



- ▶ Clear Commitment by the Supervisory Board to the Ongoing Successful Development of the Central German Air Traffic Infrastructure | Page 1
- ▶ Clear Cross-Party Commitment to Airport and DHL | Page 2
- ▶ 2nd Leipzig Air Cargo Day – Plans Afoot to Hold the Specialist Conference for the Third Time in 2010 | Page 3
- ▶ State Premier Stanislaw Tillich Appeals for Unity in Attracting New Industries | Page 4
- ▶ New Ministers in the Saxon Cabinet; Helma Orosz New Mayor of Dresden | Page 4
- ▶ Leipzig/Halle Takes Shape as a “Gateway to Asia” | Page 5
- ▶ Huge Interest in Leipzig/Halle Airport at “transport logistic” China | Page 6
- ▶ Aid Flown to the Disaster Area in China from Leipzig/Halle | Page 7
- ▶ New Airport Concept Aims to Strengthen Germany’s Position as an Air Traffic Centre | Page 7
- ▶ Neighbours’ Day a Huge Success – Ten Millionth Passenger Travels on the S 2 Local Railway | Page 8
- ▶ Bees Collect Honey at the Airport for an Environmental Project | Page 9
- ▶ News from the Central German Business World | Page 10
- ▶ Miscellaneous | Page 12

Central German Airports Group

▶ **Clear Commitment by the Supervisory Board to the Ongoing Successful Development of the Central German Air Traffic Infrastructure**

During its meeting at the beginning of June, the supervisory board of the Central German Airports Group made a crystal clear commitment to continuing the successful course on which it has embarked. The commitment to make further efforts to attract companies and so create new jobs in the region goes hand in hand with its continued support for improving the air traffic infrastructure in Central Germany.

“One of the largest sectors – logistics – has become an established industry at Leipzig/Halle,” said Willi Hermsen, the Chairman of the Supervisory Board, looking back at what has been achieved. “By offering services that fit the market situation, Dresden Airport has become a major factor in passenger air traffic in an enlarged Europe – and not just in Germany, but beyond its borders in Poland and the Czech Republic. These are huge success stories, but this process must be continued!”



The supervisory board specifically welcomed the opening of the DHL air hub at Leipzig/Halle at the end of May and the close partnership at Dresden Airport with the local aircraft industry. Hermsen had this to say: "The air traffic infrastructure can only attract new jobs and bring purchasing power to the Central German region by cooperating with partners of this kind." He added that the arrival of DHL alone would create up to 10,000 direct and indirect new jobs by 2012. He said that the expansion of passenger air traffic was part of the growth strategy, as it was particularly important for business and increased people's level of mobility.

But the board did not neglect the interests of people living near the airports: the board stressed that it was important to plan ahead in a way that accommodates people and the environment. The noise protection measures already exceed the legal requirements and set an example for Germany and Europe. The board added that the regulating authorities had already done a great deal to meet the interests of local people by imposing conditions and placing restrictions on aircraft movements.

"It goes without saying that the advantages and disadvantages have to be weighed up against each other as the airports continue to operate and expand. But we dare not accept a situation where the whole region has to forego economic growth stemming from air traffic just to avoid imposing certain restrictions from a few individuals," said Markus Kopp, CEO at the Central German Airports Group. He continued: "Over the past 15 years, we have managed to develop our airports in an exemplary fashion and create an outstanding niche in the market. DHL at Leipzig/Halle is a huge success story. But we cannot sit back on our laurels. The motto of "stagnation is a step backwards" is very relevant to this sector!"

Production conditions needed to be internationally competitive, the board said, because that was the only way to create the 7,000–8,000 extra jobs in the logistics sector that had been mentioned. The supervisory board particularly stressed that any restrictions on operations beyond the level introduced in the past would be counterproductive and could jeopardize the opportunities of the whole region. The air freight sector, it said, urgently requires unrestricted 24-hour operations.

Leipzig/Halle Airport

► Clear Cross-Party Commitment to Airport and DHL

The Mayor of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung (SPD), and other local politicians took a firm stand in the Leipziger Volkszeitung newspaper on 27 June 2008 with regard to DHL's move to the area and Leipzig/Halle Airport.

"We unreservedly support the decision by DHL to set up in business here," said Jung. "The region needs unrestricted night flight operations, it needs to see the logistics sector expand and it needs the airport as an economic powerhouse." He went on to issue a warning about jeopardizing thousands of jobs by indulging in the wrong type of polarising discussions. With regard to the debate about aircraft noise, he said that the quality of life had quite naturally to be taken into consideration, but first and foremost there must be "clear and unmistakable support for DHL, the airport and the development potential of this economic powerhouse".



The CDU District Chairman Hermann Winkler, the future district chief executive of Northern Saxony, Michael Czupalla (CDU) and the FDP District Chairman Sven Morlok also expressed clear support for the Leipzig/Halle logistics site. "We have prepared the way and have taken into consideration all the requirements as best we can," said Morlok.

Leipzig/Halle Airport

► 2nd Leipzig Air Cargo Day – Plans Afoot to Hold the Specialist Conference for the Third Time in 2010

About 150 representatives from this line of business and journalists participated in the 2nd Leipzig Air Cargo Day. The joint event organised by the Deutsche Verkehrs-Zeitung (DVV Media Group GmbH) and Leipzig/Halle Airport was held in Leipzig on 5–6 June.



The meeting was opened by the Saxon State Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour, Thomas Jurk. He was the first of seven speakers and he later answered questions from participants and representatives of the media.

During the specialist conference, the title of which was "Air Freight – We Need New Concepts", the participants discussed the potential of and future developments in international air freight traffic against a background of growth rates, some of which exceed ten percent. Other lectures and podium presentations focussed on the latest trends, particularly related to increasing efficiency, optimising process chains and meeting security requirements in the air freight business.

Prof. Borislav Bjelicic, Director of Group Corporate Communications at the DVB Bank, during his lecture entitled "The Global Economy and Air Freight" at the plenary session at the Leipzig Air Cargo Days

The Managing Director of Leipzig/Halle Airport, Eric Malitzke, announced after the successful conclusion of the event that the sector would invite delegates to another Leipzig Air Cargo Day in 2010.

► Opinions on the event:

Thomas Jurk, State Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour in the Free State of Saxony

"It is gratifying that the first Air Cargo Day in 2006 has been continued in Leipzig. The Central German logistics region has developed in an outstanding fashion since then. The event provides an opportunity to look back on what has been achieved and it can also spell out the opportunities for the future. The region can achieve a lot more – after all, we have created the underlying conditions for this."



Dr. Martin Jastorff, *Publishing Director for Logistics & Transport, DVV Media Group GmbH*

“The Leipzig Air Cargo Days are on the way to becoming one of the major events in the air freight sector’s calendar. The combination of specialist lectures, excursions and networking is unique and we are already looking forward to the 3rd Leipzig Air Cargo Days”.

Prof. Borislav Bjelicic, *Director of Group Corporate Communications at the DVB Bank*

“The subject of air freight is interesting, up-to-date and important. The Air Cargo Day is ideally suited for participants to meet important representatives from this sector and a real community of experts. Leipzig/Halle is simply the air freight centre, at least as far as Europe is concerned. The infrastructure deliberately established by political leaders will certainly attract other investors.”

Bruno Sidler, *COO Freight Management, Ceva Logistics:*

“The Leipzig/Halle logistics centre is unique: this is the only site in Europe where infrastructure has been actively constructed for this sector – and that makes it a real exception to the rule! In the past, projects of this kind, which are built for the future, were only constructed in Asia. As Europe has shifted to the east, the connections between the airport, roads and rail services will be absolutely central to the continent in a few years’ time, given a little patience.”

▶ **State Premier Stanislaw Tillich Appeals for Unity in Attracting New Industries**

During his first government statement on 18 June 2008, the new State Premier of Saxony, Stanislaw Tillich, underlined the importance of efficient traffic infrastructure as the basis for a strong SME culture.

He said that the forward-looking development of the airport, trade fair centre and goods traffic centre in Leipzig in particular met this goal. Attracting companies like Porsche, BMW and DHL guaranteed that growth would and thousands of jobs would ensue. “If local people, public authorities and companies unite in attracting new companies, then permanent new jobs will be created,” Tillich added. He said that this not only applied to Leipzig, but other regions too.

▶ **New Ministers in the Saxon Cabinet; Helma Orosz New Mayor of Dresden**

The Saxon State Premier Stanislaw Tillich introduced the new members of his cabinet on 17 June.

Prof. Dr. Georg Unland has been appointed as the new State Minister for Finances and is therefore Tillich’s successor. Frank Kupfer is the State Minister for the Environment and Agriculture. Dr. Johann Beermann has been appointed as the head of the State Chancellery and Minister for Federal and European Affairs.



Helma Orosz was elected as the new Mayor of Dresden on 22 June in the second round of local elections. She will stay on as acting State Minister for Social Affairs until her inauguration in her new position. The Free State of Saxony holds 76.64 and Dresden 2.52 percent of the shares in the Central German Airports Group.

Leipzig/Halle Airport

► Leipzig/Halle Takes Shape as a “Gateway to Asia”

After the supervisory board of Shanghai Pudong International Airport Cargo Terminal Co. Ltd (PACTL) met in the Saxon state capital of Dresden last year, the board chose the Saxon city of Leipzig for this year’s meeting.



Chen Long, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Shanghai Pudong International Airport Cargo Terminal Co., Ltd. (in the white shirt) together with Uwe Albrecht, the Head of the Economic Development Department in Leipzig (right), Markus Kopp, CEO at the Central German Airports Group (left), and other members of delegations in front of the “Auerbachs Keller” restaurant

PACTL is a joint venture between Shanghai Airport Corporation, Lufthansa Cargo and a major local logistics company in Shanghai. Pudong handled 2.5 million tonnes of air freight in 2007, which represents approx. one third of the volume of air cargo in China (excluding Hong Kong). PACTL handled 1.1 million tonnes of this figure. This dynamic trend continued during the first five months of this year. The two airports operated by the Shanghai Airport Authority (Pudong International Airport and Hongqiao Airport) handled 1.25 million tonnes of freight in all – this represents growth of 12 percent over the previous year. This enabled Shanghai to extend its top position in the rankings in China behind Hong Kong.

The chairman of the PACTL supervisory board and vice-president of the airport holding, Chen Long, was impressed by the air traffic infrastructure at Leipzig/Halle during an official visit to the airport at

the end of May. The logistics facilities and the DHL hub were of particular interest as the Deutsche Post subsidiary is currently setting up another regional hub at Pudong. The Central German Airports Group invited the board to have an evening meal at Auerbachs Keller Restaurant in order to get to know the culture of the city better too. The high-ranking delegation was also welcomed by Uwe Albrecht, Head of the Economic Development Department in Leipzig, and Eric Malitzke, Managing Director of Leipzig/Halle Airport. The Central German Airports Group is seeking to establish an exchange forum on a regular basis with Pudong Airport and PACTL to provide mutual benefits. This process was continued very soon afterwards at the “transport logistic” China Fair in Shanghai in the middle of June. The airport management issued an invitation to the Leipzig delegation to enjoy a special meal together in a small group to talk about further opportunities to develop in tandem. Markus Kopp, CEO at the Central German Airports Group, believes that this is another important building block in establishing Leipzig/Halle Airport as a “gateway to Asia”.



A top management team from the parent company of Nagoya Airport, the Central Japan International Airport Co., visited Leipzig/Halle Airport at the end of May with the Governor of Aichi Prefecture, Masaaki Kanda. They met the CEO of the Central German Airports Group, Markus Kopp, Airport Managing Director Eric Malitzke and high-ranking representatives of other airlines and companies based at the airport on 26 and 27 May. Nagoya Airport, which was only opened in 2005, is located on an artificial island measuring 470 hectares and has the very latest infrastructure. It plays a key role for logistics companies on the routes to and from Europe – and AeroLogic, the air freight joint venture between DHL and Lufthansa Cargo that is based at Leipzig/Halle Airport, is also planning to operate flights to this destination.

The Central German Airports Group is very happy to comply with the request expressed by the airport and the prefecture to jointly market the two airports with customers that they share and pursue ongoing cooperation.

Leipzig/Halle Airport

► Huge Interest in Leipzig/Halle Airport at “transport logistic” China

Leipzig/Halle Airport and EasternAirCargo (EAC) had their own stand at the “transport logistic” China fair for the third time in succession.



During the event, which was held on 17–19 June 2008, EAC Managing Director Stephan Blank and the Sales and Customer Relations Manager at Leipzig/Halle Airport, Mark Stelse, attended a number of appointments with high-ranking representatives from airlines, logistics and infrastructure companies. They noted that the interest in the Central German region had grown to an enormous degree.

Visitors to the stand included the State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Matthias von Randow (centre, to the left of Central German Airports Group CEO, Markus Kopp) and representatives of Shanghai Pudong International Airport Cargo Terminal Co. Ltd. (PACTL)



Leipzig/Halle Airport

▶ Aid Flown to the Disaster Area in China from Leipzig/Halle

The German armed forces have flown approx. 100 tonnes of aid to the region in China that has been hit by the recent earthquake.



About 100 tonnes of aid for the Chinese earthquake region near Chengdu are ready to be loaded on board an Antonov AN-124 belonging to Ruslan-Salis.

An Antonov AN 124 cargo plane took off for the provincial capital in the disaster area, Chengdu, from Leipzig/Halle Airport. This region experienced its worst earthquake for 30 years at the beginning of May. The plane was carrying goods worth € 3 million to China. This included 80 tents to provide shelter for about 700 people, machines like fan heaters and other measures to provide protection from the rain. Six members of the German armed forces flew to China with the consignment to teach the local helpers how to set up the equipment.

▶ New Airport Concept Aims to Strengthen Germany's Position as an Air Traffic Centre

The plans for a new airport concept for Germany have been published. German Transport Minister, Wolfgang Tiefensee, sent the plans to the federal states in June. The paper is designed to form the basis for discussions in order to prepare the way for a concerted concept to establish competitive, efficient and sustainable airport infrastructure in Germany.

The airport concept is linked to the Master Plan for Goods Traffic and Logistics and meets a commitment made in the coalition agreement signed by the parties in the German government in 2005. The draft document envisages that the federal government will play a stronger role in future and will promote its interest in having an efficient airport landscape in Germany much more forcibly than in the past, if this is necessary.

The federal government wants the existing infrastructure at airfields in Germany to be used to the best possible effect and would like to see it expanded as the need arises. This is primarily true of airports with a hub function. The federal government supports the modification and expansion of airport infrastructure to meet needs at these sites. But the expansion and modification work will only be allowed if it can be shown that there is a need for this and only after the criteria laid down in the concept have been examined. The government does not see any need for the construction of new airports.

Because of the huge level of international competition in the air traffic sector, the ability to handle flights outside the normal core operating periods is an important competitive factor for the German air traffic sector, the draft document says. Otherwise, it adds, there is a risk that air traffic companies based in Germany will fail in the face of long-term competition in this sector and they will be forced to abandon this market.



The federal government upholds the need to continue and – where necessary – extend night flight operations at existing sites in order to maintain and reinforce German air traffic facilities in the face of global competition. The German government's draft document for airports says this is particularly true of the sites at Frankfurt/Main, Frankfurt/Hahn, Cologne/Bonn, Leipzig/Halle, Hanover, Munich and the major airport in Berlin, BBI, which is under construction. There is no intention of extending night flight operations at other airports.

The statement in the draft document that there is no justification for making a difference between express freight and normal cargo on account of the urgency of the goods being transported is particularly important for the Central German Airports Group in the light of the pending case at the Federal Administrative Court against the ruling that modifies the plans of ... The report says that the advantages that air freight offers would be thwarted by any differentiation.

Overall it is too early to provide a final analysis of the airport concept as the German states, other specialist departments and the business world have only just begun to get involved. The German Airports Association (ADV) is coordinating the responses on behalf of the German airports. The Central German Airports Group is keenly involved in this process.

Dresden Airport

► Neighbours' Day a Huge Success – Ten Millionth Passenger Travels on the S 2 Local Railway

Dresden Airport invited aviation enthusiasts and particularly the residents in neighbouring towns and villages to come to the popular Neighbours' Day on 8 June.



The approx. 4,000 visitors were able to enjoy a colourful programme, a technology exhibition, guided tours and information stands provided by associations and partners of the airport. The star musical guest was Wolfgang Ziegler, who thrilled his fans with his hit song "Verdammt". The restored fuselage of the legendary plane built in Dresden, the »152«, was a popular attraction and this year marks the 50th anniversary of the plane's rollout and maiden flight. Information stands run by associations and partner companies and guided tours of the airport and pleasure flights completed the all-round, entertaining programme.

About 4,000 visitors attended Dresden Airport's Neighbours' Day. Partner companies like the technology firm IABG, which is based at the airport, provided a varied and colourful programme that delighted the crowds.



Karla Schmidt from Dresden got the surprise of her life during the Neighbours' Day. She was the ten millionth passenger to use the S2 Dresden local railway line and she can now look forward to a holiday for two in Tunisia sponsored by REWE Touristik GmbH. Under the motto, "To the plane by train", the S2 has been taking passengers to and from Dresden Airport every half hour since March 2001. Once electrification was completed, the service was extended from the Central Station as far as Pirna in 2004.

Dresden Airport

► Bees Collect Honey at the Airport for an Environmental Project

Protecting the environment at Dresden Airport is a very important issue.

When measuring environmental data, the airport not only makes use of highly technical instruments in order to measure the exhaust pollutants from aircraft. After participating in a scheme in 2004 and 2005, Dresden Airport is once again home to two colonies of bees for what is known as a bio-monitoring project. The aim is to allow the bees to demonstrate what the environmental conditions are like at Dresden Airport.

The Manager for Noise/Environmental Protection, Steffen Mäder, explains: "Bees are very suitable for they ingest contamination directly through water and air or indirectly via the nectar and pollen that they carry. The bees cover an area of about twelve square kilometres in their search for food. So the analysis of the honey will provide a representative picture of what effect emissions are having on the area round the airport." The "natural detectives" collect honey within a radius of 3.5 kilometres. A bee-keeper from Dresden-Langebrück is looking after the blossom patrols on behalf of the airport.

Part of the bees' harvest in spring is currently being examined at a laboratory. No pollutants, which could be attributed to air traffic, were discovered in honey taken from Dresden Airport in the past. So the honey was given the "Quality honey" seal of approval.

A second sample will probably be taken in July or August. The spring and summer yield will provide about 50 kilograms of honey in all. One part of this will go to the laboratory in Bavaria, which is analysing honey samples from all the German airports taking part in the project. This will guarantee central quality control and make it easier to make comparisons. The results will be published in the autumn. Dresden Airport aims to take part in this environmental project on a regular basis in future.

www.dresden-airport.de



► News from the Central German Business World

► Pro Airport – Supporters of Air Traffic Found Association

Committed residents and companies in the region have set up the “Pro Leipzig/Halle Airport” initiative.

They want to support the development of the Central German airport. They believe that the airport’s development into a logistics centre and international cargo hub provides the region with real opportunities. Holger Schmahl, press spokesman for the citizens’ action group, has this to say: “We want to give a voice to the opportunities for the region – primarily for the people who work there. If things are as quiet as a cemetery here, even the children of the opponents of the airport will move away at some stage.” Schmahl explained that his organisation is seeking to hold constructive talks with all those involved. 50 members have already expressed their support for the aims of the initiative, not just from Leipzig, but also from Halle and the surrounding area. Holger Schmahl says: “We have received a huge amount of response in a very short period and I can already say that the number of members will grow far beyond 50. And they are all champions of our cause.”

► Dresden One of the Top Addresses in the Business Rankings

Dresden has 62,000 high technology jobs – and no other German city can compare with that figure based on the number of its residents.

Using this parameter, the Saxon state capital even manages to push Munich into second place. A new study by the high-technology association Bitkom provides the evidence for this based on statistics gathered from across Europe. According to Bitkom President, August-Wilhelm Scheer, Dresden is now the largest production centre of semiconductors in Europe.

Another survey says Dresden is one of the five cities with the most promising prospects in Germany. Based on criteria like its current economic power, quality of life and forecast changes in population, only Frankfurt/Main, Munich, Stuttgart and Wiesbaden are ahead of Dresden in the list of 30 cities.



► Signet Solar Production and Research Centre Opened

The Californian technology company Signet Solar began production at its new central research and production site in Mochau near Dresden in June after a building phase lasting just under one year.

Mochau – Signet Solar produces solar modules measuring 2.20 metres by 2.60 metres in Saxony. They are ideal for solar power stations and large commercial units on account of their enormous size.

The production facility costing € 50 million in the Döbeln region has already developed into an important economic factor. About 130 members of staff are already employed at the production site that measures 11,000 square metres. Signet Solar is expecting the number of employees to rise to more than 400 as soon as the factory has reached its full production capacity of 120 megawatts peak (MWp).

Signet Solar Inc. was founded in the USA in 2006 and is a technology company operating around the globe. It produces and develops large-scale, thin film solar modules. The company has its European headquarters at Mochau near Dresden. Signet Solar produces the world's largest solar modules there using the latest thin film solar technology. The research and development centre, which is linked to the production site, is moving ahead with the further development of solar modules. These large format solar modules are mainly used at solar power stations, installations that are integrated in buildings and free-standing solar plant.

www.signetsolar.com

► Study: Good Results for Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt

The New Social Market Economy Initiative (INSM) and the WirtschaftsWoche magazine have presented their sixth tables that rank the German states.

Dresden/Magdeburg – To gain a full picture, experts at IW Consult GmbH analysed almost 100 economic and structural indicators like gross domestic product, purchasing power, the number of children attending day-care centres or investment quotas. Saxony captured sixth place in terms of economic dynamics with 51.0 points and Saxony-Anhalt tenth position with 48.7 points.

The export quota of industry in Saxony rose by 8.1 percentage points from 2004 to 2007. As the average German rate is 5.3 percentage points, Saxony is the leading state in the country. Public debt per resident in Saxony fell by 10.5 percent during the same period. Across Germany as a whole, the burden of debt rose by 5.2 percent, however. This means that Saxony is the leading state in these rankings too. "Patent density" rose in Saxony by three registered patents for each 100,000 residents. This places Saxony in second position against a background of a fall in patent numbers per 100,000 residents across Germany. Taxable capacity increased for each resident in Saxony by 40.5 percent within a period of three years. The German average is 25.7 percent. This puts Saxony in third place.



Saxony-Anhalt was top of the rankings as far as the development of unemployment rates is concerned. This figure fell by 4.3 percent from 2004 till 2007. The average figure for the rest of Germany was a fall of 1.5 percent. The proportion of school-leavers, who complete their education without a final certificate, fell by three percentage points during the past three years. This puts Saxony-Anhalt in top position. The average figure across Germany for school-leavers without a final certificate fell by just 0.5 percent. The taxable capacity per resident in Saxony-Anhalt rose by 40.5 percent within three years. This makes the state third in the rankings.

www.insm.de

► Miscellaneous

► 1,000 Active Participants for the 1st Central German Company Run

The 1st Central German Company Run was a complete success.



Under the heading “Running brings people together”, 124 teams from the region lined up for the race at Leipzig/Halle Airport on 21 June. In all, 1,000 athletes took part in this sporting event and about 2,000 visitors came to watch the excitement. The race aimed to encourage members of staff from companies, authorities, associations, societies, universities and medical centres from more than one state to pull together, even when not actually at work.

The teams consisting of four runners – men, women and mixed – started at Terminal B and had to cover a route that was 4.2 kilometres long. Each team member ran the complete length of the course. The times of all the team members were added up and assessed. The 2nd Central German Company Run will be held next year on 20 June.

Four teams from Leipzig/Halle Airport were among the 1,000 runners competing in the 1st Central German Company Run, including the “Chapter 4” team in their yellow jerseys with Airport Managing Director, Eric Malitzke.

► Leipzig/Halle Airport Becomes a Theatre

The Thalia-Theater in Halle is taking part in the “Theatres of the World 2008” Festival with an unusual art project.

“AusFlugHafenSicht” (from the viewpoint of the airport) is the result of a year’s research into Leipzig/Halle Airport, the Saxon village of Kursdorf and the future of Central Germany. The theatre invited artists from five countries to get to know the area and develop new types of excursions and guided tours as a result. The project focuses on the current situation and future of the area.



Visitors from the region can take part in theatrical walks, audio excursions, cycle tours and other unusual guided tours of the airport and on to Kursdorf that last for four hours. Stories are told, visitors can discover the area with all its unique features and the question of how things will develop in the future is constantly posed.

500 artists from 18 countries have been welcomed to the "Theatres of the World 2008" Festival, which started in Halle on 19 June and runs until 6 July. They will provide 24 guest performances on 18 days and at 18 different venues. Visitors will enjoy 14 world premieres and 10 first performances in Germany. The most important international theatre festival in Germany has been allocated to financially strong cities since 1981 and is held at a different place every three years, usually a city in Western Germany. The federal and state governments share the costs. Halle is the smallest venue in the history of the festival. Local residents have joined forces with businesses in the region and the organiser ("Kulturinsel") to promote the festival.

www.theaterderwelt.de

► First International Transport Forum in Leipzig

On the occasion of the First World Transport Forum held in Leipzig at the end of May, German Transport Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee called for a rapid change of course: climate change, which is proceeding hand in hand with the growth in global traffic, is very worrying, he said.

In the presence of ministers from 50 countries, Tiefensee proposed that the link between traffic and pressure on the environment should be broken by adopting suitable technology. It was necessary, he said, to help electric cars, synthetic fuels and hydrogen technology achieve a breakthrough – and not just because of rising oil prices. The head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Yvo de Boer, warned that relying on technology alone was not enough. He encouraged his listeners to extend the system of trading pollution rights in the energy and industrial sectors to include the traffic division too.

► Handel Festival and Bach Festival Attract Thousands of Music Lovers

Halle and Leipzig once again attracted thousands of lovers of classical music to the Handel Festival and the Bach Festival over the past few weeks.

Halle/Leipzig – The theme for this year's Handel Festival in the town where George Frideric Handel was born was "Spiritual Music in a Profane Environment. From La Resurrezione to the Messiah". The festival programme included almost 40 events involving 1,500 artists. More than 40,000 visitors came to the performances. The friends of Baroque music will meet again in Halle next year on 4–14 June. The patrons of the Handel Festival then will be Queen Elizabeth II and German President Horst Köhler.



The theme of this year's Bach Festival in Leipzig, which has been held every year since 1999, was "Bach and His Sons". About 50,000 visitors came to the 100 events at 30 different sites in Leipzig with a desire to experience Johann Sebastian Bach's music at the authentic sites where the choirmaster and organist of St Thomas Church once worked. Leipzig will host a Bach Festival again on 11–21 June 2009.

www.bach-leipzig.de and www.haendelfestspiele.halle.de

► Individual Flair at the Film Nights on the Banks of the River Elbe in Dresden

The film nights on the banks of the river Elbe are welcoming visitors to enjoy some entertainment with a classic view of the Church of Our Lady, the castle and the Semper Opera House for the 18th time. In all, more than 60 films will be shown and 11 concerts held on the 60 days between 3 July and 31 August. Guests will be able to see current film hits and movie highlights on the world's largest mobile screen (32 x 14 metres). Some of these include German premieres in the presence of the actors involved or concerts given by major international and German names in the music business like Loreena McKennitt, Nelly Furtado, R.E.M., die Ärzte, Söhne Mannheims or Die Fantastischen Vier.

www.filmnaechte-am-elbufer.de

► Imprint

Published by: Central German Airports Group

Edited by: Felix Zimmermann (chief editor)

Evelyn Schuster, Petra Siebert, Dierk Näther, Uwe Schuhart, Christian Adler, Nadia Zitouni, Juliane Kramp

Photos: Archives at Leipzig/Halle and Dresden Airports, Aerologic

Design and Production: Contur

Please send any queries, comments or suggestions to:

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