

Press Release

ABA Scorecard in the First Half of 2015: Record Number of International Investment Projects

152 new foreign investment projects in the first six months of 2015 – 1,656 new jobs – total investments of EUR 139.66 million

Vienna, July 3, 2015 – The latest half-year results of the national investment promotion consultancy ABA-Invest in Austria operating the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy show a clear upward trend with respect to international business location projects. The number of new investment projects of international companies concluded in cooperation with the regional investment promotion agencies rose by 33 percent from the prior-year level, from 114 to 152 projects. This represents the best half-year performance in the 33 year history of ABA.

The number of jobs generated by the new business location projects rose by 83 percent year-on-year, from 905 to 1,656. Total investments amounted to EUR 140 million, compared to EUR 179 million in the previous year. ABA attributes this decline to the success with one large project in the first half of 2014 featuring a particularly high investment volume.

"This gratifying ABA track record is proof of the ongoing attractiveness of Austria as a business location. However, it should also serve as an incentive for further reforms, especially in economically difficult times. This is the only way we can keep pace in the future in the light of tough international competition", says Reinhold Mitterlehner, Federal Minister of Science, Research and Economy. "One new measure is the increase of the research premium from ten to twelve percent within the context of the tax reform. This will make Austria even more attractive as a location for international companies or their R&D departments to establish business operations", Minister Mitterlehner adds.

Germany once again the top investor nation

In the first half of 2015 the Austrian business location was particularly in demand by German companies. They accounted for 51 newly established companies or about 34 percent of all international investment projects in the first half of 2015, comprising an increase of 65 percent from the total of 31 German business location projects in the comparable prior-year period.

Uninterrupted influx of companies from Italy and CEE/SEE countries

The interest on the part of Italian companies is continuing. Italy remained the second most important investor nation, accounting for 17 new companies. Austria was just as attractive as

a business location for CEE/SEE countries in the first half-year as in the previous year. Professional consulting services were provided by ABA to 33 companies from this group which set up business operations in Austria, the same number of firms as in the first half of 2014. Hungary was the top investor nation from the CEE/SEE region with seven investment projects, followed by Slovakia (6) and Russia (5).

Current examples of companies deciding in favor of Austria:

The German startup **ITA (infotope information and communications technologies GmbH)** operates in the field of IT security, and carries out research and development work in Austria. ITA ultimately selected Austria over Germany. The country's central geographical location, qualified employees, investment promotion and cost structure were the main underlying reasons for the decision of ITA, according to CEO Thomas Neuroth.

The National Rating Agency (NRA), the second largest Russian rating agency, set up its first foreign office in Austria. NRA International GmbH based in the former Vienna Stock Exchange building aims to serve Eastern European markets from Austria.

Sino Danube Logistics Vienna is the company's new regional headquarters for the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, where the Chinese sea cargo company aims to strengthen its presence. Up until now the Viennese CSCL was a branch office of the firm's European headquarters located in Hamburg. Thanks to the upgrading of the Austrian operations to become the regional headquarters, the number of employees more than doubled from the previous staff of eight and should increase to a total of 20-25 people.

Editorial note:

ABA-Invest in Austria is the national investment promotion company owned by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy. It provides professional consulting services to interested companies free of charge, supporting them in selecting a business location, with labor and tax issues, identifying cooperation partners and dealing with public authorities.

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