

Press Information

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ABA Results in 2014: All-Time High for Business Location Projects

The national investment promotion company ABA-Invest in Austria supported a record number of 276 investment projects in 2014 – Once again an increase in the success parameters of jobs created and total investments – Record growth of projects from Italy and the crisis countries in the CEE and SEE region

Austria's national investment promotion company ABA-Invest in Austria provided professional assistance for 276 foreign investment projects in 2014 in cooperation with the regional investment promotion agencies, a rise of 21% from the previous year. This represents an all-time high in the company's 33-year history. Other success parameters also showed a significant improvement. The number of new jobs created in Austria by the companies setting up business operations in Austria climbed 79% to 2,645, compared to 1,479 new jobs in 2013. Total investments rose by close to 7% to EUR 371 million, up from the prior-year level of EUR 348 million. "This comprises an outstanding success, which impressively proves that we are well-positioned when it comes to our business location policies, and that Austria continues to gain in attractiveness as a business location against the backdrop of international competition", says owner representative Reinhold Mitterlehner, Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister of Science, Research and Economy in commenting on ABA's 2014 results.

Germany the undisputed top investor again

In 2014 Germany was once again the most important investor nation. 88 German companies were supported by ABA-Invest in establishing business operations in Austria, an increase of almost 4% from 85 investment projects in 2013. "Fortunately there were several investments again in the double-digit million euro range, which is why the investment volume of EUR 274.5 million generated by German companies was up about 40% from EUR 196.7 million in the previous year", according to René Siegl, Managing Director of ABA-Invest in Austria.

Boom in Italian companies: Record 43 investment projects

The upward trend in business location projects on the part of Italian companies continues uninterrupted, leading to the best results from Italy since the founding of ABA. On balance, 43 Italian companies set up business operations in Austria in 2014 with the professional support of ABA, five times more than ten years ago and 23% higher than the comparable figure of 35 firms in 2013. Accordingly, Italy accounted for 15% of all of ABA's business location projects.

More than 25% of all business location projects form CEE and SEE countries

There has been a striking increase in interest in Austria as a business location on the part of investors from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and South East and Eastern Europe (SEE), especially from the crisis-torn countries. This group accounted for 74 companies investing in Austria or about 27% of all ABA business location projects in the year 2014.

The most important investor nations from CEE were Hungary with 24 projects and Russia with 13 new investments, followed by Slovenia (10) and Ukraine (8).

Once again rise in R&D investments and production companies

The growth in business location projects for production companies (24 in 2014 compared to 13 in the previous year) and companies carrying out research and development in Austria (13 in 2014 vs. 4 in 2013) is a gratifying trend. "The additional funds committed to the 'Research Location Austria' campaign launched in 2008 are bearing fruit", Vice-Chancellor Mitterlehner emphasizes.

The federal provinces – Vienna in the forefront followed by Carinthia, Lower Austria and Salzburg share third place

In 2014 the majority of foreign companies investing in Austria once again selected Vienna, which accounted for 131 investment projects, up from 104 in the prior year. Carinthia was ranked second after Vienna, accounting for 38 business location projects (2013: 39), ahead of Lower Austria and Salzburg, each attracting 20 companies compared to 20 and 14 investment projects respectively in 2013. 18 companies supported by ABA and the regional investment promotion agencies chose Upper Austria (2013: 20), 16 decided for Styria (2013: 9), 14 selected Tyrol (2013: 14), 10 invested in Vorarlberg (2013: 3) and 9 firms located their businesses in Burgenland (2013: 5).

Examples of foreign companies deciding for Austria in 2014

A typical example of a "classical ABA customer" is the medium-sized German company **Schäfflein Logistics GmbH** from the State of Baden Württemberg, which constructed a

logistics center in Hallein. The Schäflein Group employs a total of about 800 people. Achim Schäflein, CEO of Schäflein AGM; justified the move to Austria by stating: “Austria has many key industries such as automobile component suppliers as well as machinery and plant manufacturers, as well as good connections to Eastern European countries.”

Poly-Clip built a production facility for metal and plastic clips and the related machines in Upper Austria. The German firm invested a total of EUR 5 million, and will employ a staff of 15 people in the initial phase.

The roofing specialist **Bauder Dachsysteme** is building its first production facility outside of Germany in Bruck an der Leitha, Lower Austria. The modern production hall for bitumen sheeting on a commercial property of eleven hectares will create 40 new jobs after the first construction phase.

nextSociety - The former management consultant Peter Stebe worked together with his colleagues to found the startup nextSociety in New York in order to develop a networking app designed to decisively facilitate professional networking. The founders have now set up their global development center in Vienna, which will gradually expand and upgrade the functions of the application. “The Austrian scene is young and fresh, mobile and attractive. And the quality of life is one of the best in the world”, explains Stebe, who chose Vienna as the site for his business after holding talks with ABA. “Austria is highly valued as a research location by American investors. The cooperation with our Austrian partners have already led to great results.”

Editorial note

ABA-Invest in Austria is the national investment promotion company owned by the Austrian Ministry of Economic Affairs. It provides professional consulting services to potential investors free of charge, supporting companies in selecting a business location, with labor and tax issues, identifying cooperation partners and dealing with authorities.

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