



280 million potential customers live within a 500 mile radius of Thuringia.

Whether you're headed for an important business meeting in London or need to dispatch an urgent shipment to Eastern Europe, from Thuringia, your business partners and customers are only a few hours away. Located in the center of Germany and the heart of Europe, the Free State of Thuringia has been a hub for continental trade through the ages. Some 2,000 years ago, the region was already intersected by the "Via Regia" which was one of the key east-west trading routes of its day.

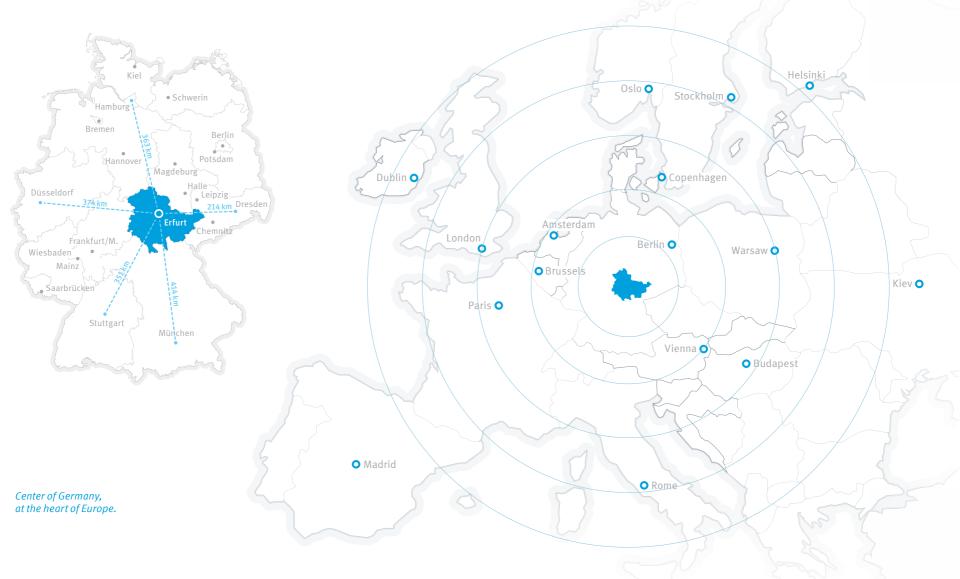
Thuringia has always stood out for its central location and its exceptionally modern infrastructure. Businesspeople and travelers can benefit from a dense network of 'Autobahn' freeways and rail lines, as well the modern regional airport at Erfurt-Weimar and the nearby international airports of Leipzig/Halle and Frankfurt.

This makes the region a highly attractive location for industry and business, as well as an ideal hub for international trade. A number of top performers among Germany's logistics companies have already decided to make Thuringia their home: Schenker, Rhenus, Dachser, Fiege and Axthelm+Zufall, to name but a few. Other global corporations operating out of Thuringia include IKEA, DHL, Panasonic and Redcoon.

But Thuringia is more than just a transit point for goods and traffic. It is also a center for high-powered industrial production and innovation. This is in no small part due to the fact that the Free State fosters close ties between the scientific and business communities, as well as the region's rich pool of highly-qualified and motivated professionals and labor resources.

Given these outstanding advantages, more and more companies from a wide range of industries are choosing to locate in Thuringia. We have reacted to this surge in demand with a broad-based initiative to develop additional commercial space. Entrepreneurs seeking to do business in Thuringia will find plenty of attractive office space and industrial facilities in which to turn their business concepts into success stories!









94 market leaders and technological pioneers are headquartered here. Just one more reason to come to Thuringia!

Roll up your sleeves, take on any challenge and create real value with your own hard work – these qualities have always been synonymous with Thuringia. Also important is a strong sense of identification with the region, loyalty to one's employer, lots of initiative and a penchant for action. The inhabitants of the Free State also have a sharp eye for economic opportunities. Whether this requires sticking to tried and tested methods or exploring new ones is irrelevant – what really counts here are the results. This pragmatic approach has made Thuringia an attractive, dynamic location for technical innovation, business and investment – not to mention a great place to live!

Taking 1991 as a starting point, the Free State of Thuringia currently boasts the highest GDP growth rate among Federal Germany's newly integrated eastern states. The backbone of the state's economy consists of highly productive and creative medium-sized enterprises. The constant stream of new ideas and expertise they generate contributes to Thuringia's sustained economic growth.

Global players are also at home in Thuringia. Dynamic medium-sized companies operate side-by-side with major corporations such as Jenoptik, Zeiss, Bosch, Siemens, IHI Charging Systems International, Opel, Mitec and Bauerfeind. In recent years, more and more globally active companies from a wide range of industries have come to recognize the Free State's many advantages. In fact, Thuringia currently ranks as the leading investment location in central Europe. This is exemplified by Daimler, Masdar PV, Rolls-Royce, Lufthansa and Schenker, who have all

set up plants or subsidiaries here as part of their business expansion strategy. Whether large or small, companies which move to Thuringia all have one thing in common – the ambition to bring innovative premium products and services on to the market.

It is no small wonder then that almost 100 of the companies based in Thuringia rank as market leaders and/or technology pioneers in Germany, Europe and the wider world. Take Iosono GmbH for example. Founded in Erfurt in 2004, this young enterprise is already a globally established provider of 3D audio solutions for cinemas, showrooms and live events. Another great success story is Sios Messtechnik GmbH in Ilmenau which manufactures the "NMM-1," the world's most high-powered and accurate nano-positioning and measurement device. These are just two names from a long list of leading Thuringian companies – we'll be happy to acquaint you with the other technological trendsetters!



97,000 entrepreneurs – 97,000 examples of Thuringia's business sense!

"The secret is in the mix!" – A truly apt motto for Thuringia. The Free State boasts a wide range of industries, making its economy exceptionally productive and resilient. In fact, practically every industry with growth and job-creating potential can be found here: automotive, optics, medical technology, mechanical engineering, foodstuffs, solar energy, aviation technology, synthetics, and the creative sectors. Of course Thuringia also has an abundance of skilled craftspeople and a dynamic services sector. It is this diversity which ensures a broad base for the economy while offering investors a multitude of opportunities to join forces with others and enable further growth across sectors.

The most valuable aspects of the plurality of sectors in Thuringia? The opportunities for individual companies to connect. Time and again, the ability of Thuringian companies to network and work as a team has given rise to innovative, high-value products.

This cross-sectoral approach goes back a long way. In the late 19th century, entrepreneurs like Carl Zeiss, Ernst Abbé and Otto Schott partnered with each other to lay the foundations of the optical industry in Jena. Today, this proud tradition of quality optics 'Made in Thuringia' is carried

on by people like Peter Eisenhardt or Rüdiger Kappel of ifw optronics GmbH. This is the company that made the photo-diodes installed by NASA on the Mars Rover "Curiosity" which was sent to scour the red planet for signs of organic life.

Grouped in 'clusters' (ten at present), the various technological sectors are able to network closely and optimize synergies to their mutual benefit. In addition, a centralized 'Cluster Management' system allows the region's growth industries to be fostered in a coordinated fashion.



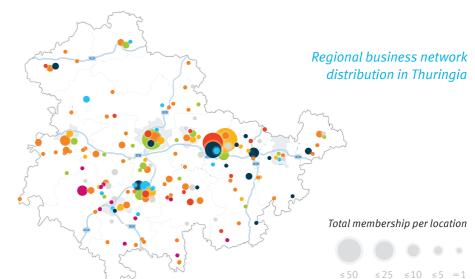


- Mechanical engineering and automotive
- Metals production, processing and treatment
- Electrical engineering, electronics, precision mechanics, opto-electronics, EDP
- Foodstuffs
- Rubber and synthetics
- Wood, paper and printing
- Glass, ceramics, raw materials for construction
- Chemical and pharmaceutical products
 - Other



Networks/cluster initiatives in Thuringia

Automotive	automotive thüringen (at)
Biotech/medical technology	medways
Optical technologies	OptoNet
Clean energy	SolarInput
Synthetics	PolymerMat
Micro/nanotechnology	MNT
Measurement, control and regulating technology	y ELMUG
Metallurgy/mechanical engineering	FerMeTh





On the ground or 410,000 meters up in the air — High-tech 'Made in Thuringia' is in demand all over the world!

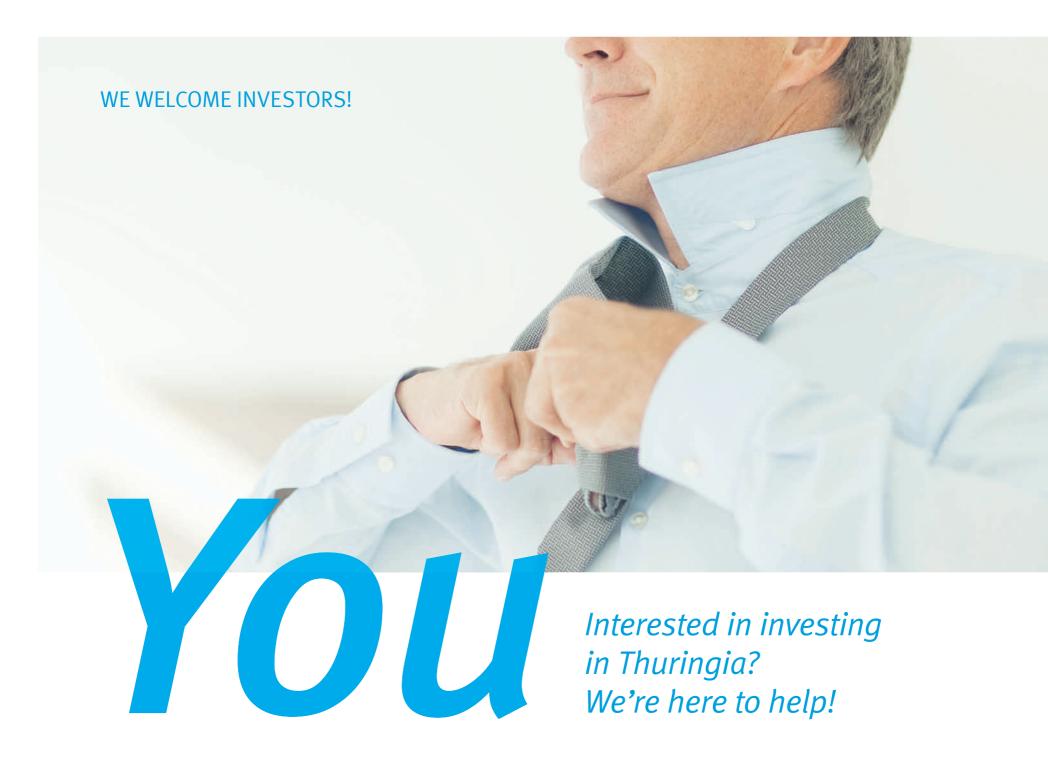
Whether exploring outer space, bridging New York's East River or deciphering the human genome, Thuringian scientists and entrepreneurs have a long track record of innovation, ranging from everyday conveniences to groundbreaking discoveries. There are always two key objectives — making their products practical and user-friendly. After all, as clever as a new invention may be, it is of little worth unless it can be put to use outside the lab.

The Free State of Thuringia's wealth of top-notch research institutions helps guarantee that the region will never lack for up-and-coming scientific talent. That is why Thuringia's innovative research landscape is made up of no less than eleven universities and universities of applied sciences, of various renowned institutions of the world-famous Max-Planck and Fraunhofer societies, Leibniz Institutes, and many other research institutions with close ties to the business community.

Thanks to the integration of the general economic sector with these research institutions, theory and practice are never far apart. A bright idea

can be turned into a ground-breaking product as quickly and smoothly as possible. For example in Jena, a joint venture between an academic research team and an industrial venture partner is developing a new 'bone cement' that will expedite the healing of age-related spinal fractures.

At present, students and scientists from all over Europe are working together at the Thuringian Mobility Innovation Center (ThlMO, Thüringer Innovationszentrum Mobilität) in Ilmenau to perfect high-performance propulsion concepts that will help create the mobility solutions of the future. Which only goes to show — Thuringia is always on the move!



Investors from Germany and abroad can draw on the many support services provided by the Thuringian Ministry for Economics, Labor and Technology (TMWAT, Thüringer Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Technologie), as well as by the State Development Corporation of Thuringia (Landesentwicklungsgesellschaft Thüringen mbH). Our friendly and competent staff will provide you with a full range of services for all phases of your project. From scouting the right location for you, helping you realize your business idea, all the way to planning your future expansion once it has taken off!

Our services at a glance:

- Help investors find the perfect location in Thuringia to realize their business idea;
- Act as government agency liaison, provide data on the economy and on the region, provide consultancy regarding financing and public subsidy opportunities, introduce potential joint venture partners;
- Assist in locating qualified staff via the Thuringian Agency for Skilled Professionals (ThAFF, Thüringer Agentur für Fachkräftegewinnung). If necessary, we will help train those personnel;
- > Provide active support in accessing global markets via "Thuringia International";
- > The Thuringian Cluster Management (ThCM, Thüringer ClusterManagement) coordinates

- and fosters the development of growth industries within the Free State;
- > The Thuringian Energy and Green Tech Agency (ThEGA, Thüringer Energie- und GreenTech-Agentur) brings initiatives and stakeholders together and generally fosters the launch of innovative, ground-breaking projects in the energy and environmental sectors.
- > Contact us:

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