

Press Release

Investment Promotion Consultancy Austrian Business Agency: 2020 Business Location Projects at 2018 Level Despite Coronavirus Crisis

Realignment and strengthening of the investment promotion consultancy Austrian Business Agency (ABA) designed to safeguard value chains, production and jobs in the country

Vienna, 29th of October 2020 - The business location scorecard of the investment promotion consultancy Austrian Business Agency (ABA) at the end of the third quarter of 2020 confirms the very positive results achieved by Austria as a business location in spite of the coronavirus crisis. *Invest in Austria*, the investment promotion department of Austrian Business Agency, which is owned by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, provided professional support to a total of 309 foreign companies setting up business operations in Austria as at 30 September 2020. This led to investments of € 547.4 million in Austria and the creation of 1,899 new jobs. In comparison, 396 companies (total investments: € 1.54 billion, 4,092 jobs created) already set up business operations in Austria at the end of September of the record year of 2019 compared to 259 companies (total investments: € 522.5 million, 1,450 jobs created) in 2018.

“We anticipate annual results to be about 25 percent lower than in the previous year. This is because most of the projects implemented in 2020 were already at an advanced stage of their expansion process. Fortunately, the coronavirus crisis did not deter these companies from investing in Austria“, says Marion Biber, Managing Director of *Invest in Austria*. “However, getting closer to the end of the year, we are perceiving a substantial reduction in the number of new inquiries. A significant decline in the number of business location projects is to be expected over the coming two years“, she adds.

Maintain production in the country and secure jobs

Enhancing business competitiveness, safeguarding company locations and innovative facilities as a means of strengthening Europe as a business location are all of vital importance to the Austrian Federal Government. “As means of being able to master the challenging economic conditions in the coming years, it is crucial to keep those companies which have already located in Austria and create further incentives to remain attractive as a business location against the backdrop of international competition“, states Margarete Schramböck, Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs. The country aims at becoming less depending on foreign production with the support of ABA. “For this reason, ABA will targetedly appeal to foreign companies in the future, particularly in the fields of digitalisation, life sciences and medical technology which provide added value to Austria as a business location and supplying the country. As we have already seen with Novartis in Kundl, it is also of great significance for the business location to retain production operations in our country, especially in key areas. Naturally, this also creates and safeguards important and high-quality jobs. Here ABA will provide support to us and increasingly serve companies which have already located in Austria“, Minister Schramböck adds.

Investment promotion agency: expanded portfolio, more services to benefit companies

The Austrian Business Agency is continuously expanding its offering of services provided at no cost, as evidenced by its new department *Work in Austria* established in the past year. As a result, it is the first contact point for foreign investors and skilled employees as well as companies looking for

suitable employees in Austria. The setting up of the Red-White-Red Card Service Centre, which is currently taking place within ABA, as stipulated in the government programme, is a clear sign of debureaucratisation on the basis of the digitalisation of administrative procedures and an acceleration of these processes. “Discussions with foreign investors over the last few months have increasingly shown that the availability of the required skilled employees on site is frequently a decisive factor in a business location project. By closely linking the services provided by *Invest in Austria* and *Work in Austria*, we are succeeding in making a positive contribution towards companies deciding in favour of Austria as business location“, explains René Tritscher, Managing Director of the department *Work in Austria*.

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About Austrian Business Agency (ABA)

ABA – Invest in Austria is the national investment promotion department of the Austrian Business Agency (ABA) owned by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs. With its three departments, ABA – Invest in Austria, ABA – Work in Austria und Location Austria, Austria’s business promotion agency promotes Austria abroad as a business and research location, an attractive labour market for skilled workers and a location for international film productions.

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