

Economic mission to **Bremen** from the 04th – 05th February 2016

led by the Minister of Economy Etienne Schneider

Information about Bremen's economy

The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen is the smallest of the 16 federal states and is constituted of the two cities Bremen and Bremerhaven.

Approximately 660.000 people live in the federal state of Bremen, out of which 550.000 people live in Bremen City. Additionally, to being the 10th biggest German city, Bremen is also the 5th biggest industrial location.



„Buten un binnen, wagen un winnen“ (Low German: outside and inside, dare and win) – this slogan from the merchants of Bremen is written in golden characters on the Haus Schütting, residence of the Bremen Chamber of Commerce next to the market square. Not only does it remind of a millenary economic history but it is still valid until today. The openness, commitment to innovation, entrepreneurial spirit and trading skills are to this day the foundation of the economic success on the river Weser.

A long tradition as an internationally orientated Hanseatic Harbour City and trading hub strongly to this day influences the economic structure of Bremen. The port, transport and logistics sector is an important pillar of Bremen's economy featuring a strong and dynamic growth. Bremerhaven is home to the 4th biggest container terminal in Europe with 6.5 Mio. TEU p.a. and the biggest car terminal in Europe with a volume of approximately 2.3 Mio automobiles in 2014. In order to prepare for the future, the federal state of Bremen is currently building a highly specialized heavy duty terminal dedicated to the needs of the offshore wind power industry.

Together with a railway terminal (GVZ), more than 1300 maritime industry and service companies as well as numerous research facilities, Bremen has become a leading competence for logistics and an important logistics hub. Today about 75.000 workplaces depend directly and indirectly of the port and logistics sector.

Drawing necessary lessons from the shipyard and structural crisis in the eighties Bremen started a technology offensive based on the interconnectedness of the existing economy and science. The technology park Bremen near the university is one of the most successful and efficient ones in the whole of Germany. More than 7.500 people work in over 500 high-tech companies. Global players like the aerospace company OHB, scientific facilities like ZARM's (Centre of Applied Space technology and microgravity) drop tower, a DLR institute (German Aerospace Centre), the IFAM (Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Technology and Advanced Materials) or the DFKI (German Research Centre for artificial intelligence) can be found in the close vicinity.

Bremen's strong industrial base becomes evident when looking at the innovation clusters aerospace, automotive and wind energy industry (especially offshore). Within the European Airbus Group the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen is Germany's second biggest production and development site. Whether it is in aircraft construction, in space robotics or in the construction of carrier rockets, satellites and modules for the international space station ISS – know-how from Bremen is highly required. During the last 20 years an interactive commercial site, called Airport City, has developed in the surroundings of the airport of Bremen. More than 16.000 people are employed in about 500 companies and institutions jointly pushing forward the aerospace industry. A sector that alone accounts for about 5.000 jobs.

The core of the automotive sector in Bremen is the Mercedes Benz facility. With approximately 12.700 employees it is the biggest employer in the area and the second biggest Mercedes plant in the world. The facility in Bremen became the competence centre for the new C-Class-production, thus regulating all production processes including those in the US, South Africa and China. Moreover a strong and lively supply sector for the automotive industry with more or less 600 companies has established itself in Bremen.

The federal state Bremen - and in particular the city of Bremerhaven - is a hub for the European wind power energy with focus on the offshore field. Across the whole value chain companies and service providers design, set up, operate and maintain wind farms on- and offshore.

Bremen's economic policy is not only aiming to enhance innovations within each sector but to create cross-sectorial activity. A good example for 'Cross-Clustering' is the one-of-the-kind research centre 'EcoMaT, Eco-efficient Materials & Technologies'. Starting in 2018 big industrial partners such as Airbus, Mercedes as well as SMEs and research institutes are planning to work on new lightweight materials for different sectors.

