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News from the Companies in the Mitteldeutsche Airport Holding

Traffic Developments in the 1st Quarter of 2009: Decline in Passenger Numbers at the Central German Airports/Growth in Freight Volumes at Leipzig/Halle



Fewer passengers at the Central German airports in the first quarter of 2009

passenger numbers at Dresden International Airport tumbled by 8.4 percent to 341,753.

The two airports were able to consolidate their position as local service providers on the basis of the relatively small changes in passenger numbers according to a sector survey carried out by the German Airports Association (ADV). This is not least reflected by the flights offered to passengers in the current summer season, which remain stable from quality and quantity points of view.

The Central German airports registered 20,668 take-offs and landings during the first quarter of this year, which represents an increase in traffic of 7.73 percent over the same period twelve months earlier. While this figure fell by 4.5 percent to

Passenger numbers declined overall by 6.6 percent to 787,105 at the two Mitteldeutsche Flughafen AG airports in the first quarter of 2009 in line with wider economic developments. 445,352 passengers passed through Leipzig/Halle Airport, a fall of 5.1 percent in comparison with the figures one year earlier, while

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7,233 flights at Dresden Airport, Leipzig/Halle Airport recorded growth of 15.7 percent with 13,435 take-offs and landings. This is particularly due to cargo flights operated by DHL and Lufthansa Cargo, now that the DHL hub has become fully operational. The amount of freight handled at Leipzig/Halle Airport rose to 113,356 tonnes, an increase of 72 percent over the figures for the first quarter last year.

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Business Talks: Largest Russian Cargo Airline Committed to Leipzig/Halle Airport

The Saxon State Premier Stanislaw Tillich and Economics Minister Thomas Jurk (SPD) travelled to Russia with 50 representatives from Saxon companies from 20 until 25 April. The Mitteldeutsche Airport Holding was represented at meetings in Moscow by its CEO, Markus Kopp.



Alexei I. Isaikin (li.),
President of the
Volga-Dnepr Group, with
State Premier Stanislaw
Tillich

A meeting was held between State Premier Tillich and Alexei I. Isaikin, the President of the Volga-Dnepr Group – Russia's largest cargo airline – on 22 April. During the talks, the State Premier expressed his gratitude that the airline had set up its only maintenance base for AN-124 aircraft in Europe at Leipzig/Halle Airport and he praised operations there. Alexei I. Isaikin promised to further expand his company's business there – 40 people already work at the site – and the firm is currently examining all the options associated with this.

Tillich also met Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin for private talks on 21 April. Both politicians expressed their support for the reintroduction of a direct air link from Leipzig/Halle or Dresden to Moscow. The need to create a direct route was also emphasized during a meeting with Moscow mayor Yuri Lushkov on the same day.

"Saxony's airports have great potential for a direct connection to Moscow. Many other destinations could be reached from there," State Premier Tillich explained after the meeting. The business partners and customers of Mitteldeutsche Airport Holding have also expressed a great deal of interest in a fresh air link between Saxony and Moscow.

State Premier Tillich also met the Premier of the aircraft construction company UAC (United Aircraft Corporation), Alexei Fedorov in the Russia capital. UAC is part of a joint venture between EADS Elbe Flugzeugwerke, Airbus and IRKUT. This joint venture, Airbus Freight Conversion GmbH, is responsible for converting aircraft in the A320/A321 family into cargo planes. Approx. 100 Russian engineers are working on the conversion

work at the Dresden site at the moment.

The Mitteldeutsche Airport Holding Companies at the 4th Air Cargo Europe



The international air freight industry will be meeting at the 4th Air Cargo Europe during the “transport logistic” exhibition in Munich on 12 – 15 May 2009. As in previous years, the Mitteldeutsche Airport Holding companies will be there and will share a joint stand (Hall A4, stand 314).

Air Cargo Europe provides an exhibition on the subject of air freight and a two-day conference on 13 and 14 May. During this, air cargo experts from all over the world will discuss the current economic situation. The topics discussed at the Air Cargo Europe conference include “Economic outlook – How to cope with the economic situation?” Attention will also be paid to the long-term prospects for the air freight sector. Dierk Näther, Managing Director of Flughafen Leipzig/Halle GmbH, is taking part in the panel discussion on the future of air freight (organized by Netzwerk Logistik and the Leipzig CCI) on 13 May and the discussion round entitled “Cargo on planes and trains”, which is being held on 14 May.

“Logistics Day” a Sell-Out at Leipzig Airport

Leipzig/Halle Airport

Leipzig/Halle Airport provided people interested in logistics with a special tour of the airport site as part of the German “Logistics Day” programme on 16 April. This included in-depth explanations of the baggage conveying equipment and the freight handling shed. The tours, which were provided for about 40 people, were a complete sell-out.



Visitors inspect the baggage conveying equipment

Prior to the special tours, an introduction to the airport was provided during a presentation held in the airport conference room. Then guests enjoyed a bus trip of the site. After viewing the airport, the tour continued at DHL's facilities, where the visitors were able to discover more about the distribution centre there.

Bio-Experts at Leipzig/Halle Airport

Private customers are already able to trace their consignments using tracking systems. For DHL, this means distributing consignments from all over the world to 60 destinations night after night. But what logistics equipment is needed if cells, tissue and organs are

transported for regenerative medical purposes? How can the advantages of a major logistics provider be used locally to develop potential at the Leipzig site?

These and similar issues are the focus of the spring event entitled “Biotech Meets Public” at Leipzig/Halle Airport on 6 May. At the instigation of biosaxony and BIO-NET LEIPZIG, interested parties are invited to the central check-in area on 6 May (from 5.30 p.m.) in order to discover everything about the subject of “Biologistics – Delivered to their Destination Safely”. Lectures and a panel discussion will cast light on this subject from various points of view. More information is available from www.biotech-meets-public.de.

3,000 Visitors at “Croatia Day”

More than 3,000 visitors to “Croatia Day” at Leipzig/Halle Airport on 26 April enjoyed travel tips, plenty of information and a varied entertainment programme all connected to the popular holiday destination of Croatia.

Competent employees of Croatia Airlines and I.D. Riva Tours informed guests about their flights and the tourist highlights of the Balkan country at the check-in area of the central terminal. The musicians from “RADA synergica” carried people away on a musical journey to Croatia and there was a fire dance show and the “Villa Vital” children’s dance group on hand for younger visitors.

One visitor from Weissenfels was particularly fortunate on this occasion: he won a flight for two people to Split with Croatia Airlines, including a week-long cruise on a classic motorized sailing ship organized by I.D. Riva Tours. Croatia Airlines and TUfly are operating services from Leipzig/Halle Airport to the Croatian destinations of Split, Dubrovnik and Rijeka during the current summer timetable.



A good atmosphere at “Croatia Day”

New Automatic Machines for Self-Service Check-In

Dresden Airport is offering passengers a new service with immediate effect to permit them to check themselves in. Five modern automatic machines have begun operations in the terminal and they allow passengers to check themselves in for various airlines for the very first time. What are known as the CUSS (Common Use Self Service) units provide a platform for six airlines instead of just one, as in the past. Dresden is one of the first German airports to introduce this customer-friendly technology. The CUSS machines are located directly below the large display boards on the departures floor.

Dresden International



The CUSS machines are located on the departures floor

The CUSS terminals were officially put into operation by Airport Managing Director, Dr. Michael Hupe, Traffic Manager Monika Schwertfeger and Iris Koessmeier from the technical provider SITA on 22 April. "We are one of the pioneers in Germany with this service," said Michael Hupe. Self-service check-in facilities are now available for Air Berlin, Austrian, Cirrus, Lufthansa and Swiss flights and will be for Germanwings in the near future. In the past, Lufthansa passengers were the only ones who were able to print out their boarding cards themselves. The machines operate around the clock. German or English are available as the menu languages. The self-service check-in service is normally available 24 hours before take-off.

Jazz instead of Jet Lag: "Blues, Boogie & Swing" Dixieland Concert in the Terminal

Dresden Airport is once again one of the most attractive event sites for the International Dixieland Festival. The airport is inviting guests to a "Blues, Boogie & Swing" concert on 15 May as part of the 39th edition of the Dresden musical spectacle. Five bands from Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland will fire up the visitors on two terminal floors in an up-tempo atmosphere. The concert starts at 7 p.m. and doors open at 6.15 p.m. Admission costs EUR 28 without any special reserved seats.

The airport is one of the hosts for the festival for the eighth time. The scheduled programme is due to feature appearances by Cottas Club Jazz Band (Poland), the Brass Band Rakovnik (Czech Republic), Netzer & Scheytt, the Swing Orchestra Truxa and the Thomas Stelzer Trio (all from Germany). Guests can get into the swing of things on the viewing platform and the conference floor, one flight of stairs lower. There are 3,000 parking spaces for those arriving by car. The multi-storey car park alone provides more than 1,500 spaces. The local railway service (line 2, Pirna – Airport) will transport guests to the station in the terminal basement every half hour. Tickets are available from all the usual advance ticket sales offices across Germany.



There was a great atmosphere at the Dixieland concert in 2008

CR9 Premiere in Dresden

The airport in the Saxon state capital will enjoy a special premiere on 25 May: this is the day when the first Canadair CR9 jet operated by the Lufthansa regional partner, Eurowings, will start scheduled operations – on the route between Düsseldorf and Dresden.

The aircraft, which has 86 seats and therefore space for 16 more passengers than its predecessor model, the CR7, was built in Canada and delivered to Eurowings in April. The second

CR9 operated by Eurowings will begin servicing the Düsseldorf-Leipzig/Halle route on 22 June.

Lufthansa has fully maintained its flights to and from Dresden during the summer timetable despite the tough economic situation. The seven daily flights from the Saxon state capital to the airline's hubs at Frankfurt and Munich on weekdays and the five daily flights to Dusseldorf on weekdays give passengers rapid connections to more than 200 destinations in 78 countries served by Lufthansa every day.

4th Silicon Saxony Day in the Terminal

This year's Silicon Saxony Day is being held in the airport terminal on 12 and 13 May. The renowned event offers companies operating in the semi-conductor business in Saxony the opportunity to present their facilities to a network of 270 member companies, make new contacts and discover more about innovations in the various divisions in this sector.



There will be a panel discussion and a plenary session on 12 May and a full day conference programme on 13 May. More information is available at www.silicon-saxony.de.

Europe's most important semi-conductor fair, the "SEMICON Europa" will also be held in Dresden in October 2009. "Thanks to its far-sighted settlement policy, Silicon Saxony has developed into one of the most important microelectronic centres in Europe. Every second European chip is now produced in Saxony," says Heinz Kudert, President of the SEMI Europe Supplier Association, outlining the reason for selecting Dresden as the location for this exhibition.

From the Region

Central Germany Celebrates 90 Years of Bauhaus

There is hardly any other city where the Bauhaus style so dominates the architecture as in Dessau: world-famous buildings designed by Walter Gropius, Hannes Meyer, Carl Fieger, Georg Muehe and Richard Paulick are all located there and are visited by more than 100,000 people every year. So this is where the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation is organising more than 20 events during this anniversary year.

The opening of the "Workshops of Modernism" permanent exhibition in newly designed accommodation in April marked the start of the 2009 Bauhaus year. The exhibition provides some insight into the work in the Bauhaus workshops and presents a selection of products that were developed. You can obtain more

information about the whole programme at www.bauhaus-dessau.de.

The Bauhaus University in Weimar is also organising many events in the 2009 anniversary year. During the spring, the focus is on a review of the historical Bauhaus movement with its many projects connected to the ideas presented at the university formerly known as the State Bauhaus. The Bauhaus University is presenting a major summary, its annual presentation, at the Bauhaus Summer Academy and many other special events in and around the university buildings. You can find the programme at www.uni-weimar.de/cms/partner-und-alumni/bauhaus-jubilaem-2009/programm-2009.html.

The World Negotiates (and Plays Football) in Leipzig

And the winner is ... Leipzig Graduate School of Management! Leipzig Graduate School of Management (HHL) beat off the challenge from well-known universities like Harvard Law School, the National Law School of India or the Bucerius Law School at this year's championships for handling negotiations called "The Negotiation Challenge" held in Leipzig on 26 – 29 March.

The "European Ivy League" is also organised by students at HHL and is the highlight for football fans among the management students from all over Europe. The sports event is being held in Leipzig under the heading "Face the Challenge" on 22 - 24 May.

Leipzig Graduate School of Management (HHL) is Germany's oldest business management university and is now one of the leading providers of further training in the management sector. More information is available at: www.hhl.de



HHL advertisement at Leipzig/Halle Airport

World's Largest Panorama Opened in the "Asisi Panometer Leipzig"

Experience the rain forest at close quarters in Leipzig: The world's largest 360° panorama can be viewed at the "Asisi Panometer Leipzig", an historic gas tank owned by the city's utilities company from this week onwards. The new panorama designed by the artist Yadegar Asisi is huge: 100 metres long and 30 metres high – as large as a football pitch.

Yadegar Asisi has been Professor of Free Expression at the Faculty of Architecture at Berlin University of Applied Sciences since 1996. Architecture was the subject of his first panoramic image in a panometer in Leipzig: visitors were transported back to ancient Rome. After several trips through South America, he

hit on the idea of his “Amazonia” project in 2004. This is now on display in Leipzig, just in time for the 150th anniversary of the death of the naturalist, Alexander von Humboldt (www.asisi.de).

Dresden Sees Potential to Expand Research Facilities

The Mayor of Dresden, Helma Orosz, has welcomed the initiative introduced by the Saxon State Government to strategically realign microelectronic research in the Free State and promote it with a EUR 200 million support package: “Expanding Dresden University of Technology and turning it into an internationally recognised top institution for microelectronics and nanoelectronics is a logical decision. Both pure and applied research has been pursued at Dresden University of Technology and several non-university centres for a long time.”

The Deputy Mayor of Dresden, Dirk Hilbert, points to the fruitful synergies between the worlds of business and science – for example, at the Dresden Biotechnology Centre as a result of the joint placement of research professorships from Dresden University of Technology and biotechnology companies under one roof. This same principle is now being used around the world by high-tech centres – e.g. the microelectronic region near Grenoble in France or the major technology centres being set up in Taiwan and China.



Dresden University of Technology is being upgraded into a top international university for microelectronics and nanoelectronics; Photo: TUD

Zwickau Celebrates Centenary of the Audi Factory

Audi AG and the city of Zwickau are inviting people to a festive weekend at the end of July to mark the centenary of the founding of the Audi factory in Zwickau.

One hundred years ago on 16 July, the automobile pioneer August Horch, having been edged out of the company he set up under his own name, founded his second firm in Zwickau: Audi – and the August Horch Museum is now housed in its former factory premises. This cult site in automobile history and the Platz der Völkerfreundschaft (Friendship among the Peoples Square) will be the two major centres for the celebratory weekend on 25 and 26 July to recall this development.

Historic Audi racing cars will probably be the major focus of interest – particularly a Silver Arrow. The fast cars will cover some circuits on a course and visitors will be able to inspect them from close up in the drivers’ paddock. Silver Arrows built on a 1:2 scale and driven by the muscle power of their drivers will be there for motor sports fans aged up to 12.

New Rail Link for Visitors to the Nebra Sky Disc

In future, the Burgenland railway will take visitors directly to “Nebra Ark”, the place where the legendary sky disc was found. The new station called Wangen has been built near the visitors’ centre.



The mysterious sky disc

One of the first visitors was Saxony-Anhalt’s Transport Minister Dr. Karl-Heinz Daehre, who opened the route to Nebra-Wangen for passenger services and the new station on 9 April. “The railway link enables us to strengthen Saxony-Anhalt’s new “Sky Paths” tourist route. Nebra Ark and the Mittelberg Hill near Wangen are tourist magnets,” Daehre explained. 120,000 visitors from all over Germany visited the centre in the first year after the Ark was opened. Guests will be able to reach the centre more easily in future.

The minister underlined that the find and the spectacular seizure of the 3,600 year-old sky disc of Nebra had given the region an enormous tourist boost. The state of Saxony-Anhalt, which is coordinating the activities of all those involved, is supporting the rail project at Nebra-Wangen to the tune of EUR 130,000 per annum. You can find more information at www.himmelsscheibe-erleben.de/.

Politics

German Transport Forum: Airport Concept Must Strengthen Locations

During the recent meeting of Transport Ministers in Erfurt, the German Transport Forum renewed its call for the German Federal Government to present a forward-looking airport concept. The forum is demanding an airport plan, which makes clear how the Federal Government will specifically support the development of important airports.

Thomas Hailer, Managing Director of the German Transport Forum, said: “The plan has rightly been criticised following consultations between various government departments. The concept does not take us forwards because it does not contain any clear statements on prospects for expanding facilities or night flights at important airports. As a result of the consultation process between government departments at federal level, the good plans presented by the German Transport Ministry are now out of balance – at the expense of the development prospects for air traffic. This has to be corrected.”

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