

Press Release

Minister Schramböck: Third-Best Business Location Results Despite the Coronavirus Crisis

ABA – Invest in Austria supported 353 international companies in setting up business operations or expanding in Austria.

Vienna, 28 January 2021 – The national investment promotion consultancy ABA – Invest in Austria a division of the business location agency Austrian Business Agency (ABA) and subsidiary of the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, supported a total of 353 international companies in the year 2020 in cooperation with the regional investment promotion agencies. The companies invested € 580.2 million, thus creating a total of 2,165 new jobs. “These results show us that Austria is also a safe haven for companies, even in times of crisis. The team at ABA also succeeded in convincing many international companies of the qualities of the business location in this difficult year and serving as a one-stop-shop for foreign companies setting up business operations or expanding in Austria”, says Margarete Schramböck, Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs. “In the future, it will also be of particular importance to not only lure new international companies to the country, but also to support firms which are already established here with their expansion efforts. This will enable us to effectively master the challenging economic conditions in the years to come”, Minister Schramböck adds.

The Austrian business location scored points with investors over the past year, especially due to the investment premium. This serves as an investment incentive for both Austria and foreign companies and makes a major contribution towards reinvigorating the economy. The investment premium has triggered about € 30 billion in domestic investments up until now, ensuring that domestic companies and jobs and thus the entire business location of Austria can be secured and strengthened.

Germany and Italy once again lead the list of investor nations in 2020

With respect to the countries of origin, Germany continues to rank as the top investor nation with 95 business location projects, followed by Italy with 35 new projects and Switzerland with 25 companies. The effects of Brexit could also be felt once again in 2020. 24 companies from Great Britain settled in Austria. Accordingly, the share of British companies has risen by five percentage points since 2017. Similarly, companies from the CEE/SEE countries also showed an increase of five percentage points. 88 investments, or one quarter of all ABA business location projects in 2020, were from Central and South Eastern Europe. Young entrepreneurs were also not deterred from establishing business operations in Austria in the year of the coronavirus crisis. 22 startups taking advantage of the support provided by ABA were founded in Austria in 2020.

“We will increasingly target international companies in the fields of digitalisation, medical

technology and life sciences on the basis of a more pronounced quality-oriented realignment and expansion of ABA to a business location agency. In 2020, ICT was the most strongly represented sector among our customers for the fifth straight year. This not only demonstrates the crisis resilience of the industry but also the attractiveness of our business location. Austria as a business location can only be strengthened and its competitiveness maintained through the funding and support of innovations and digital technologies. For this reason, we welcome all measures and investments in this field”, states Marion Biber, Managing Director ABA – Invest in Austria.

Information on investment projects in the federal provinces:

A total of 200 companies or more than half of all investment projects in 2020 decided to locate their business operations in the capital city of Vienna. The second most popular federal province after Vienna was Lower Austria with 30 investment projects, followed by Carinthia with 28 companies and Salzburg with 24 business location projects. 23 companies decided in favour of Upper Austria, whereas 19 firms selected Tyrol and 18 invested in Styria 18. Nine firms chose to set up business operations in Vorarlberg, ahead of Burgenland with two companies.

Examples of companies deciding in favour of Austria:

Klaxon Mobility GmbH

Klaxon Mobility GmbH was founded as a startup in Villach, Carinthia at the end of 2015 by Dr. Enrico Boaretto and Dr. Andrea Stella. It develops and produces innovative mobility solutions for all manual wheelchair models on the basis of state-of-the-art technologies. At the beginning, research on innovative products was carried out in Villach and production took place in Italy. The owners decided to relocate manufacturing to Austria in 2019. 15 employees now work for the company, designing, producing and selling mobility solutions in 40 countries across the globe. In 2020, ABA supported Klaxon in expanding its research activities in Austria. Plans call for a further expansion of production operations in Austria in 2021, and an application to be submitted for the investment premium.

“The great willingness to support and provide funding to entrepreneurs in Austria convinced us from the very beginning that the country is the right place for our company. The lean bureaucracy is an undisputed locational advantage and makes it possible for us to focus on the essential things relating to our work. We are very thankful to Austrian Business Agency for its longstanding assistance and support, without which we would have never found out about the many funding possibilities which have contributed to our growth.”

Dr. Enrico Boaretto, founder and Chief Executive Officer, Klaxon Mobility GmbH

Evotec SE

Evotec is an active substance research company which rapidly presses ahead with innovative product approaches on the basis of development partnerships with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, academics, patient advocacy groups and venture capitalists.

With its workforce of more than 3,400 employees, the company offers its customers around the world high-quality, independent and integrated solutions in active substance research, from

target to clinical development. An experienced team of gene therapy experts will work at the new R&D site in Lower Austria. At the same time, the new facility has entered into a long-term research alliance with Takeda in order to support a growing number of gene therapy research programmes.

“In April 2020, we opened up a new facility for gene therapy in Orth an der Donau in Austria, namely Evotec Gene Therapy (Evotec GT). In this way, we complemented a further important building block in our active substance research platform. In order to be an ideal partner for research and development of new medicines, we have to technologically encompass all possible active ingredient types such as small molecules, biologics and also gene therapies. For this reason, our gene therapy site in Austria comprises an important lane on our development highway designed to support our long-term growth path.”

Dr. Werner Lanthaler, Chief Executive Officer of Evotec SE

Green Edge Cloud Austria GmbH

Green Edge Cloud Ltd is a next generation cloud service provider on the European market. The company offers “private” cloud solutions on a decentralised, distributed, secure, cost-transparent and sustainable system architecture running on an innovative European operating system. The post-Brexit focus is now on Austria, the subsidiary Green Edge Austria as well as Austrian companies and institutions. The aim is to provide solutions fulfilling the decentralised applications of the future, especially security demands of private and public institutions with geographically dispersed communications and operating systems.

“In our business location decision, Austria impressed us with its crisis-proof business environment, internationally competitive investment opportunities and funding along with the outstanding research institutions and pool of skilled employees. Moreover, Austria’s future-oriented and ambitious digitalisation programme enabled us to select Austria as the European trailblazer for our innovative and decentralised cloud solution of the future and the base for implementing a regional cloud.”

Mariza Wellesley-Wesley, Chief Executive Officer, Green Edge Cloud Austria GmbH.

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About Austrian Business Agency (ABA)

ABA – Invest in Austria is the national investment promotion agency of the Austrian Business Agency (ABA) owned by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs. With its three divisions, 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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