 2005. It has exhibits on the history of the factory and chocolate in general. A unique sight is the chocolate room with walls, pictures, books, flowers and animals made of marzipan and chocolate.

www.hallore.de/english

Cutting the first slice of the world's largest langue de chat at Halloren Schokoladenfabrik

**▶ Hi-tech company from Saxony supplies U.S.**

Since its foundation 10 years ago, Compound Material GmbH from Freiberg in Saxony has become a leading supplier of gallium arsenide substrates (GaAs) for micro and optoelectronics.

In the meantime, its market share has grown to 30%. Over 60% of the company's output goes to the U.S. where it is used by leading component manufacturers. GaAs is a basic material for telecommunication and used in mobile phones for components which receive signals.

www.fcm.semicon.com

▶ Saxony-Anhalt reprints travel guide

After the successful premiere in 2005 of a magazine entitled "Reiseträume Sachsen-Anhalt", the state of Saxony-Anhalt has now brought out a reprint portraying the Land of the Reformation as a destination for those interested in history, culture, gardens and the outdoors.

On 60 pages, the brochure introduces parks, gardens and an exhibition sponsored by the Council of Europe – "Heiliges Römisches Reich – von Otto dem Großen bis zum Ausgang des Mittelalters" (The Holy Roman Empire – from Otto the Great to the end of the Middle Ages).

The magazine is available free of charge on the internet at www.sachsen-anhalt-tourismus.de or, if you are in Germany, by calling 018 05/37 20 00.

▶ Miscellaneous**▶ 2,000 years old together – Halle and Dresden celebrate anniversaries**

Halle, on the Saale river, is celebrating the 1,200th anniversary of its foundation in 2006 under the motto "Halle-lujah" while Dresden, on the Elbe, has made "Time for Dresden" the slogan to mark festivities for its 800th anniversary.

Halle grew from salt works and is also the birthplace of Georg Friedrich Haendel. It will open a series of events to mark the year when it was first mentioned as a castle, with a festive concert of Baroque music on February 23, the composer's birthday. Some 300 larger concerts etc. will follow until December 3 when a work of music composed specifically for the anniversary will conclude the festival.



► From Halle's history

- 806 – First mention of a castle “ad locam qui vocatur Halle”
- 961 – A document signed by Otto I first mentions Giebichenstein castle with a salt spring
- 984 – Halle is given market, coinage, customs and banning rights
- A document first mentions Halle as a member of the Hanseatic League
- 1524 – Foundation of the “Salt makers’ Fraternity in the Valley at Halle”
- 1694 – The University of Halle opens
- 1964 Salt making ends...
... and the foundation stone is laid for a new town to house those working in chemical plants at Halle-West (Halle-Neustadt)



A particular highlight will be the Haendel Music Festival in early June. One month later, the city of Halle, present population about 230,000, will host a Saxony-Anhalt festival and a procession that will be staged by about 5,000 people from all parts of the state. In early September, 10 historical sites will be set up to reenact Halle's history.

The old tradition of salt making will be revived when representatives from all German towns which once had salt works meet from Sept. 22 to 24 for a festival and parade. A 45c postage stamp showing five scenes from Halle has been on sale since the beginning of the year.

Giebichenstein castle, now an Art and Design College

Dresden, a city once built in Baroque style, will hold a year of festivities marking its first mention in a document 800 years ago. A new book in three volumes devoted to its history will be introduced at a gala in the Opera House on March 31. At the same time, the Saxon Academy of Arts is to hold a colloquium entitled “Dresden as a city of European art”.

A city festival, from July 14 – 23, is to feature a festival of street theater entitled “Theaterrausch Dresden”, and the Radeberg Classic Openair performances of classical music. In August, vintage cars and planes can be seen in action.



Reconstruction of the Frauenkirche built during the 18th century was only completed last fall

► From Dresden's history

- 1206 – Dresden is first mentioned in a document
- 1708 – The formula for making porcelain is discovered in the vaults of the local fortress
- After 1709 the Zwinger is built as an orangery and place for holding festivals
- 1726 – Building start of the Frauenkirche
- 1841 – The first opera house built by Gottfried Semper opens after 3 years under construction
- 1871 – After a fire, building start for the second opera house planned by Gottfried Semper
- 1945 – Dresden is destroyed by heavy Allied bombing
- 1945 to 1963 – Reconstruction of the Zwinger
- 1994 – Reconstruction of the Frauenkirche begins

A procession on Aug. 27 is to feature the history of Dresden and famous contemporaries in over 70 scenes and 26 themes. It traverses the center over a length of about 3.5 km past the Zwinger, Terrassenufer and Opera House and will be staged by 3,600 people of all ages. The organizers expect half a million people to line the streets.

www.1200jahre.halle.de and www.dresden.com

► Imprint

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