

Vienna, July 22, 2016

Half-Year Results for ABA – Invest in Austria: Close to Half a Billion in Investments by Foreign Companies

164 new foreign investment projects in the first half of 2016, a rise of 8% from the previous year – 1,046 new jobs – Total investments more than tripled

The current half-year results of Austria's national investment promotion company ABA – Invest in Austria, operating under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, shows an ongoing upward trend in the number of international business location projects and the related investment volume. The number of investment projects supported by ABA in cooperation with the regional investment promotion agencies climbed to 164 from the prior-year level of 152. Total investment volume of EUR 489.6 million was more than three times the amount of EUR 139.7 million in the previous year. This increase can be attributed to the conclusion of several large projects entailing higher investments. The number of new jobs created in Austria totaled 1,046, one-third lower than the prior-year figure of 1,656.

Germany the top investor nation again – Continuing inflow of companies from Italy and the SEE/CEE countries

The Austrian business location was once again particularly in demand by German companies in the first half of 2016. Germany was the origin of 54 companies setting up business operations in Austria, or about one-third of all investment projects.

Interest on the part of Italian firms also continued. Italy placed second once again in the investment rankings, accounting for 21 new investment projects (2015: 17). The Austrian business location also remained attractive for CEE/SEE companies in the first half-year of 2016. Similar to the previous year, ABA provided professional assistance to 33 companies from this region locating their businesses in Austria. Nine projects involved Hungarian firms, followed by Slovenia with eight and Slovakia with four.

The information campaign “Research Location Austria” also proved to be successful. The year-on-year increase in the number of companies carrying out research and development in Austria from four to 15 is particularly gratifying.

Current examples of companies deciding in favor of Austria:

DMC Shop is the Italian market leader in the field of teleshopping. The company was established in San Marino about 15 years ago, and now set up operations in Carinthia. DMC Shop plans to create up to 250 new jobs in Klagenfurt on Lake Wörthersee. Fernando Di Filippo, CEO DMC Shop Group, is pleased with the new site. “In particular, the high level of competence, readiness to help and objectivity really impressed us. We are happy that this

very important strategic decision for us has been made, and we will serve our new markets in the future from Klagenfurt on Lake Wörthersee.”

IDI Fabrication EMT GmbH – a subsidiary of the American firm IDI Fabrication Inc. and partner of the Chinese company Sichuan Dongfang Insulation Material Ltd., established a subsidiary in Leobersdorf, Lower Austria for the packing of technical materials in the automotive, electrical engineering, household appliance, medical technology and transport sectors.

The startup **Telebond** from London enables consultants, coaches and tutors to carry out their consultations online. With Telebond, it is possible to arrange appointments within seconds, or to make immediate video connections to work with one another.

Smarteag AG of Germany, a subsidiary of Buy&Build-Investors mic AG with the focus on IoT (Internet of Things), founded the company **WS Technology GmbH** in Vienna with a staff of ten employees on the basis of a team and technology acquisition. The firm's objective is to further develop and market a key technology in the field of glass fiber optic sensors. CEO Christian Damjakob stated that the main reasons for locating in Austria were the quality of the employees and the developed technology, the central location, local core competencies and the favorable funding system.

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 interest 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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