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Central German Airports Group

▶ Dual leadership

Effective immediately, Central German Airports Group is led jointly by Markus Kopp who started work as a board member of the holding in early May, and Volkmar Stein, former board member who has been appointed president by the Supervisory Board of the Central German Airports Group.



Stein, 63, retires at the end of the year and on Jan. 1, 2007 will be succeeded by Kopp as sole director.

An aviation manager by training, Kopp obtained an MBA and previously headed the Central Aviation Services and Human Resources office of Deutsche Lufthansa AG. Earlier, in the mid-1990s he represented Lufthansa at Dar es Salam, Tanzania and in 1997 was in charge of strategic cooperation between Lufthansa Cargo and DHL, the express delivery daughter of Deutsche Post.

Effective immediately, Volkmar Stein (left) heads the board of Central German Airports Group together with Markus Kopp

In the words of Willi Hermsen who chairs Central German Airports Group's supervisory board, "Markus Kopp is an experienced and recognized aviation manager whose qualifications will lead us farther along the route charted by Volkmar Stein so that the company may position itself as a European player also in future."



► Info

The Central German Airports Group is an umbrella for Leipzig/Halle and Dresden Airports, and two other affiliated companies, PortGround and EasternAirCargo GmbH. Combined sales for the holding last year amounted to €83m. The two airports registered 74,000 flight movements and handled 3.9 million passengers as well as 22,600 tonnes of freight.

Dresden Airport

► Breaking records

Dresden Airport is continuing to make good progress, with passenger numbers for the first quarter rising to 357,000, or 6% more than for the same period last year.

And 2005 was already a record year for the airport near the state capital of Saxony. The current target is to handle over 1.8 million travelers, compared with 1.79 million in 2005.

Growth at the airport is primarily driven by low-cost carriers such as Germanwings who began to fly to Cologne/Bonn three years ago. Since then the number of people using budget airlines has increased by about 200% per year and now stands at over 350,000. This summer Germanwings, dba and InterSky offer a total of six low-cost connections, a model now followed by Lufthansa with reduced prices for business travelers and tourists.

According to managing director Dr. Michael Hupe, there will be even more domestic and medium-range flights from Dresden in future, particularly in the budget class. Contributing factors include the geographic situation, economic strength, growing population and tourist attractions in the region.

The most recent new service...

...from the Elbe river to the Rhine ...



is operated by dba who began flying from Dresden to Düsseldorf on May 8 thus bringing to six the number of low-cost domestic connections from Dresden.

The planes with the conspicuous green logo fly from Monday to Friday, and on Sunday afternoon. Tickets are available from €51 including taxes and charges. The airline has been operating flights between Dresden and Munich since 2004.

The dba crew was welcomed at Dresden Airport



Dresden Airport

▶ Lufthansa flagship named after Dresden

One of Lufthansa's jumbo jets has been given lettering that will carry the name of the 800-year-old city on the Elbe river around the world.



On May 10 a Boeing 747-400 was named Dresden at Rhine-Main Airport in Frankfurt. The plane flies long distance and is known as D-ABTL, or "Tango-Lima" in pilot speak.

Its predecessor, an Airbus A 320, landed for the last time at Dresden Airport on March 21.

The new Dresden is the second jumbo jet, after the Sachsen, that advertises the state of Saxony on intercontinental flights. There are seven other planes which together make up what is known as the Saxony fleet.

At 10.45 a.m. on March 21 the last Airbus named "Dresden" took off at Dresden Airport

www.lufthansa.com

Dresden Airport

▶ Dresden to Zurich

There are even more connections now between Dresden and Switzerland's largest city with a population of 360,000. Since early May, Cirrus Airlines has been flying the route up to three times daily.

Extra flights between the two cities were added on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. In the words of managing director David Miers, "our customers appreciate more frequent services that they can choose from. Our strategy of using several smaller planes instead of a larger one once a day has paid off."

Zurich is a major hub in European aviation. Last year Kloten Airport reported 17.884m passengers and 267,363 flight movements. Over 372,000 tonnes of freight were handled. The airport has three runways.

www.cirrus-airlines.com



Dresden Airport

► For a good neighborhood

As a means of emphasizing the sound relations it has with other organizations, Dresden Airport will hold a Day of Good Neighborliness on June 11.



Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., a number of stalls will be open which provide information on the airport itself and its partners including Deutsche Flugsicherung who manage air traffic control, the weather service, EADS Elbe Flugzeugwerke (who convert planes), IMA Materialforschung und Anwendungstechnik GmbH (materials research), DB Regio (regional railways) and the Verkehrsverbund Oberelbe integrated transport system. Also represented will be a number of clubs and societies from adjoining towns and villages, such as Klotzcher Verein and Verein Bürgerschaft Hellerau.

As in previous years, Dresden Airport will again hold a Day of Good Neighborliness

Those interested in the technical side of things can have a look at the airport's fire engines, equipment used by the police, snow and ice clearing service, and an air rescue helicopter.

One-hour tours will take visitors to the terminal, through a police security check and across the apron by bus. Aviation firms and clubs will offer circular flights in sports planes.

Leipzig/Halle Airport

► DHL hub in the making

DHL's central European hub now under construction at Leipzig/Halle is growing.



After the building start early this year, the express delivery firm of Deutsche Post wants to complete major projects by the end of 2006. The concrete foundations have been poured for the service building and the columns are in place for a 410 m long and 96 m wide sorting facility which, in two years' time, will handle 1,500 tonnes per night. This volume will grow to 2,000 tonnes by 2012. The carcass of the new building is to be finished by the end of September.

The new distribution center at Leipzig/Halle Airport assumes shape

The next editions of airmail will document progress with photographs.



Leipzig/Halle Airport

▶ A major economic and employment factor

Leipzig/Halle Airport on the border of two states – Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt – is becoming ever more important both for the regional economy and for employment.

The airport company alone has a workforce of over 270, and 2,200 people hold airport-related jobs with service firms and travel agents.

As DHL's airfreight hub grows, several thousand new jobs will be added in the next few years. So far, over 30,000 people have applied for 3,500 jobs DHL expects to create by 2012. DHL, a subsidiary of Deutsche Post, will start operating in 2008 with an initial workforce of 2,000. It already has more than 250 staff at the airport, and three of them will describe their jobs in the following:

Foto: DHL/Schösig



▶ Duty Manager Harold Burgess (40) from Schkeuditz

"Work on the DHL Gateway at Leipzig/Halle is very dynamic. No day is like the other, but there are challenges all of the time. You need a good knowledge of DHL operations and network procedures. I find that exciting. Work can only proceed smoothly if it is done by a committed team. That's the case at the Gateway here at Leipzig/Halle."

Foto: DHL/Schösig



▶ Ops Agent Kay Eckel (25) from Kabelsketal

"I'm glad I have a job again and can work for a company that operates worldwide. The challenge before me each day is to work fast and with accuracy so that planes and trucks can leave the Gateway on time."

Foto: DHL/Schösig



▶ Export Agent Claudia Straube (26) from Leipzig

"I work closely with customs so that goods that have to be cleared are processed quickly. I enter data into the computer and process it. That calls for concentration, and I have to be quick. My job is fun and very interesting."



Leipzig/Halle Airport

▶ Wireless access to the infinite world of the Internet

The traveling business community, and a number of tourists, will appreciate the kind of fast wireless Internet access that has been available at Leipzig/Halle since early May.

There are WLAN facilities at the central terminal, terminals B and A and the GAT building where you can download news and data from the web, or read and send mails. The airport now has a total of 7 access points for notebooks which require a WLAN card or module. While Vodafone customers are charged on their monthly bill, other users pay with a credit card.

The airport has thus widened its online services. A number of workstations at central check-in already have Internet access, as does the Lufthansa lounge via a wireless facility.

WLAN services have been available at Dresden Airport since February, via 11 centrally located wireless access points.

Leipzig/Halle Airport

▶ New – fly Air Berlin to Northern Ireland with a stopover

Air Berlin, Germany's second largest airline, has introduced a new link from Leipzig/Halle.



As part of its network serving European cities, the listed airline already flies to London-Stansted seven times a week. From there passengers can catch planes to Manchester and Glasgow. Since May 2 Air Berlin has added Belfast to the list, making Northern Ireland easily accessible from Leipzig/Halle.

Belfast, with a university and a population of 270,000, has two airports – the smaller Belfast City Airport and Belfast International Airport located about 25 km to the west. Air Berlin flies to and from the City Airport.

Air Berlin has again extended its flight schedule from Leipzig/Halle



▸ Regional economic news

▸ Thrustful – foundation stone is laid for Lufthansa/Rolls-Royce joint venture

The state of Thuringia expects a thrust in economic terms from a €100m plant for servicing and repairing aircraft engines to be erected at Arnstadt.

The symbolic laying of the foundation stone took place on May 2. The operating company, N 3 Engine Overhaul Services, had been founded in February 2003 by Lufthansa Technik AG and Rolls-Royce. From 2007 onwards it will overhaul advanced Trent engine models 500, 700 and 900 for long-range Airbus planes type A 330, A 340 and A 380 serving the European, American and African market. Fifty engines are planned for the first year of operation, and the number is to rise to over 100 two years later. When completed, the plant can handle 200 large engines per year.

▸ Company from Dresden converts planes for Air India

EADS Elbe Flugzeugwerke (EADS EFW) has won an order from Air India to convert two Airbus A 310-200 passenger planes which are still in service into airfreighters. Work on the first plane is to be completed next year.

So far, EADS EFW has delivered 125 converted cargo planes to over 20 customers worldwide. Within the EADS group, Elbe Flugzeugwerke is best equipped for converting Airbus passenger planes into cargo versions.

▸ Former head of economics department appointed state secretary

Detlef Schubert, 58, who formerly headed the Department of Economics and Labour in Leipzig's municipal administration, has been appointed state secretary in the economics ministry of Saxony-Anhalt by the new state government.

During Schubert's term in Leipzig, car manufacturers Porsche and BMW built plants near the city. At a recent general meeting of the Central German Airports Group, Schubert was elected to Central German Airports Group's Supervisory Board. He also serves on the Supervisory Board of a subsidiary, Flughafen Leipzig/Halle GmbH.



► Champagne producer marks anniversary

Rotkäppchen Sektkellerei, a champagne producer from Freyburg/Unstrut in the south of the state of Saxony-Anhalt, is celebrating 150 years in business this year.

The champagne cellars grew from a wine store established at Freyburg in 1856 by the brothers Kloss together with a friend, Carl Förster. The anniversary will be marked with a gala event on May 17.

The producers are doing good business to this day and last year sold a total of 72.1m bottles, an increase of 9.4% over the previous year. The market share of Rotkäppchen champagne in eastern Germany recently jumped by 3.2% to 23.6%. In the western part of the country it stands at 8.3%.

www.rotkaeppchen.de

► Miscellaneous

► Ready to host the world in a friendly atmosphere

The football world will converge on Germany in June, with 32 national teams arriving for the world championships.



The MDR building in the city center of Leipzig during the world championship draw last December

Millions of fans and visitors are expected to gather in front of giant video screens, in stadiums and at public festivals. Leipzig's Zentralstadion will be the only venue where matches are played in eastern Germany.

Apart from four qualifying matches, the city will host one match in the round before the quarter-finals. Apart from scheduled services, Leipzig/Halle Airport will have to handle dozens of chartered and non-scheduled flights during the world championships. Four weeks before Serbia/Montenegro plays the Netherlands on June 11, the airport has been advised of 63 extra flights. Over 20 special flights each are expected when Spain meets Ukraine on June 14 and France plays South Korea on June 18. There have been extra bookings also for the round of the last 16 where it is still unclear which teams play each other.

Dresden, which serves as an alternative airport, had its share of the hullabaloo in mid-April when a gala for 400 volunteers took place in the terminal gallery where the original world championship cup was on display.



► Baroque music in Handel's native town

Halle, the birthplace of George Frederick Handel, will again host a festival in honor of the baroque composer from June 8–18. The Handel Festival established in 1922 and held annually since 1952 has in the meantime become an integral part of Halle's calendar of events. Apart from admirers of the composer and tourists, it attracts musicologists in particular.

This year's program lists 50 events at 25 concert halls etc. in and around Halle. The organizers expect performers from 15 countries. The festival will end with an open-air concert in scenic surroundings at Galgenbergschlucht where Handel's music will be accompanied by fireworks. Last year's festival attracted some 40,000 visitors.

www.haendelfestspiele.halle.de

► Imprint

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