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▶ DHL Has Landed at Leipzig/Halle – Air Freight Hub Fully Operational Now

DHL has landed in Central Germany. Three-and-a-half years after Deutsche Post World Net announced that it wished to establish a DHL air freight hub at Leipzig/Halle Airport, the project worth millions of euros has become fully operational.

This development makes Leipzig/Halle one of the three largest hubs for the Deutsche Post subsidiary after Hong Kong in Asia and Wilmington in the USA. This means that the Central German region has entered the top division when it comes to logistics centres.

Views of the opening

The CEO of Deutsche Post World Net, Dr. Frank Appel, described the air freight hub as a logistics centre with a global format. "This will allow us to expand our leading position in the global express delivery business in the long term and this gateway to the world creates important momentum for the people and economy of an up-and-coming region in Eastern Germany." The key success criteria for the selection of this site were the airport's location close to the growth markets in Eastern Europe, the long-term planning guarantees as a result of a comprehensive permit for night flights, the potential created by motivated and well qualified staff and infrastructure, which allow air, road and rail services to be combined in a forward-looking manner.



Suspended in the hangar: a quintet of drummers puts on a spectacular show for the opening of the freight hub

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier spoke of a “huge service centre fitting for the modern age”, which has sprung up within a short time. Leipzig/Halle, the Vice Chancellor stressed, had become one of the most significant hubs for air freight in Germany. Steinmeier said that the hub was more than “a job creator made of asphalt and concrete,” – rather it was a sign of confidence, he said. He added that the investment worth millions of euros was proof that Germany had become an attractive destination for global investors again.

German Transport Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee said that Germany needed companies like DHL, which create jobs. With a view to the different means of transport – air, road and rail – he said that each of them had its rightful place. He added that it was vital to dovetail them.

The State Premiers of Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, Georg Milbradt and Wolfgang Böhmer, underlined the cross-state cooperation that had been exploited to develop Leipzig/Halle Airport and attract DHL to the site. Milbradt said that the vision in the early 1990s of creating a high-performance airport at the point where motorways intersect had become a reality. The decisions taken at that time to expand the infrastructure had proved to be correct as proven by the arrival of DHL. Böhmer said that one third of the 2,000 DHL employees came from Saxony-Anhalt. State borders, he added, should not disrupt the level of cooperation.

DHL and the DHL air freight hub at a glance:

- ▶ DHL was founded in 1969
- ▶ The name DHL is composed of the initial letters of its founders: Adrian Dalsey, Larry Hillblom and Robert Lynn
- ▶ 285,000 people work for DHL around the globe
- ▶ 1.8 billion consignments are transported every year
- ▶ The company serves 120,000 destinations in countries and territories
- ▶ € 300 million have been invested in the new air freight hub
- ▶ The building work involved constructing the following: a 400 metre long distribution centre, a hangar, where two Airbus 380 aircraft can be accommodated, an administration building and a fuel storage farm
- ▶ 1,500 tonnes of freight are handled every day at the moment
- ▶ This figure is set to increase to 2,000 tonnes of freight by 2012
- ▶ About 2,000 employees currently ensure that aircraft are loaded and unloaded without any trouble
- ▶ 60 cargo planes are currently handled every night



► Milestones on the Journey from the Announcement to the Start of Operations

- Deutsche Post World Net announced that it wanted to build a DHL air freight hub at Leipzig/Halle Airport on 9 November 2004.
- DHL moved its flight operations from Berlin-Schönefeld to its gateway at Leipzig/Halle Airport on 1 August 2005. The first members of staff from the region were employed.
- DHL and Leipzig/Halle Airport signed the agreement to move the DHL air freight hub here on 21 September 2005.
- The airport handed over the building area to DHL in January 2006.
- DHL expanded flight operations at its gateway on 5 June 2006.
- The half-way stage was celebrated at the building site for the DHL air freight hub in the presence of German Chancellor Angela Merkel on 17 October 2006.
- The building work on the sorting unit in the distribution centre and the interior fittings in the hangar for the DHL air freight hub were completed on 14 March 2007.
- The regional council in Leipzig presented its supplementary planning ruling for the southern runway at Leipzig/Halle Airport in July 2007. DHL started its tests at the air freight hub according to plan.
- After more than two years of operations, the gateway at Leipzig/Halle Airport was moved from its old site to the air freight hub on 12 October 2007.
- The transport network was expanded by a further 16 destinations with the introduction of the summer timetable on 28 March 2008. 60 DHL aircraft were now using the Central German airport on weekdays.
- The DHL air freight hub became fully operational on 26 May 2008.



Central German Airports Group

► EU Commission Abolishes Ruling to Restrict Size of Hand Luggage

The ruling passed by the EU Commission to restrict the size of hand luggage has been abolished. The ruling, which laid down maximum dimensions of 56x45x25 centimetres for hand luggage, was originally designed to come into force at the start of May. German airports took part in the experiments carried out by the EU Commission. The conclusion that has been drawn is that the size of hand luggage does not have a major impact on the level of security.

If the ruling had been implemented, the German Commercial Airports Working Group said it would create enormous pressure for passengers and airports. The queues at the passenger check points would have grown. In addition, the luggage conveying equipment at the airports would have had to be reconstructed to handle the hand luggage needing to be checked in.

The security measures already introduced, including the ban on liquids, have already reduced the efficiency levels at check points at airports by 30%. But further pressure has now been avoided.

Leipzig/Halle Airport

► Nonstop from Central Germany to the Mediterranean Island of Malta

It is now possible to fly to another attractive destination in the Mediterranean region directly from Leipzig/Halle.



Air Malta links up the region with the Southern European island every Wednesday and Sunday. Air Malta aircraft have a white cross on a red background on their tails. The airline is using an Airbus A 319 on the route. This plane can accommodate 141 passengers.

This year's summer season timetable has 264 weekly flights to 56 destinations in Germany, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. The timetable is valid until 25 October. 23 different airlines fly to destinations in 16 countries from Leipzig/Halle.

Before the first full aircraft took off, Mark Stelse, the Sales and Customer Relations Manager at Leipzig/Halle Airport (second from the right) and Dirk Sykora, Station Manager for AHS, Aviation Handling Service (second from left) greeted the crew with flowers. In return, Captain Philip Apap Bologna handed over to Leipzig/Halle Airport the Air Mdina Glass Trophy of Air Malta.



Leipzig/Halle Airport

► Premiere – World's Largest Aircraft Lands at Leipzig/Halle

It was the greatest spectator attraction of the past few years. An Antonov AN 225 landed at Leipzig/Halle Airport for the very first time.



The world's largest aircraft stopped over at Leipzig/Halle on its way from North America to South-East Asia. Several hundred spectators and aviation fans wanted to experience the arrival live from the viewing platform on the former tower or at the edge of the Cargo Area South. The Mrija – Ukrainian for "dream" – landed in the afternoon and took off again from the Central German airport the next morning.

An AN 225 on the southern apron at Leipzig/Halle Airport

The air cargo plane with its six huge engines beneath the two wings is 84 metres long and has a wing span of more than 88 metres. The wings cover an area measuring more than 900 square metres. The aircraft, which had its maiden flight in December 1988, can carry up to 250 tonnes of cargo. The record so far is 247 tonnes. On that occasion four years ago, the AN 225 transported equipment for an oil pipeline. The range of this "super bird" varies and depends on the load that it is carrying. The plane can fly more than 15,000 kilometres if it carries the maximum amount of fuel. When fully loaded, the plane can still fly 4,500 kilometres.

Leipzig/Halle Airport

► Veterinary Border Checkpoint Obtains Approval

The veterinary border checkpoint, which was opened at Leipzig/Halle Airport at the end of last year, has obtained approval to dispatch international veterinary consignments.

Now that Leipzig/Halle Airport has been published in the list of approval border checkpoints, it can carry out import checks on consignments that are destined for other member states in the European Union based on veterinary legal stipulations. This opens the door for it to handle consignments in the animal, food and non-food categories.

This checkpoint, which has been built in the southern part of the airport for about € 4.8 million, is used by the Delitzsch Rural District Office and the State Office for Agriculture. The officers there not only prevent animal diseases from entering the country with imported goods, but also guarantee that imported foodstuffs meet the European health and hygiene standards.



The building complex, which measures 1,500 square metres, is divided into three areas. They include rooms where live animals can be housed and examined for a while. What is known as the food area has rooms and laboratories where food is delivered through a separate area for examination purposes. The non-food area has the necessary working space where the imported consignments can be examined.

Leipzig/Halle Airport

▶ Leipzig/Halle Develops into a Cargo Hub

Leipzig/Halle Airport is increasingly developing into a freight hub. More freight was handled here in the first four months of the year than in the whole of 2007. The figures to the end of April were 109,017 tonnes – this is a 521.6 percent increase on the same period last year. This rise is particularly due to the growing commitment to the airport shown by DHL and Lufthansa Cargo.

This demonstrates that the above average growth at the beginning of the new year has been continuing. 101,238 tonnes of freight were loaded and unloaded during the whole of 2007. This represented an increase of 245 percent over 2006, when the airport handled just 29,330 tonnes.

Eric Malitzke, Managing Director of Leipzig/Halle Airport, says: "Thanks to the gradual increase in freight handled by DHL and the commitment shown by Lufthansa Cargo and other companies, we are expecting the amount of freight handled in 2008 as a whole to rise to more than 300,000 tonnes. This means that Leipzig/Halle will move up to third place in the list of German cargo airports behind Frankfurt/Main and Cologne/Bonn."

Dresden Airport

▶ From Dresden Directly to the EURO 2008 Venues in Neighbouring Countries

Football has Germany in its grip again. After the success of the 2006 World Cup here in Germany, the European Championships kick off in Austria and Switzerland in just a few days from now. The German team has a good chance of reaching the final on 29 June and bringing the title home.

The prospects for football fans are also excellent. Airlines are providing daily connections to the eight venues from Dresden. Air tickets can be booked at any travel agent, at the airport's online travel agent at www.dresden-airport.de or at the websites of the airlines themselves.



Lufthansa is flying up to seven feeder flights to Munich Airport from Dresden every day. The German airline has made Munich its football hub airport. Lufthansa then flies to all the venues from there. They are Vienna, Salzburg, Klagenfurt and Innsbruck in Austria and Zurich, Basel, Berne and Geneva in Switzerland.

Austrian Airlines provides 18 flights a week from Dresden to the Austrian capital. Six of them are non-stop. The German national team will meet hosts Austria in Vienna in the early stages of the competition. The final will be played there too.

Cirrus Airlines flies from Dresden to Zurich non-stop 16 times a week and several games in the early stage of the competition are being played there. Intersky flights also offer an opportunity for people to travel to the European Championships. The airline takes off in Dresden for Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance five times a week. From there football fans can continue their journey using other means of transport, to Zurich, for example.

www.lufthansa.com, www.aua.com, www.cirrusairlines.de, www.intersky.biz

Dresden Airport

► In the Interest of all Travellers – Airport Terminal Completely Smoke-Free

Smoking has been banned from Dresden Terminal since 1 May. The smoking areas used in the public area in the past and on the concourse after the security checks have been abolished. People are now only allowed to smoke in the new lounge behind the Café Vanilla.

The smoking lounge and the cafe are located on the departure level in the public area. The modern lounge was opened in February. The airport caterer “Flair” supplies drinks, snacks and even cigars here. A long window enables people to see what is going on at the airport concourse.

Dresden Airport

► Origins of the Dresden Aerospace Industry – 50th Anniversary of the Roll-out and Maiden Flight of the “152”

2008 is a significant year for the aerospace industry in Dresden.

The first German jet-propelled commercial airliner was rolled out with a great ceremony 50 years ago. The 152 also took off on its maiden flight during the same year. The development of the 152 formed the foundation of the successful aerospace industry in Dresden today. The airport, the Transport Museum and local aerospace companies are marking the jubilee of this legendary plane with several special events.



The only remaining fuselage of a 152 can be viewed in the western wing of the terminal on 8 June on the occasion of Dresden Airport's Neighbours' Day. Members of staff from the Transport Museum, who are looking after the 24 metre long, restored exhibit, will be on hand to answer questions. The 152 will also be the major focus on 4 December. The fuselage and other rare exhibits from the Transport Museum will also be on display to mark the 50th anniversary of the maiden flight. The museum is planning to set up information stands, show an historic advertising film for the 152 and put on display current documents informing people about Dresden Airport. The Transport Museum has published a six-page leaflet on the 152 and it is also preparing a special medal and special stamp.

The Dresden Aerospace Industry and the 152

- ▶ The East German government planned to set up its own commercial aircraft manufacturing facility in the early 1950s.
- ▶ Dresden Klotzsche was selected as the base for aircraft production.
- ▶ The East German national economy began one of its largest investment projects in 1955.
- ▶ A runway, which was 2,500 metres long and 80 metres wide, was built on the site of the airfield and aerial warfare school, which were opened in 1935; two assembly hangars and a variety of other buildings were constructed.
- ▶ IL-14-P passenger aircraft began to be built under license and the 152 was designed to be the flagship of the East German aircraft manufacturing industry.
- ▶ The 152 was rolled out in front of hangar 222 on 30 April 1958, but it was not ready for its maiden flight until the end of the year. It took off on 4 December 1958.
- ▶ The prototype of the 152 crashed almost six kilometres from the airport on 4 March 1959. The reasons for this were never revealed.
- ▶ Another prototype was built in 1960 and this completed two test flights. But a decision was made to halt aircraft production in East Germany.

The Dresden Aerospace Industry Today

EADS Elbe Flugzeugwerke GmbH (EFW) is the only factory in the world that converts Airbus passenger aircraft into cargo planes. IMA Materialforschung und Anwendungstechnik GmbH was founded in 1993 and has established itself with IABG Industrieanlagen-Betriebsgesellschaft mbH in the field of aviation structure tests. Fatigue tests are currently being carried out on an Airbus A 380 in a joint hangar. Another building is being built for the fatigue tests on the A 400 M military transport plane. The Saxony/Thuringia Centre of Expertise for Aerospace Technology is based at the airport and brings together companies involved with the aerospace sector in the region.



► News from the Central German Business World

► Tunnelling Work Starts on the Seven Kilometre Long Finne Tunnel

Herrengosserstedt – The Central German business world has been calling for the rapid construction of the ICE line from Erfurt to Halle/Leipzig for years. Tunnelling work on the seven kilometre long stretch has now started for the new railway line in the south-west of Saxony-Anhalt near Herrengosserstedt. Building work has been going ahead on the € 249 million project since May.



A ring of the tunnel bore rises next to the information centre – this will be its size.

The twin bore tunnel, which is now being built using what are known as two tunnel boring machines, is part of the German Unification Transport Project Number 8: the reconstruction and upgrading of the Nuremberg-Erfurt-Leipzig/Halle line. When used in conjunction with the completed new and upgraded route from Munich to Nuremberg, this should cut the journey time from Munich to Berlin to four hours. It will permit a decisive increase in the performance of the railway lines between the major centres of Germany and Europe, particularly in the Leipzig/Halle area. The journey between Erfurt and Halle alone will be reduced to just 31 minutes. The whole project is not expected to be complete until 2017.

The first 86 metre long tunnel boring machine involving a shield driving machine with a diameter of eleven metres had been assembled at the site prior to this. The series production of the 48,000 tubbings has been going ahead at the building site since March. The tunnel shafts are put together using the reinforced concrete sections. About 250 construction workers will be employed directly at the site until 2011.

► Congress/Trade Fairs

► Leipzig Attracts World Congress in the Congress Sector

The international congress sector is coming to Leipzig. The World Congress of the International Congress & Convention Association (ICCA), which brings together about 850 congress centres, event organisations and service companies in more than 80 countries, will be held in the Saxon trade fair city in 2011.

Germany entered the competition to hold the congress organisers' own sector event and the Congress Center Leipzig was responsible for the German bid. The arguments in favour of Leipzig persuaded the jury despite the very strong competitive presentations from Dubai and Pittsburgh. The jury opted for the German bid by a clear majority.



Germany is now hosting the international congress sector during the same year as the Women's World Cup competition (football) is being held in the country. The Leipzig site will benefit from attracting the world association – and Leipzig/Halle Airport will too. City mayor Burkhard Jung spoke of a “huge opportunity” for the city and the region. The Congress Center Leipzig, which was opened in 1996, is part of the Leipzig Trade Fair Company.

www.ccl-leipzig.de, www.leipziger-messe.de

▶ Search for Top Managers for Central Germany

The Business Initiative for Central Germany is organising a graduate conference for the first time. The job fair will be held in the Congress Center Leipzig (CCL) on 24 June from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and the aim is to bring together students and university graduates with companies based in the region. The graduate congress is set to become the leading fair for placing specialist staff in companies in Central Germany.

The organisers are hoping to bring together 100 companies and 2,000 students and graduates from all the Central German universities. Special bus services will be arranged to and from the Leipzig Congress Center to enable students from the cities of Halle, Jena, Magdeburg, Dessau, Dresden, Chemnitz and Zwickau to take part in the event.

The congress not only provides a job fair, but the support programme will also feature company presentations, application training and lectures on various sectors. In future the “Central German Graduate Congress” will also attract students from other federal states to Central Germany.

Companies with a huge influence on the economy, chambers and cities from Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia are involved in the business initiative with the aim of developing and marketing the traditional business region of Central Germany in the long term.

www.absolventenkongress-mitteldeutschland.de, www.mitteldeutschland.com

▶ Miscellaneous

▶ Central German Company Race at Leipzig/Halle Airport Enters the Final Stages

Using the heading “Running brings people together”, a completely new kind of sporting event will take place for companies and their members of staff from Central Germany on 21 June. The 1st Central German company race aims to encourage staff members from companies, public authorities, organisations, associations, universities and medical institutions across state borders to pull together outside their working environment too.



The starting and finishing point is on the Leipzig/Halle Airport site. The route takes the runners 4.2 kilometres from Terminal B across the roundabout at the airport to the central terminal, then across the motorway as far as the tower and back. Each team will have four runners. Each member of the team will complete this route. The times of all the team members will be added up and assessed.

The registration deadline was 31 May. Information and registration details can be found at www.mitteldeutscher-firmenlauf.de or phone 0345-69490294.

► Nebra Sky Disc on Display Again in Halle

Halle – After general renovation work, which lasted one-and-a-half years, the Saxony-Anhalt State Museum of Prehistory in Halle has reopened its doors. The oldest museum dealing with prehistoric times in Germany has now been restored to its original state. It was designed by the Düsseldorf architect Wilhelm Kreis in 1911. The building is now purely an exhibition centre.



The permanent exhibition makes use of elaborate presentations and largely avoids computer simulation. It takes visitors from the Old Stone Age and Middle Stone Age right up to the early Bronze Age. The Nebra Sky Disc, which is believed to be the oldest specific representation of the cosmos in the world, is the spectacular centre piece at the new exhibition. This is why the 3,600 year old bronze disc with gold plating has its own room in one of the museum towers. The disc is housed in a black room, where an artificial starry sky turns.

The Saxony-Anhalt State Museum of Prehistory is resplendent again

www.archlsa.de

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Please send any queries, comments or suggestions to:

Felix.Zimmermann@mdf-ag.com, Telephone: +49 (0) 341 224 1086