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06/2010

News from the Companies in the Mitteldeutsche Airport Holding

### Is the Environment Air Traffic Surcharge a Permanent Feature?



Passengers at the airport

**Initially the politicians said that the planned air traffic surcharge would only be levied “until air traffic was included in the CO2 emissions trading process, which has already been agreed”. To the exasperation of the whole air traffic sector, it now appears that the German government is planning to raise about EUR 1 billion for the treasury with this tax every year – without any end in sight.**

Michael Engel, the Managing Director of the German Airline Association issued the following comments on the lack of ecological orientation in the travel tax: “The environmental air traffic surcharge is nothing but a concealed increase in taxes for people under the guise of protecting the climate.” As the airlines are forced to pass on taxes that apply to their customers, it is not only air travellers, but also a large proportion of tax-payers and employees of German companies, who will be the ones who suffer from this measure. “The government should tell the plain truth. The tax will open up new holes in the state coffers and not provide any additional earnings. Passengers, jobs, social security contributions and other tax income for the public coffers will be exported beyond Germany’s borders to countries where no travel tax is levied,” says Ralph Beisel, Managing Director of the German Airports Association, the ADV. These kinds of

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unilateral measures within an international air traffic system and during a tight economic situation will not lead us anywhere. Initial estimates suggest that the tax will cost Germany five million passengers and 10,000 jobs. This is a high price for a decision, which is now supposed to be made without the involvement of the federal states. The tax on air traffic would also hit the only means of transport, which can manage its infrastructure costs without any public financial support.

## Successful Trade Fair Presentation in Shanghai

**The Mitteldeutsche Airport Holding was upbeat about its performance at the end of this year's "transport logistic China", which took place in Shanghai on 8 – 10 June. The companies in the Mitteldeutsche Airport Holding together with the Leipzig-Halle network, the Saxon economic development programme and the Saxony-Anhalt investment and marketing company presented the Leipzig/Halle logistics base at the 4th international fair for logistics, telematics and transport.**

Under the leadership of CEO Markus Kopp, it was possible to use highly promising talks to intensify existing business relations with international interested parties and make contacts for the long term. The intensive exchange of ideas was supported by high-quality endorsement from people like Dr. Karl-Heinz Daehre, Minister for Regional Development and Transport in the state of Saxony-Anhalt, and Dr. Andreas Scheuer, Parliamentary Secretary of State at the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development. Both men campaigned on behalf of the logistics and air traffic location at Leipzig-Halle on the joint stand.



Dr. Karl-Heinz Daehre and Dr. Andreas Scheuer in talks at the joint stand

## Apron Extension at Leipzig/Halle

**Leipzig/Halle Airport will extend the apron area 4 used by DHL from October 2010 onwards in line with the official planning approval for the new construction of the southern runway; this will create four parking spaces for large freighter aircraft in line with the plans and requirements.**

The apron area was designed during the planning period in such a way that an extension would be possible at any time, depending on the way aircraft operations developed. Capacities are now going to be increased by approx. 13 percent by the autumn of 2011. The additional parking stands are primarily intended for the new AeroLogic freight planes. While the detailed design work has already started, the contract awarding procedure is now beginning. The total cost of the building work is EUR 13 million.

### Leipzig/Halle Airport



Apron 4 at Leipzig/Halle Airport

Dierk Näther, Managing Director of Flughafen Leipzig/Halle GmbH, has welcomed the extension of the apron: "We are delighted at the positive development at the site. Since the DHL hub began operations in 2008, freight volumes have continued to increase and Leipzig/Halle Airport has now established itself among the top ten of European freight airports. The airport is now reflecting its growing importance as an international air freight hub with the planned extension of its apron capacity and is creating long-term planning and investment guarantees for its customers in line with the official planning permission granted in 2004."

## AeroLogic Celebrates One Year in the Skies

**AeroLogic was the first airline to be based in Leipzig/Halle and it began operating flights on 29 June last year. One year later, its corporate philosophy is still unique in the world: the freight airline Lufthansa Cargo and the integrator DHL Express have joined forces for the first time and set up an airline.**



AeroLogic Boeing 777

And the business is a complete success: the AeroLogic fleet now has five modern Boeing 777 freighter aircraft. A sixth plane will be added to that number at the beginning of August. The world's largest Boeing 777F fleet with a total of eight aircraft will have reached its final size for the moment by the end of the year. AeroLogic has been flying to Seoul in South Korea and Shanghai in China three times a week since the middle of June. The frequency will be increased to six weekly tours within the next few weeks.

## From Leipzig/Halle to Brussels with OLT

**Ostfriesische Lufttransport GmbH (OLT) has been flying to Brussels from Leipzig/Halle three times a week since 7 June. As many as 17 passengers can now fly to the Belgian capital at attractive off-peak times on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays on board a Fairchild Metroliner.**



Metroliner of OLT at Leipzig/Halle

The flight lasts about one-and-a-half hours and can be booked directly with the airline, on the Internet or at a travel agent with immediate effect. When the winter timetable is introduced later this year, OLT is planning to increase its services to 16 weekly flights. The airline, which is one of the oldest in Germany, was founded in Emden in 1958 and has more than 17 aircraft with a capacity ranging between three and 100 seats.

## Aeroflot Responds to Increase in Demand

**Shortly before the first anniversary of the air link between Dresden and Moscow Sheremetyevo, the Russian airline Aeroflot has expanded its services by adding a third weekly non-stop flight on Wednesdays.**

Both business passengers and city travellers are benefiting from this new frequency, for the airline with one of Europe's youngest fleets has been flying to the city at the heart of Russia on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays since the beginning of June. This not only allows more flexible planning for short trips, but also improved access to Aeroflot's international network of routes. Passengers can then link up with connecting flights to destinations like Irkutsk, Yekaterinburg, Kaliningrad, St. Petersburg or Shanghai from the new Terminal D at Sheremetyevo Airport without any problems.

Dresden International



Aeroflot Airbus A319 at Dresden International Airport

## easyJet Flies to Dresden

**easyjet will start flights to Dresden Airport on 3 December. The orange coloured budget airline will provide a direct flight from the Saxon state capital to Basel in Switzerland on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.**

Dresden is the seventh German airport that easyJet will use. Thomas Haagensen, Managing Director of easyJet Germany, explains how important the Central German market is for the airline: "We are the first airline to provide a new route, which offers a direct flight between Dresden and the attractive border triangle of Switzerland, France and Germany. The city on the river Elbe and Central Germany are a very exciting region for us. Business travellers and people on short breaks take off and land here." easyJet flies to the most popular airports in Europe from Germany on 49 different routes and overall the airline currently provides services on 500 routes in 28 countries. easyJet carried more than 46 million passengers on board 182 aircraft during the past twelve months.



easyJet Boeing 737-700

From the Region

## Thousands of Bach Fans Celebrate in Leipzig

**About 65,000 music fans from all over the world flocked to the 85th Leipzig Bach Festival, which was held on 11 – 20 June. Coinciding with the 200th anniversary of the birth of Robert Schumann and his close links with Johannes Brahms, the organisers were able to provide a bridge between the music in Leipzig in the 18th and 19th centuries during the 114 events, which attracted top-class**

**performers.**

The opening concert directed by the St Thomas' choirmaster Georg Christoph Biller formed the prelude to the series of events. Other highlights were the French Suites performed by András Schiff, the performance of rarely played "Town Council Inauguration Cantatas (Ratswechsel) by Phillippe Herreweghe and Robert Schumann's almost unknown requiem in D flat major. The final chords were played by Sir John Eliot Gardiner, the Monteverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists at St Thomas' Church, which was completely sold out, in a performance of Bach's Mass in B minor. Dettloff Schwerdtfeger, Director of the Bach Archives in Leipzig, was delighted as he looked back on the festivities: "The huge success of the 2010 Leipzig Bach Festival proves that a carefully compiled programme, a well-chosen background and first-class artistes provide an excellent mixture, which is a great hit with the public."



The Bach memorial on the southern side of St Thomas' Church in Leipzig

## The People of Leipzig Feel at Home in Their City

**The latest survey of local residents carried out by the city of Leipzig has shown that nine out of ten people are largely happy with their lives in the trade fair city. The level of satisfaction with life in Leipzig has improved significantly since the beginning of the 1990s. An EU survey on the quality of life in 75 European cities provides the same results. Leipzig was able to occupy positions near the top and in the middle of the rankings.**

According to Frank Lehmann from the Office for Statistics and Elections, more and more Leipzig residents, particularly young people like pupils and students, are optimistic about their future in their home city in Saxony. However, about one third of the residents continue to have a pessimistic outlook for the future. One possible reason for this is the development of personal net income, which has been declining since the start of the millennium.



Dusk on the Market Square in Leipzig

## Amazon Continues to Increase Its Workforce

**The Internet mail order company Amazon is already starting to get ready for its Christmas business now: the approx. 1,000 employees with a permanent contract will obtain support from as many as 3,000 seasonal workers in the weeks leading up to Christmas Eve. The company is planning to then take on several hundred seasonal workers on a permanent basis this year too.**



Amazon logistics centre in Leipzig

The spectrum of items now covers several million articles ranging from books to CDs and even a wide variety of domestic

appliances. As many as 1.7 million products were ordered on peak days last year and were then dispatched from Leipzig to destinations all round the globe. The volume of orders increases dramatically in the pre-Christmas period every year. Additional workers are therefore needed in all four departments at the mail order centre – ranging from incoming goods to storing items, picking and even packing them.

Leipzig is one of the two Amazon business sites in Germany – the other one is at Bad Hersfeld in the state of Hessen. The company was able to increase its turnover from \$ 19.2 billion to a total figure of \$ 24.5 billion last year and therefore generate profits amounting to \$ 902 million.

## Europe's Largest Chip Factory in Dresden

**Dresden's image as "Silicon Saxony" has revived after the bankruptcy of the chip manufacturer Qimonda last year: the Taiwanese chip producer Globalfoundries will gradually expand its semi-conductor factory in the city on the river Elbe. The factory's capacity is due to be increased from 30,000 to 80,000 wafers (silicon blanks for chip production) by 2012.**

The company says that it will have invested as much as EUR 2 billion in its Dresden business location by the time that the extension work has been completed – according to its own figures. About 3,000 employees will produce electronic control and storage components here in future in a clean room area measuring 52,000 square metres in all. City Mayor Helma Orosz has welcomed the decision: "This commitment to the site and the confidence that has been placed in it by the investors from Abu Dhabi make us proud and show us that Dresden continues to be an attractive location on the international stage.

Globalfoundries is now the largest semi-conductor business site in Europe and is creating hundreds of new jobs. Globalfoundries is providing a clear signal to suppliers and service companies that the expected turnaround in the semi-conductor industry has already taken place."



Globalfoundries clean room

## Dresden's Albertinum Reopened

**Dresden's Albertinum was reopened to the general public at the end of June following building work that continued for six years. In the presence of Saxony's State Premier Stanislaw Tillich, approx. 3,500 visitors and 1,000 specially invited guests celebrated the long awaited reopening of the museum that was seriously damaged by the serious floods in 2002 and has now been carefully restored.**



View of Dresden's Albertinum from the Brühlsche Terrasse

The reconstruction work cost approx. EUR 51 million in all.

Contemporary artists contributed more than EUR 3 million by auctioning their own works as part of a benefit procedure. The results are impressive: According to State Premier Stanislaw Tillich, the building work has created what he called "one of the most modern museums in Europe". The Albertinum is home to a collection of sculptures with historical works from more than five millennia and the world-famous Galerie Neue Meister (New Masters' Gallery), which comprises about 3,000 paintings dating from the Romantic period to the present day. It is open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. every day.

## Imprint

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