Quality of Life in Darmstadt

Darmstadt companies do profit from their location in an internationally accessible region, with the Frankfurt Airport only 15 min away from the city border. The direct linkage to both important express ways and regional and supraregional train connections makes Darmstadt a major town. The employees at the Darmstadt companies appreciate the special atmosphere and the high quality of life in this city at the edge of the Odenwald and Bergstrasse, as well as the attractive and variegated landscape of the surroundings.

Handelsblatt No. 139 issued on July 21, 2004
»Prognos Future Atlas 2004 – German regions in test. Comparison of all 439 cities and counties: Darmstadt ranked No. 4 among the regions in Germany with the most promising future, only behind Munich and two of its neighbouring counties.

Did you know...

Already in 1908, the legendary aviator August Euler built the first aircraft factory and established the first German flight school, both in Darmstadt. In 1910, he established the world record in continuous flight with 3 hours, 6 minutes and 18 seconds on his airfield.

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Special thanks for the cover picture: ESA/ESOC and EUMETSAT
Darmstadt – a location for aviation and space operations

When you think about how young the discipline of space operations is, you can speak of Darmstadt as of a location with tradition. ESOC was founded in Darmstadt in 1967, only 10 years after the first launch of Sputnik, and 2 years before the first manned moon landing. EUMETSAT as well settled in Darmstadt with its foundation in 1986 from the beginning – surely not a mere coincidence, but a proof of the location’s quality.

A location for economy and science

More than 30 public and private research facilities motivate the title »City of Science«. The proximity of economy and science makes Darmstadt a top location for pioneer companies. Besides biotechnology and pharmaceutical technology, IT, mechatronics and hair cosmetics, space and satellite technology are a central cluster of the economic development. Darmstadt’s universities have been oriented towards natural and engineering sciences for 140 years. The first study course worldwide for electrical engineering was established in Darmstadt in 1883. Similarly, Darmstadt counts among the pioneering cities regarding aviation. The first chair for aviation in Germany was established in Darmstadt. This environment offers an ideal breeding ground for the development of pioneer projects of aviation and space operations.

ESOC

The European Space Operations Centre (ESOC) is the control centre for the European Space Agency (ESA) – »Europe’s gateway to space.« Since 1967, it is responsible for the operation of all ESA satellites, for the necessary ground stations, and for the communication network. Up till now, ESOC has monitored more than 50 satellites of ESA, such as Huygens, Mars Express, Rosetta, Envisat, Smart-1. With its specialists, ESOC is not only capable of controlling more than 10 satellites simultaneously in routine, but also various additional satellites in their early launch phases. In 2006, ESOC has around 800 employees from more than 20 nations.

www.esa.int

EUMETSAT

EUMETSAT is the »European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites« with 19 European member states and 10 cooperating states (status Autumn 2006). The satellite pictures delivered are the foundation for modern weather observation and weather forecasting. EUMETSAT satellites have the invaluable capacity to gather reliable long-term measurements in support of studies on changes in climate and the environment. In 2006, the Organisation had around 510 employees.

www.eumetsat.int

European Center for Aviation Development – ECAD GmbH

The foundation of this center is based on the initiative »German Air Traffic« built-up by the airports of Frankfurt and Munich, the German Air Traffic Control, the Lufthansa, the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing, urban development and others.

www.ecad-aviation.de

Galileo-Incubator

The youngest project within Europe’s gateway to space is being made at ESOC. An important contribution to the construction of a European satellite navigation system named »Galileo« will be developed here. The system will offer a more effective alternative to the US American GPS. The federal state of Hesse, Darmstadt – the City of Science, the Technical University and the University of Applied Sciences have founded together with corporate partners the limited company cesah GmbH – Center for Satellite Navigation Hesse. Information and services regarding Galileo are being offered here. This is a center for start-ups and existing companies that already now are designing practical applications and products in connection with satellite navigation. Thus, Darmstadt is developing into a scientific and economic hot spot of satellite navigation.

www.galileo-hessen.de