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Central German Airports Group

## ▶ Airports in Saxony are major regional employers

**The two airports operated by Central German Airports Group at Dresden and Leipzig/Halle provide a total of 894 jobs including employment in subsidiaries. Since the holding was founded in 2000, staff numbers have grown by about 5%.**



In early January 2007, Plastic Logic, a technology firm from Britain, announced it would build a plant making flexible plastic displays near Dresden Airport creating 140 new jobs

At the end of 2006, Dresden Airport registered a record number of employees (2,750) and companies, service providers and agencies (124), a 14% increase on the previous year. Central German Airports Group, Flughafen Dresden GmbH and PortGround GmbH had a combined workforce of 334, a growth of 2.1% compared with the end of 2005. Of those employed at Dresden, over one third work in air traffic, more than one eighth in services and some 50% in other sectors such as the aviation industry. EADS Elbe Flugzeugwerke, who convert Airbus passenger planes into air freighters, now have a staff of 1,030. Leading international microelectronics companies have located to the wider surroundings and created thousands more jobs in the region.



Leipzig/Halle Airport is one of the region's principal employers and has attracted a number of other companies. The present workforce stands at about 3,000, with Central German Airports Group, Flughafen Leipzig/Halle GmbH, PortGround GmbH and EasternAirCargo GmbH providing 560 jobs, or 4.7 % more than a year ago.

If passenger volumes increase, employment could rise further in the years to come. The experience gained at other airports is that a million more travelers mean about 1,000 extra jobs. The move to Leipzig/Halle of DHL, the subsidiary of Deutsche Post, is to create 3,500 positions internally, and some 7,000 staff could be required regionally by the global player.

The airport on the border of two German states, Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, has also attracted such leading automakers as BMW and Porsche. In the wider region, mail order businesses such as Amazon and Quelle, and DELL, the world's leading computer manufacturer with facilities at Halle/Saale, benefit from the airport's accessibility.

[www.mdf-ag.com](http://www.mdf-ag.com); [www.leipzig-halle-airport.de](http://www.leipzig-halle-airport.de); [www.dresden-airport.de](http://www.dresden-airport.de)

Dresden Airport

## ▶ A 380 tests at Dresden

**The world's largest passenger aircraft, the Airbus A380, underwent practical testing at Dresden Airport in early February.**



In less than an hour, the plane went through five "touch-and-go" routines in which it touched down and again lifted off from the runway at once. In between, it performed aerodrome traffic circuits.

The A380, designed and built by the European Airbus company, has a wing span of 79.8 m and is 73 m long. The double-deck cabin seats up to 853 passengers. With a maximum takeoff weight of 560 tons, the plane has a range of over 11,400 km. The first A380s are to be delivered in late 2007.

The A380 came to Dresden for further practical tests

During the test flights, the plane passed a factory building used by IMA Materialforschung und Anwendungstechnik GmbH and IABG Industrieanlagen Betriebs-gesellschaft mbH where the world's largest airframe fatigue test on a civil plane has been underway since the fall of 2005. The test piece is an A380 fuselage with wings on which 47,500 flights are simulated within 26 months, which is equivalent to some 25 years of operation.

Dresden Airport

## ▶ Specialist training

**IMA GmbH Dresden, Steinbeis-Hochschule Berlin and Deutscher Verband für Materialforschung und -prüfung Berlin cooperate in training engineers.**

Test Engineering, a course which is the first of its kind in Europe, has been devised in response to industry needs. These practice-oriented studies will focus on science, technology and management and include test methods, experiments and simulation techniques to determine the service life of components, structures and systems. The skills of the three partners will be combined in a study and research center which the Berlin college recently opened at the IMA site.

Dresden Airport

## ▶ Airport is backdrop for filmmakers

Moviegoers who these days looked to Berlin also got a glimpse of Dresden Airport which provided the scenery for a tragicomedy shown at Berlinale, the 57th International Film Festival.



Shot in early 2006 and entitled "Blindflug" (blind flying), the film was shown in the category "German Cinema Perspective" and tells a dramatic and comic story of separation, freedom, fear, and love.

Shooting at Dresden Airport took 10 days, and the crew from Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg included the supermarket, the glass pedestrian footbridge, the departure area, the gallery at the new terminal, former terminal 1 and the multi-story car park in the plot.

A scene from the new film "Blindflug", directed by Ben von Grafenstein

The film is to be shown at Dresden this spring and by the TV channel "Arte" next winter.

[www.berlinale.de](http://www.berlinale.de)



Leipzig/Halle Airport

## ► In the air – Bach and Handel

**A Boeing 737 of TUIfly, the low budget airline, is to publicize the baroque composers Bach and Handel, and with them the cities of Leipzig and Halle and their cultural achievements.**



The plane with the two portraits on the tail unit was christened in mid-February at Leipzig/Halle by Georg Milbradt, Prime Minister of Saxony, and Wolfgang Böhmer, Prime Minister of Saxony-Anhalt.

By flying from Leipzig/Halle to Stuttgart, Munich and Düsseldorf, as well as Salzburg and Klagenfurt in Austria, the subsidiary of the TUI group has made the airport its fourth base in Germany. From the end of March, the summer schedule will bring additional connections to Venice, Naples, Milan and Riyeka.

TUIfly promotes the cities of Leipzig and Halle with a special design on one of its aircraft

Leipzig/Halle Airport

## ► Airborne luxury, adventure on the ground

**WINDROSE AIR has added a new service for its passengers. The jet charter company from Berlin, the first tenant to move into the new General Aviation Terminal (GAT) at Leipzig/Halle, now has an agreement with the Landrover Center.**



A Discovery vehicle will take customers after check-in from GAT to the plane across the apron. "Before our clients take off to their destinations in one of our luxurious executive jets, they can now experience the fascinating world of Landrover, the brand of adventure", said Mandy Baum, branch manager of WINDROSE AIR.

The company which was founded in 1990 has found a niche for itself by catering for business travelers and flying direct to over 1,200 airports in Europe. The principal advantage is that clients are completely independent of established routes and schedules. WINDROSE AIR has seven business jets of various sizes and, in the past six years, commissioned a brand-new plane every year. The company presently has a staff of about 60.

More luxury for the passengers: WINDROSE AIR cooperates with Landrover

[www.windroseair.de](http://www.windroseair.de)



## ▸ Regional economic news

### ▸ Above-average economic growth in Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt

**Growth in terms of GDP was 4% in Saxony and 2.8% in Saxony-Anhalt in 2006, putting both states above the average for Germany which was 2.5%.**

In both states, the economy was driven mainly by the manufacturing industry where Saxony reported an effective increase in gross value added of 13.6% over 2005. The figure for Saxony-Anhalt was 12.2%.

For the first time since the mid-1990s, Saxony's building sector expanded again. The same was true of construction in Saxony-Anhalt where positive trends were also seen in the service industry.

### ▸ ICE line from Leipzig/Halle to Erfurt – construction continues

**A number of key projects along the new rail link between Leipzig/Halle and Erfurt will be tackled this year.**

The 123 km long line traverses the state of Saxony-Anhalt where Saubachtal bridge was completed at the end of 2006. This year and 2008 will see the construction of two tunnels, each more than 6 km long. Also planned are bridges over the Unstrut and Stöbnitz river valleys with lengths of 2,700 m and just under 300 m, respectively, as well as a tunnel which is over 2.000 m long (Osterberg Tunnel).

The line is part of a transport master plan adopted after German unification and connects the three states of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia to the south of the country. Industry has long demanded such a rapid link as an extension of an existing short-haul stretch from Gröbers via Leipzig/Halle Airport to Leipzig.



## ► Miscellaneous

### ► Luftfahrt-Presse-Club (LPC) – aviation press club – acquires new members

#### **South-East regional group founded at Leipzig/Halle Airport on 21 February.**

The LPC regional group includes representatives from the press offices of the airports Dresden and Leipzig/Halle, Central German Airports Group and freelance journalists. Further media representatives from the fields of print media, agencies and television have also expressed their interest. The regional group's office is located at Leipzig/Halle Airport. The group plans to use its monthly meetings to discuss topics from the field of aviation and associated sectors.

Luftfahrt-Presse-Club e.V. is a politically neutral, economically independent association of aerospace journalists and publicists. The LPC has regional groups throughout Germany. The Board of the LPC includes acknowledged experts from the German aerospace scene. The goal stated in the articles of association is "to contribute to the promotion of education and training of journalists in the field of aerospace".

[www.luftfahrt-presse-club.de](http://www.luftfahrt-presse-club.de)

### ► Attractive venues for congresses and conferences

#### **Leipzig and Dresden are among the most popular places for holding congresses and conferences in Germany.**

This was shown in the recent presentation of the Conga Awards for top-performing cities and congress centers by the Association of German Event Organizers.

Congress Center Leipzig and Dresden's International Congress Center were among the first ten in a class where Jahrhunderthalle in Frankfurt/Main prevailed before venues in Hamburg and Düsseldorf. Another category, "national destinations", saw two venues from the state of Saxony (Dresden, Leipzig) among the top ten.

Prizes were awarded in 10 categories – congress centers, facilitators, conference hotels, organizing agencies, systems and equipment, speakers, event locations, national and international destinations, and artists, after polling over 25,000 people in the industry.

[www.conga-award.de](http://www.conga-award.de)



## ► Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt are tourist attractions

**The two states are becoming ever more popular with visitors and vacationers.**



PixelQuelle.de

Last summer, Saxony set a new record with 3.5 m visitors and 9.5 m overnight stays in hotels and guest-houses, a visitor increase of 11.3% on the previous year. The number of overnight stays grew by 8.2%. Tourists in summer stayed for 2.7 days on average.

Saxony's most popular place was Dresden, followed by Leipzig and the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge). Compared with last year, Dresden had over 20% more visitors, every ninth of them from abroad. Here a rise of almost 23%, to 391,980 was reported, with most foreign tourists coming from the U.S., the Netherlands, Switzerland, the UK, Austria, Italy and Japan.

The „Zwinger“, one of the most popular landmarks in Dresden

During the first three quarters of 2006, Saxony-Anhalt counted almost two million tourists who booked over 4.9 m overnight stays. Compared with the year before, the rise was 5.7% in the number of visitors and 6.9% in overnight stays, giving the state second place after Saxony at the end of the 3rd quarter as far as growth rates for the larger German states were concerned. Saxony-Anhalt is now attracting more tourists from outside Germany, and its Tourist Board has counted 21.2% more visitors and over 25% more overnight stays in this category.

## ► Imprint

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