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PortGround Takes Over Warehouse Handling for Lufthansa Cargo



PortGround takes over the complete warehouse handling operations for Lufthansa Cargo

Before the launch of the new air freight company AeroLogic, Lufthansa Cargo freight handling operations are moving into the World Cargo Center. As a result, PortGround, the ground services and freight handling company at Leipzig/Halle and Dresden International Airports, is taking over all the physical warehouse handling services for Lufthansa Cargo at the Leipzig/Halle site on 1 April 2009.

Trial operations, which PortGround has been continuing since 16 March, have gone very smoothly so far. Now that Lufthansa Cargo's freight handling operations have moved, the rented space in the World Cargo Center has doubled to 8,000 square metres – it is being jointly used by the cargo airline and PortGround. The building, which was constructed by Garbe Logistic in 2007, guarantees fast and efficient dispatch processes as a result of its modern equipment. Karl-Heinz Köpfle, Lufthansa Cargo board member with responsibility for operations, says: "We continue to have confidence in the

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Leipzig site and want to safeguard our options by moving into the World Cargo Center so that we can continue to grow in the long term.” Lufthansa Cargo currently operates 19 weekly departures from Leipzig/Halle to Bahrain/Singapore, Hong Kong and New York. There are also about 50 road feeder services to destinations all over Germany and neighbouring countries.

Lufthansa Cargo has been linking Leipzig/Halle Airport with logistics centres in Asia and the USA since 2007 as part of an intercontinental joint venture with DHL Express. The cargo airline AeroLogic, which has been set up by the two joint venture partners and has its headquarters in Leipzig/Halle, will take to the skies this year and it marks a continuation of this cooperation arrangement. The airline will fly new Boeing 777-200LR cargo aircraft.

Leipzig/Halle Launches the Summer Programme on 29 March

Antalya, Palma de Mallorca, Hurghada – were the three most popular destinations for flights from Leipzig/Halle Airport last year. Which destination will emerge as the leading contender this year? The 2009 summer timetable (valid from 29 March until 24 October) provides up to 257 flights each week to 56 destinations in 16 countries.

This means that airlines and tour operators are serving almost the same number of destinations from Leipzig/Halle as in the previous year, but with a few changes to seat allocations. Dierk Näther, Managing Director of Flughafen Leipzig/Halle GmbH, comments: “The 2009 summer timetable shows that the airlines and tour operators are continuing to place their faith in this location. This is reflected in the spread of destinations and the number of weekly flights, which have remained stable in comparison with the previous year. If we take into account the economic situation, further developments will depend on the degree to which people in our region actually use the services on offer.”

During the 2009 summer season, Air Berlin is flying to 35 destinations from Leipzig/Halle, followed by Condor, which is providing services to 11 destinations. Passengers using Leipzig/Halle during the summer timetable period will have plenty of opportunities to use feeder flights too – Lufthansa is flying to the two major German hubs at Frankfurt and Munich no less than 33 times each week. And the frequency of flights on the route to Düsseldorf is being increased from 23 to 24 a week. Lufthansa provides many connecting flights to over 200 different destinations around the globe through these hubs. Germanwings also provides twelve flights a week to Cologne/Bonn and Stuttgart. And there are also regular flights to major European cities from Leipzig/Halle: Air France operates non-stop services to Paris Charles de Gaulle every day. And Austrian Airlines provides 18 flights from Leipzig/Halle to its hub at Vienna every week. An attractive offer for passengers who travel to their airport by car: Leipzig/Halle Airport is offering

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Leipzig/Halle Airport



The 2009 Leipzig summer timetable contains 56 destinations

particularly reasonable prices at its P20 car park from 1 May onwards. One week here costs just €35.

3500 New Jobs: DHL Stands by Plans for Leipzig/Halle

Despite the global economic crisis, the Deutsche Post subsidiary DHL is sticking to its plans to create as many as 3,500 jobs at its Leipzig/Halle air freight hub over the next few years. 2,300 people are already working at the hub, the new management chairman at DHL Hub Leipzig GmbH, Eric Malitzke, announced. He explained that the crisis was not affecting DHL's European hub as badly as conventional air freight services.

The DHL hub at Leipzig/Halle began full operations in May 2008 after a construction period that lasted two years. Deutsche Post World Net says that it invested €300 million in the new site and the company is aiming to create approx. 3,500 jobs by 2012. This makes Leipzig/Halle one of the two major DHL hubs in the world alongside Hong Kong. Between 1,100 and 1,200 tonnes of freight are currently being handled at the Leipzig hub every night.

DHL has ruled out any redundancies because of the recession in the logistics sector. Managers at the Leipzig/Halle hub have initially responded to the new conditions created by the crisis by reducing working hours on a voluntary basis. Managers say that about 100 employees involved in loading and unloading aircraft or sorting consignments voluntarily accepted the offer to have their working hours reduced.

A Glance behind the Scenes: Logistics Day at Leipzig/Halle Airport

442.406 tonnes of air freight in all were handled at Leipzig/Halle Airport last year. This represents an increase of 336.8 percent over the figures for the previous year – and it makes Leipzig/Halle the third largest cargo airport in Germany. So it comes as no surprise that Leipzig/Halle Airport is also taking part in the nationwide Logistics Day (16 April) – this is the occasion when industrial, trade and logistics service companies provide a glimpse of how a wide variety of logistics tasks are handled.

Flughafen Leipzig/Halle GmbH in conjunction with DHL Hub Leipzig GmbH is giving interested parties an opportunity to discover what goes on behind the scenes at the airport on 16 April.

The participants will enjoy an exclusive tour of the airport and see how Portground GmbH handles freight at Leipzig/Halle



DHL expands its commitment to the Leipzig/Halle site



Loading freight on to a Boeing 747

Airport or see the journey taken by a piece of luggage after it has been checked in. The sector experts will also discover the impressive technology that DHL uses to tranship approx. 1,200 tonnes of packages and consignments every night and dispatch them to destinations all over the world. There is a restriction on the number of those allowed to take part, so please register at <http://www.tag-der-logistik.de/events/subscribevent.php?id=593>

Handel Takes Off at Leipzig/Halle

It is the sound of music: the Handel House Halle Foundation and the Bach Archives Leipzig are both advertising the 2009 Handel Festival Year and the Bach Festival at Leipzig/Halle Airport until 15 June.

This campaign is designed to draw the attention of German and international business travellers and tourists to the two musical highpoints in Central Germany. DHL Hub Leipzig GmbH is also providing support for the Handel House Halle Foundation on the 250th anniversary of George Frideric Handel's death. "It makes sense to advertise the event at Leipzig/Halle Airport, for it matches the theme of the festival year, which is "Handel – the European", as there are flights to many international destinations from here," says Dr. Hanna John, Director of the Handel Festival in Halle.

The Handel Festival in the 2009 festival year is taking place in Handel's native city, Halle an der Saale, from 4 until 14 June and the patrons at this year's event are Queen Elizabeth II and German President Horst Köhler.

Portraits of George Frideric Handel and Johann Sebastian Bach are suspended on two advertising support systems in the security and public areas of Terminal B. And travellers are also confronted by the two Baroque composers on six advertising spaces on the way to jetways 24 - 26.

Discover the Summer Here: 280 Departures to 46 Destinations from Dresden Every Week

Temperatures are gradually rising here in Germany – but we have to admit that some parts of the world are much warmer than here. And those wanting to take off from Dresden International Airport will find something to suit every taste, for the airport is providing 280 take-offs to 13 countries in Southern and Central Europe, North Africa and the Middle East during the summer timetable, which comes into force on 29 March.

There are flights to a total of 46 destinations, 17 of them in the



The Baroque musicians advertise at the airport

Dresden International



The Dresden summer timetable serves 46 destinations – there is something for everyone here

holidaymakers' paradise, Spain. Air Berlin, for example, provides more flights to Düsseldorf and again flights to Bilbao, Lisbon, Madrid, Porto, Asturias/Oviedo and Santiago de Compostela in comparison with last year's summer destinations. And the timetable information provided at www.dresden-airport.de has also been extended – it not only shows the 33 direct flights, but also many connecting flights to and from Dresden. The 2009 summer season ends on 24 October.

The summer timetable at Dresden International Airport was also presented to the public at a press conference in Ústí nad Labem for the first time on 24 March – Dresden International Airport has become a real alternative for Czech passengers over the past few years. The A17 motorway between Dresden and Ústí nad Labem has been open since the end of 2006. The airport now provides information on destinations, travel to and from the airport and current special offers in Czech at the following website: www.letiste-drazdany.cz

Dresden Presentation in Poland

Dresden International Airport and its partners held a presentation in Wrocław on 26 March for representatives of approx. 120 flourishing travel agents from the Lower Silesia region. The airport was not the only organisation taking part in the roadshow – others included the Saxon Tourism Marketing Association (TMGS), tour operators like TUI Polska, Leipzig/Halle Airport and well-known hotels.

Dresden Airport is a viable option for business travellers and tourists from Poland because the airport is not far away and there is a good variety of flights on offer. As a result, it is gaining in popularity. Travellers can not only find the timetable at the airport's home page www.lotnisko-drezno.pl, but also the most important information on travel to and from the airport and the popular car parking vouchers for Polish passengers.

Building work: Dresden Airport creates more space for aircraft

Building work is starting at Dresden International Airport on 30 March. Old tarmac and concrete surfaces on the apron area, which are not being used at the moment, will be renewed by the middle of June. Then it will be possible to park two aircraft at the site measuring 14,300 square metres. The construction workers will first break up the old concrete by 7 April. As the building site is located inside the airside security area, work will continue at night when the airport is closed.

At what is known as the "Ramp 2" apron area, the construction workers will first break up the existing concrete and asphalt area



There will be plenty of building work at Dresden Airport until the summer

and then renew the subsurface, lay new drainage pipes and ducts and finally lay a new concrete surface.

In a second building project, which is due to be completed by 1 July, earth-moving work will be carried out at the Weixdorf end of the runway. A flat area will be created there and it will be 240 metres long and 120 metres wide. To do this, an old water storage facility will be filled and drainage pipes and ducts will be laid. Some work will take place at night. But no construction traffic will pass through Weixdorf. Local residents have been informed about the building work by post.

From the Region

BMW Leipzig: 500,000th Car Rolls Off the Assembly Line

Despite the crisis in the automobile sector and cut-backs in production – BMW at Leipzig has good reason to celebrate. The 500,000th vehicle rolled off the production line on 20 March: a 1 Series diesel convertible.

The factory in Leipzig is currently manufacturing just 400 cars per day instead of a potential 700 because of the slump in sales. But whereas other BMW factories have introduced short-time working, employees at Leipzig are continuing to work full hours on one shift. Leipzig manufactures the 3 Series saloon and three 1 Series models. The new X1 sports utility vehicle is due to join them in the near future.

Dresden Gains a New Tourism Boss

Dr. Bettina Bunge is to become the new manager of Dresden Marketing GmbH (DMG).

She is due to take up her new position on 1 July. As the DMG interim manager Peter Bossert is leaving his post on 31 March, Deputy Mayor Dirk Hilbert (FDP) will take over the job for the intervening period.

Bettina Bunge (41) is currently working as marketing manager at Hamburger Tourismus GmbH (HHT). Prior to this, she was responsible for the sales department at the German National Tourist Board in Frankfurt. The graduate in business administration, who has also gained a doctorate, is also the deputy spokesperson for the Magic Cities Germany Association, which includes Dresden.



Dr. Bettina Bunge

Culture Is a Money-Spinner for Saxony

Culture and the creative arts are playing an increasingly important economic role in Saxony. The first Saxon Culture Industries Report, which has now been presented by Economics Minister Thomas Jurk (SPD) and Arts Minister Dr. Eva-Maria Stange (SPD), clearly demonstrates this fact.

“For the first time ever, we now have access to figures on the economic significance and the potential of culture and the creative arts in Saxony. It is one of the most dynamic sectors in the Saxon economy and employs approx. 31,500 people paying social security contributions, annual turnover is €3 billion and it involves 8,500 companies. There is huge potential for growth and employment in this sector,” says Jurk.

The number of companies operating in this sector rose by 17 percent during the period 2000-2006. This is almost three times as many as in the overall Saxon economy – the general increase in the number of companies during this period was just six percent. The software and games industry is the segment within this market with by far the strongest turnover and the highest levels of employment. Its turnover in 2006 was €729 million.

The first Saxon Culture Industries Report was prepared by the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography in Leipzig and the Office for Cultural Business Research (KWF) in Cologne. The report has been presented as part of the “Serviceland Saxony” service initiative and can be found at www.serviceland.sachsen.de

“Two Cities. One Night” – Halle and Leipzig Celebrate Together

Halle and Leipzig will be celebrating the 10th Museum Night together on 25 April. Initial information in the form of advertising postcards for visitors is already available in the museums and collections that are taking part and in many of the two cities’ restaurants, clubs and bars. A single ticket enables people to visit approx. 65 museums and collections in Central Germany between 6 p.m. and 1 a.m. during the evening.

A joint marketing arrangement has existed between the Bach Festival in Leipzig and the Handel Festival in Halle since 2007. But the 10th Museum Night in 2009 is the first jointly staged cultural event in both cities and marks a further stage in the cultural networking and consolidation of the Saxon Triangle metropolitan region: the 10th Museum Night is now being celebrated under the heading “Mixed Duo”.

The scheme not only provides a common advertising campaign and printed programme, but many museums and collections are also cooperating with centres that have similar exhibits in the other city. Mobility is also guaranteed. The admission ticket to



The logo for a joint celebration

the 10th Museum Night, which costs € 8 (reduced prices of € 6 and € 4 for Leipzig season ticket or Halle season ticket holders), is also the ticket for all the special transport services organised on the Museum Night, regular services in both the cities and the regional services between Halle and Leipzig.

Dresden Applies for the Chairmanship of the European Local Transport Network

Dresden's mayor, Helma Orosz, met representatives of the European local transport network POLIS in the city hall on 13 March. This was because the Saxon state capital will be applying to take over the chairmanship of the network from February 2010 onwards.

POLIS is an important European network, which represents approx. 70 cities, regions and institutions from Europe on matters related to transport and mobility. Dresden, which has been a member of POLIS since 2004, is already very involved in the political group (the political committee within the network) as its vice-president, the management committee (where administrative issues are handled) and on various specialist working groups. As president, Dresden could expand its role as a centre of expertise for the transport sector in Europe to an even greater degree and make a name for itself at European level.

The next president of POLIS will be elected at the members' annual general meeting in December 2009. Orosz will attend the meeting in order to underline Dresden's candidacy. The presidency is held for one year and may be extended for a further year on just one occasion.

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