The Market

Germany has been a historically strong location for innovative companies in the field of optoelectronics and photonics. German companies such as OSRAM and Carl Zeiss gained worldwide recognition for excellent research-based products fulfilling high global demands.

In 2008 the industry for optoelectronics in Germany generated a turnover of about €22 billion ($32.5 bn.) and grew by 33 percent since 2005.

Despite the impact of the current worldwide financial and economic crisis, the Federal Association of the German High-tech Industry “Spectaris” expects the industry to recover quickly.

Supported by the governmental High-Tech Strategy since 2006, German LED technologies account for 12 percent of world market share. 8 percent of German companies’ overall turnover is invested in R&D. Additionally 35 percent of the turnover is generated by innovative products not older than three years.

The world market share of 40 percent for high-energy lasers shows the competitive German environment. Trumpf - market leader in the field of innovative laser technology - stands for successful German product development and recently opened a new R&D department for laser technology close to its Ditzingen-based headquarter. With a highly skilled workforce available, the optoelectronic and photonic industry employs a total of 119,000 people.

As a globalized industry, 66 percent of the optoelectronic industry’s turnover is generated abroad through exports. The advanced infrastructure, short distances and
Optics and Photonics in Germany

October 2009

Strong Application Markets Push Industry Growth and Initiate New Trends

Investment Areas
The 21st century is the “century of the photon”.

The industry of optoelectronics and photonics in Germany therefore consists of powerful competence clusters and companies specialized in numerous technologies.

The national High-Tech Strategy by the government will enhance the core competences through research grants worth €15 billion.

Clusters are highly supported and organized in the nationwide association “optecnet—German Competence Networks for Optical Technologies”.

Since the optoelectronic and photonic industry is a component supplier to other industries, research becomes a melting pot for various innovations and applications.

The traditional competences of the German market are mainly laser technologies, illumination, and image processing. Due to the increasing demand for renewable energies, R&D-competences additionally cover solar cells and photovoltaic.

Innovative LED and OLED technologies are developed in the lighting industry for alternative lighting solutions (i.e. in automotive engineering). Expertise is multiplied through German competence clusters.

By this, Germany provides a playground for global players gaining market-leading positions one step ahead of its competitors.

For Further Information

Advantages
The advantages of setting up your business in Germany:
- Strong business networks and R&D clusters
- Large market potential in the heart of Europe
- World-leading products and technologies
- Highly educated employees
- Benefits by large R&D networks
- Governmental incentives and R&D support

About Us
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