



Dear readers, Dear customers,

Christmas is coming up soon and the year draws to a close. We wish our readers and customers a wonderful christmas time, a peaceful Christmas Eve and a good start for 2006.

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Leipzig/Halle airport

▶ Final rehearsal works – airport copes with rush to world championship draw

Leipzig/Halle Airport has stood the test for the world soccer championship to be held in Germany next year with distinction.



More than 1,500 visitors arrived before or on Dec. 9 to witness the drawing of lots for the groups that will play in the pre-final rounds. Over 520 sports federation officials were received in a new airport lounge, a VIP facility erected in the General Aviation Terminal (GAT) in the old terminal A.

Passengers included representatives of the 32 teams from all continents that will compete to get into the final in Berlin, as well as several hundred sports journalists. In preparation for the event, Lufthansa had doubled capacity for flights to Leipzig/Halle and from its hub at Frankfurt/Main, and tripled the number of seats available on the routes from Leipzig/Halle

Hostesses welcome the guests at Leipzig/Halle Airport

to Munich and Düsseldorf. The airline used the spacious Airbus A 321 and the A 300-600 with 280 seats. In addition, GAT processed dozens of private planes before and after the event.



To deal with the rush, the airport had an extra 30 staff on duty, mostly for service, traffic and security. Free space was provided for the City of Leipzig to advertise itself as a good host. FIFA was given a counter in terminal B to receive visitors. An oversize football in the arrivals area, which formed the rear of a Deutsche Bahn counter, helped to get passengers in the right mood for the major event.

Passengers could see a live transmission of the ceremonial draw on a 12 sqm screen in the central terminal's check-in area. Screens showing the various world championship matches are again planned at the airport next year.

Eric Malitzke, Managing Director Leipzig/Halle Airport, Burkhard Jung, Team Manager "World Championship Draw", Grit Schmitz, Hostess and Engelbert Lütke Daldrup, Championship Ambassador for Leipzig get ready for the championship draw in Leipzig (from right)

Much praise was lavished on Leipzig for the draw itself and a number of events organized around it. Joseph Blatter, president of the World Soccer Federation (FIFA), said he had seen "world class organization" in Leipzig.

In just under 180 days, Leipzig can expect to see world-class football: the city known as the cradle of German soccer because the Deutsche Fußballbund was founded here 105 years ago, will host four group matches and one in the round before the quarter-finals in June 2006. This will be a new endurance test for staff at the airport who will be dealing with teams, fans and journalists from Europe, Africa and Asia.



Leipzig gets ready for the world championship: the MDR building in the city center (l.) and a Lufthansa aircraft at Leipzig/Halle Airport



▶ Matches in the newly built Zentralstadion:

- ▶ June 11 2006: Serbia-Montenegro vs. Netherlands;
- ▶ June 14 2006: Spain vs. Ukraine;
- ▶ June 18 2006: France vs. South Korea and
- ▶ June 21 2006: Iran vs. Angola

Central German Airports Group

▶ More low-cost flights from Dresden and Leipzig/Halle

Years of persistent efforts are now paying off for Dresden and Leipzig/Halle airports. Several German budget airlines have scheduled low-cost links from the two airports to national and international destinations, making air travel even more attractive.



The latest to join the trend were Germanwings and Air Berlin. Since the end of November, Germanwings has connected the sister cities Dresden and Hamburg, both on the Elbe river, while Air Berlin is planning to make Leipzig/Halle its low-price flight center in eastern Germany.

The Hamburg route is Germanwings' third connection to and from Dresden. The first low-cost flights from Saxony left from Dresden for Cologne/Bonn almost two years ago in March. Stuttgart was next at the end of 2004. In the meantime, Germanwings, dba and Air Berlin, all budget airlines, have made Dresden their point of take-off and touchdown.

Dr. Michael Hupe,
Managing Director
Dresden Airport,
welcomes
Germanwings' pilot
Michael Greffing at
Dresden Airport

With Germanwings, the low-cost airline, you can go from Dresden to Hamburg twice daily in an Airbus A319. These flights leaving Dresden at 8.30 in the morning and 5.40 in the afternoon attract both businessmen and tourists. Tickets cost from € 19 inclusive of all taxes and charges.



Air Berlin is expanding at Leipzig/Halle. On December 16, the number of flights to London is to rise from three to seven per week. Germany's second largest airline is to make Stansted its new hub for flights to Manchester and Glasgow. Stansted was formerly used only for "point-to-point" traffic in which passengers wishing to change flights first reclaimed their baggage and then had to check in again. Eric Malitzke, Managing Director of Leipzig/Halle Airport is confident that Air Berlin's involvement in Britain will make Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia popular destinations for British travelers.

With an early booking, tickets to London are from € 29 including all taxes and charges. Through tickets to northern England or Scotland start at € 49.

Air Berlin increases the number of flights from Leipzig/Halle Airport

€ 29 including all taxes and charges. Through tickets to northern England or Scotland start at € 49.

Air Berlin has a firm foundation at Leipzig/Halle, and the Mallorca shuttle introduced in November 2004 has generated considerable growth, with 75,000 passengers flying from Leipzig to the Spanish island until the end of October. In the meantime, the airline is selling 40% of its seats to individuals. As a consequence of flying to London more often, Air Berlin has raised to three the number of planes for which Leipzig/Halle is the home airport.

Dresden airport

► Plans are on display for building new runway next year

The airport will soon start one of its biggest construction projects.

Zoning approval by the Regional Authority has given the green light for building a new runway with a length of 2,850 m (350 m longer than the old runway), which will be laid out 70 m away.



A year ago in December Flughafen Dresden GmbH had applied for a building permit with the Regional Authority. The authorities then completed the planning procedure in ten months and handed over the approval document (95 pages) to the airport at the end of October.

All preparations for the project will be made in 2006.

The new runway will be laid out in parallel with the existing concrete strip

In 2007 the gross of work will be done, including the surface. If the project is on schedule, the air traffic from the new runway can start in August 2007. With the first take-offs and landings on the new runway, the old runway will be demolished. Total construction costs will be approx. € 40-50m.



The longer runway will make the airport, with direct links to the motorway A4 and to the network of Deutsche Bahn, even more attractive for national and international airlines and aviation companies located nearby. In two years' time, medium-range aircraft which account for the bulk of traffic at Dresden will be able to land, take off, and take on fuel and cargo without any payload restrictions.

The zoning approval and related documents will be on display until mid-December in a number of communities located near the airport, among them Radeburg, Radebeul, Moritzburg, Großnaundorf and Laußnitz.

Leipzig/Halle airport

▶ A major step forward – “November” taxiway reopens

Construction of the new south runway, taxiways and apron at Leipzig/Halle Airport is proceeding according to plan.



An important phase in the multi-million project will be completed in late December when the “November” taxiway which connects the apron to the east traversing bridge will be opened again after several months of rehabilitation work. Incoming and outgoing planes may again use the bridge which spans the A14 motorway and railway track.

To build the south runway, which will be 3,600 m long and 60 m wide and is laid out in parallel with the north runway completed in March 2000, a difference of 12 m in soil levels has to be evened out. Excavation machinery on the site is currently moving some 2.1

The taxiway “November” under construction. Down to the right you can see a part of the old runway

million cubic meters of earth. Every day, 120 trucks carry 1,600 loads to various destinations.

Work officially started on Aug. 31, and the runway is to become operational in 2007. It has a permit for 24-hour operation and makes take-offs and landings possible even in inclement weather. And last but not least, Leipzig/Halle will have its second runway back.



▶ Economic news

▶ Top companies have headquarters in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia

Berlin A recent ranking list published by the daily “Die Welt” says that in 2004 eight of the ten biggest companies residing in eastern Germany had their offices in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia.

The largest group in eastern Germany is Vattenfall Europe AG headquartered in Berlin. Nos. 2 and 3 are Volkswagen Sachsen-Gruppe GmbH of Zwickau and Verbundnetz Gas AG of Leipzig, followed by Dow BSL Olefinverbund GmbH and TOTAL Raffinerie Mitteldeutschland GmbH with headquarters at Spergau. The Infineon group from Dresden rose to 9th position, seven places better than in 2003.

According to the “Top 100 of eastern Germany” rankings, the groups involved increased total sales by just under 12%, to € 72.2m, in the year under review, while slightly reducing staff by 0.9% to 203,100.

▶ Capacity doubled

Leipzig The container terminal at Leipzig-Wahren, not far from Leipzig/Halle airport, has expanded.

Due to a rise in regional freight volumes, it had come up against limiting factors. It took five months to extend the terminal, which went into operation in 2001 and handles containers, swap bodies and semitrailers with max. weights of 41 tonnes, from 350 to 700 m. Four loading tracks, a craneway, and traffic, loading and parking lanes were extended.

Two gantry cranes can now load or unload four trains with a length of 700 m each at the same time so that annual capacity is increased to 100,000 containers. Deutsche Bahn invested approximately € 3m. Leipzig-Wahren is one of 25 freight handling stations of Deutsche Bahn which are operated by a subsidiary, Deutsche Umschlaggesellschaft Schiene-Straße mbH.

▶ New terminal opens at Dresden-Friedrichstadt

Dresden A new container terminal has been completed at Friedrichstadt in Dresden.

With two 20 m high cranes it can load between 40,000 and 60,000 containers per year from road to rail and vice versa. The new facility cost € 18.5m, will be operated by BTS Kombiwaggon Service GmbH of Hamburg and is expected to make Dresden a hub for container traffic with eastern Europe.

**▶ Computer and video games to be displayed in Leipzig****Leipzig Makers of computer and video games have again gone for Leipzig as the place for their annual tradeshow.**

Bundesverband Interaktive Unterhaltungssoftware, the German association representing the leading names of the trade, and Leipziger Messe GmbH have made a deal for holding the "games convention" (GC) trade fair in Leipzig at least until 2008.

In only four years, GC has become Europe's leading exhibition for interactive entertainment and infotainment, and the event last August attracted 134,000 visitors in four days, or just below 30,000 more than in 2004. The next GC will be held in Leipzig from Aug. 23-27, 2006.

www.gc-germany.com

▶ Mechanical engineering on the upswing**Chemnitz Mechanical engineering is prosperous in the states of Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt.**

About half of the industry's manufacturers in eastern Germany have their production sites in Saxony. Over 400 small and medium-sized enterprises employing about 34,000 people reported sales of some € 5bn last year.

Compared with the same period last year, mechanical engineering turnover in Saxony rose by 3.2%, to € 2.3bn, in the first half of 2005. The propensity to export is around 42%. In Saxony-Anhalt the roughly 170 companies affiliated to Verband Deutscher Maschinen- und Anlagenbauer grew by over 10% and, by mid-year, had sales of more than € 570m.

www.vdma.org

▶ "Manager-Magazin": Dresden is favorite city for managers**Dresden The capital of Saxony has a good reputation among managers.**

A ranking published by Germany's "Manager-Magazin" lists Dresden among the large cities in Europe that are most attractive for business people to live in. The study assessed seven key criteria for 58 cities, among them incomes, the cost of living, career opportunities and the housing market. Quality of life ratings used such factors as the number of crimes per head and air quality. The magazine said it had looked at places that offered a measure of job opportunities for German managers. For example, cities chosen had to be home to at least two of Europe's largest private companies.

Paris came first in a table of "ideal cities for career starts" which had Dresden in 20th place and Leipzig at No. 40. But Dresden fared better in a ranking of cities that "made middle managers feel most at home" which gave place 13 to Dresden and 19th place to Leipzig.



► Miscellaneous

► Journey back in time to a 7,000-year old solar observatory

Goseck This small town near Weißenfels in the south of Saxony-Anhalt makes history come alive.



Over a period of six months, what is probably the world's oldest solar observatory has been reconstructed. Complete with a circular moat, it is only about 25 km away from the site of another recent find that has attracted worldwide attention – the “celestial disk of Nebra”. The rebuilt observatory will be ceremonially opened on Dec. 21 (winter solstice).

Remnants of a moat from the Neolithic period had been discovered as early as 1991 during a reconnaissance flight. But it was not until a decade later that excavation gave archeologists access to part of a complex that dates from about 7,000 years ago. The southeastern

The reconstructed solar observatory at Goseck near Weißenfels (state of Saxony-Anhalt)

gate in the pale fencing marks the presumed point of sunrise at the winter solstice around the year 4,800 BC, while the southwestern gate is oriented toward the place of sundown on that day. Scientists believe the structure proves that Europeans had astronomical insights much earlier than has been thought so far.

The erection of two pale fences consisting of 2,300 oak stems with a length of approx. 3 m began in the early summer of 2005. The observatory, enclosed by a circular moat and rampart with a diameter of 75 m, is one of the sights along a “celestial route” through the state of Saxony-Anhalt which also includes the State Museum of Archeology in Halle and the future visitor center on Mittelberg hill near Nebra where the “celestial disk” was found.

www.archlsa.de

► Image promotion campaigns in Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt

Magdeburg/Dresden The two states of Saxony-Anhalt and Saxony wish to present their merits to a general public and have begun goodwill advertising campaigns.

In these, Saxony will refer to itself a “state of the world”, while Saxony-Anhalt, cradle of the Reformation, has for some time used the slogan “We get up earlier”.

The idea in Saxony's campaign, which has been created by the Lowe advertising agency from Hamburg and starts at the beginning of next year, is to present the state as an outstanding tourist destination, a state of the world. An earlier campaign launched in 2001 played on the word “Saxist” and was chiefly designed to get attention. Saxony has for years attracted large numbers of tourists from home and abroad, and will continue to do so now that Dresden's Frauenkirche has been rebuilt.



"We get up earlier" is a slogan designed to make people in Germany, and potential investors, curious about Saxony-Anhalt. The campaign was born after a poll undertaken by the FORSA opinion research institute had shown that the inhabitants of the state, on average, get up at 6.39 a.m. on workdays, which is nine minutes earlier than the German average. Second place in the poll went to people in Saxony who get up at 6.42 a.m. on average. The message in the slogan, of course, is that Saxony-Anhalt has been the home of people whose ideas and discoveries were ahead of their time, such as Martin Luther, Thomasius, Otto von Guericke and Walter Gropius.

www.sachsen-anhalt.de
www.sachsen-tourismus.de

▶ Sweet Christmas treats

Dresden Dresden stollen is a coveted item during the Christmas season both in Saxony and beyond.

It is made to old recipes and comes from over 140 bakeries in and around the state capital. The bread-like cake is sent to most countries around the globe. A trade protection society safeguards the interests of bakers who make genuine Dresden stollen.

A survey conducted by INFRATEST has shown that just under two thirds of all Germans associate "Dresden stollen" exclusively with the city of Dresden. The first mention of Dresden stollen goes back to 1474 when it appeared on an invoice sent to the St. Bartholomew Hospital. Today several versions of the trademark have been registered with the Patent Office.

▶ Imprint

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Evelyn Schuster, Petra Siebert, Dierk Näther, Uwe Schuhart, Christian Adler

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Please send any queries, comments or suggestions to:

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