



**WELCOME TO THE COUNTY OF
FREYUNG-GRAFENAU**
WELCOME TO QUALITY (OF LIFE)

Distances from Freyung-Grafenau to...

Berlin: 630 km
Prague: 185 km
Munich: 200 km
Linz: 97 km
Vienna: 320 km
Nuremberg: 235 km





Welcome to Freyung-Grafenau!

And welcome to sunshine and clean air. We in FRG (the abbreviated version of our county's name) have the most days of sunshine and the cleanest air – as measured in the Sonnenwald region – of any county in Germany. Helping to keep our air so pristine is our largest “resident” – the mighty Bavarian Forest, itself part of Central Europe's largest wooded area.

Our county has a wealth of other attractions, and this brochure will present them to you. Such as the world's longest treetop walkway, which was opened in 2009. The year also saw the opening of our university of applied sciences. We have something to celebrate in 2010 as well – the 1000th birthday of the Goldener Steig. Salt was traded along this mountain road, which linked Bavaria and Bohemia and brought prosperity and close ties to both of them.

This quality of life and of education explains why our county is home to a number of “world champions”. The successes on world markets enjoyed by these companies' unique products constitute just one reason why we are confident that our county will continue to thrive in the years to come!

Ludwig Lankl,
Commissioner
County of Freyung-Grafenau



FRG – the center of Europe

Many regions claim to be in the center of Europe. We in FRG do so as well, but with good reason: our region is where Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic meet. Freyung-Grafenau has direct borders to the latter two. Our region is exactly halfway between Munich and Prague, an ideal location for your business to access the fast-growing markets of Eastern Europe.

Transport links and distances

Nearest expressways:

A 3: Via nearby Passau, this expressway links FRG with the rest of Germany, Netherlands and Austria.

A 92: Paralleling the Isar River and passing along Deggendorf, Dingolfing, Landshut and Freising, this expressway is the fastest way to get to Munich Airport, one of the largest in Europe.

A 8: This expressway is one of central Europe's main arteries, connecting Luxembourg, Germany and Austria.

Distances from FRG to the region's airports:

Munich: 150 km

Linz: 83 km

Salzburg: 150 km



The Green Roof of Europe

When we say that FRG has a great location, we are not just referring to its proximity to fast-growing markets and to the infrastructure – airports and superhighways – getting you there fast.

We are referring to our closeness to nature. Our countryside is a symphony of traditional farms, picturesque towns and villages and trees.

Many of them are found in the Bavarian Forest National Park. Located in our county, it is the oldest and largest land-based national park in Germany. Its mountainous green slopes have given FRG the nickname of being Europe’s “Green Roof”.

Also forming part of this “roof” is the Czech Republic’s adjoining Sumava National Park. The two national parks join to form central Europe’s largest contiguous wooded area.

Two facts about FRG:

Our infrastructure makes it easy to get to and from Munich, Prague and elsewhere in the world.

Our green and clean quality of living makes it hard to leave this beautiful county.



Anna Sigl

"I don't have to take a plane to see the world and all its beauties. I just have to go out my front door and take a look around – at the Bavarian Forest and its chain of mountains. To my right is the Lusen peak, straight ahead is the Rachel, and around the corner is the Arber. This is wellness for my eyes and heart."

Anna Sigl is 73 years old. She has been living on her farm for 48 years. It is located in Innernzell, one of FRG's towns. Her peace of mind comes from her contentment with what she has achieved and what she has experienced during her lifetime in our county.



Adalbert Stifter

"Never declare anything beautiful before you have seen the Bavarian Forest."

These words were written by Adalbert Stifter (1805-1868), one of the most important writers in central Europe in the early 19th century. He was born in the adjoining Bohemian Forest. Stifter's books are set in the wooded region shared by Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic.



Heinz Theuerjahr

“Waldhäuser... This town means for me the long hikes through the ancient, quiet forest, accompanied by thoughts of the morning’s work ahead. It also means the encounters with people who say what they think, and who think for themselves. ...It means peace of mind, hard work and a sheltering sense of belonging.”



Born in the northern German region of Pomerania, Heinz Theuerjahr (1913-1991) was a sculptor, painter and graphic artist who was a member of the Donau-Wald group of visual artists. They lived and worked in the Bavarian Forest region. Theuerjahr’s place of residence from 1938 until his death was Waldhäuser. Located in FRG, this idyllic village is home to a sculpture park. Theuerjahr’s works are on display there and in Waldhäuser’s Arche Heinz Theuerjahr gallery.



Talking a walk at treetop height

9/9/09 – Many people saw this as an auspicious date and chose it as their wedding day. For Freyung-Grafenau September 9th, 2009 was a day of celebration too with the opening of the county's treetop walkway. The longest in the world, it took only six months to be planned and approved, and only three and a half months to be constructed. The walkway features a mighty dome which resembles that of the Bundestag in Berlin, Germany's parliamentary building. Instead of parliament our dome house three ancient and mighty fir and beech trees, up to 38 meters in height. The three giants can be viewed from trunk level to treetop, opening fascinating insights into nature.

Length: 1300 meters

Height of its panoramic dome: 44 meters

Time of construction: 3 ½ months





Made in Freyung-Grafenau

FRG's tradition of being a great place in which to do business is precisely one millennium old. It was in 1010 that the Goldener Steig was mentioned for the first time in the official chronicles. Traversing the mountainous Bavarian Forest, this route became one of the Middle Ages' main East-West trading routes. Its main commodity: salt.

These days, in place of salt, our region's trading commodities have become advanced manufactured products based on homegrown research, ideas and innovation.

The following stories are about the innovative products made in Freyung-Grafenau that can be found throughout the world, about a company whose workforce rocketed from 2 to 70 in just a few years or about how the region's businesses ensure that their trainees get the broader picture.

As diverse and varied as these stories are, the road to success has one overriding common factor: the tenacity, inventiveness, creativity, application and courage of those behind them – the people of Freyung-Grafenau.



Photo Jupiter/Getty



Start-ups made in FRG: Thomas-Krenn.AG

How it all began: One vision, shared by two friends, and a garage

The idea: Selling individually configured servers online

The motto: Speed is (y)our success.

The recipe for success: As indicated by the motto, speed! Orders for such servers are processed and fulfilled within 24 hours – no matter where in Europe the customer is located.

The outcome: The two-person garage start-up has grown into a 70-person enterprise in the space of just six years and Thomas Krenn has become synonymous with premium-quality servers and first-class service throughout Europe.

Vocational education made in FRG: trainee rotation

How it all began: As a joint initiative of local entrepreneurs and businesses.

The approach: Enhancing the networking of these companies.

The idea: Trainees in on-the-job education at companies in the region switch places for two weeks.

Payoff #1: The young trainees get to know work processes and procedures of other businesses and in turn provide fresh ideas and impetus.

Payoff #2: Know-how and knowledge is shared and disseminated throughout the region to the advantage of all involved.



Products made in FRG I: Robot-supported steam cleaning systems

The company: SLE electronic GmbH, Grafenau

The product: The system solves one of the metal industry's key environmental problems posed by the need – for process safety reasons – to degrease aluminium alloys prior to welding. Up to now, this was done by corrosion and passivation using acids and chemicals. SEL electronic's steam robot system does the job without the use of any chemicals. Full steam ahead into the future!

What gave the idea? By conducting experiments designed to see if the process of acid cleaning and passivating could be replaced by environmentally-friendly steam cleaning.

The markets: Automotive and consumer lifestyle.

The rating: Especially high, because of this patented product's great environmental friendliness and worldwide uniqueness.



Products made in FRG II: De-icing system for solar panels

The company: TET electronics, Schönberg

The product: The TETsolar system de-ices solar panels in solar power stations and photovoltaic systems thus enabling power generation even after heavy snowfall and frosty conditions. Moreover, the system's sensors can also monitor operations and performance of solar generators and individual modules.

What gave the idea? The sight through the window of a snow-covered photovoltaic panel in winter 2007.

The markets: Worldwide. Everywhere where solar units are in use or to be built.

The rating: Unique! There is no comparable product around.



Products made in FRG III: Electronic anti-theft surveillance module for photovoltaic units

The company: Dumps electronic, Röhrnbach

The product: Thieves will steal anything – even individual modules of photovoltaic units. Dumps electronic's surveillance module prevents this. What's more: the module can be installed at existing units without the need for additional wiring links to the PV modules.

What gave the idea? The ever-growing incidence of theft of PV modules and the lack of an efficient and affordable anti-theft device.

The markets: The world's solar parks.

The rating: Highly valuable patented product protecting PV modules from thieves!



Products made in FRG IV: Beverage closures for the entire world

The company: Seaquist Closures Löffler GmbH, Freyung

The product: A user-friendly sports closure for drinking bottles used in outdoor activities by old and young alike, from serious athletes to all who just like to be outdoors. The closure reliably prevents leaks, spills and contamination and thus guarantees end-to-end product freshness, purity and safety.

What gave the idea? As a world leader in the development and production of closures for the food, beverage and household products industries,

Seaquist Closures Löffler is constantly on the lookout for innovation and new market segments. This prompted the idea of a closure specially designed for the sports, wellness and outdoor sector.

The markets: The entire world!

The rating: World-leading and revolutionary! In universal use. The patented closure's practicality makes it unique and a favorite with athletes around the world.



Photo: Bavaria's Surveying Administration

Research made in FRG

Ideas and innovation require space and a conducive setting. Both can be had in abundance in Freyung-Grafenau. This is why the Deggendorf University of Applied Sciences established its technology campus in Freyung in 2009. The campus comprises an incubator and technology center for start-up companies and technology-oriented enterprises as well as the university's Freyung branch all under one roof. The incubator / technology center located on the ground floor provides an ideal setting with low-rent office space and laboratory units, office services and highspeed internet access. The upper floor houses the university's research units for applied computer sciences and electronics with focus on medical IT, geoinformatics and navigation, embedded systems and a special research unit for bionics. Companies on the campus have direct access to and can share the university's laboratories, equipment and R&D services as well as support in applying

for R&D project funding. And, of course, they can recruit highly qualified specialists amongst the university's undergraduates, postgraduates and interns. In short, the campus goes way beyond mere scientific learning and teaching, but fuses science, research, development and business.

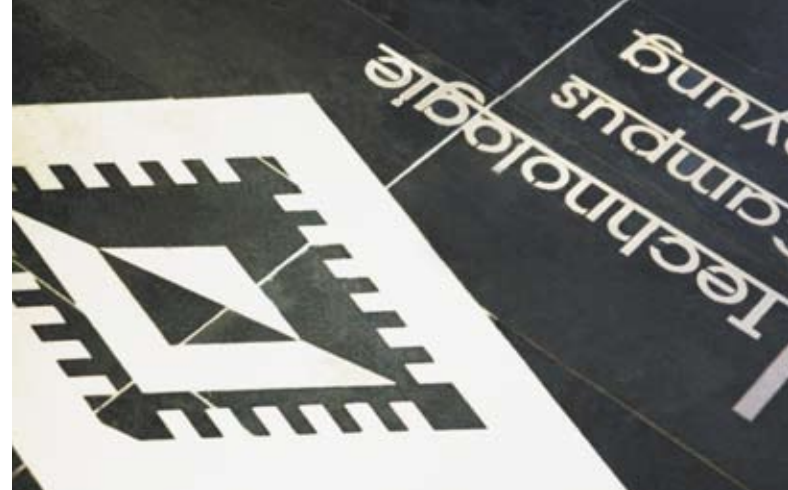
The campus is sited in the center of Freyung city. The town itself forms the center of the German-Czech-Austrian three-country triangle and is equidistant from the cities of České Budejovice (Czech Republic), Linz (Austria) and Passau (Germany). This makes it an ideal location and technology base in the heart of the new Europe.



Photo: Jupiter/Getty

The university in Freyung

- 15 professors, lecturers and scientific staff
- A large number of undergraduates, post-graduate students and interns
- Laboratories and technical equipment for applied informatics, embedded systems, geoinformatics, remote sensing, navigation and bionics
- Experience and know-how in collaborative R&D projects with small and medium-sized enterprises
- Networking with partners in industry and research throughout Europe



The Freyung incubator / technology campus

- Quality offices, premises and facilities for start-ups and more established companies
- Advantageous rents in the center of Freyung
- Consulting and advisory services for start-ups
- Broadband internet access
- Direct access to the university and its facilities
- Joint use of multimedia, conference and lecture rooms



Hermann J. Löffler
CEO of Seaquist Closures Löffler,
Freyung

“Our strength is “casual with style”, which means getting on with the business instead of wasting time on unnecessary talk. Freyung is a very attractive business location for us because of the good transport links, especially the proximity to Munich’s Franz-Josef-Strauß international airport, the overall infrastructure, the central location in Europe with the fall of the Iron Curtain and the ability to access regional development funding. Most of our employees are from the region but our “immigrant” colleagues also love to work and live here.”



Christoph Huber
CEO of Modehaus Garhammer,
Waldkirchen

“The credo of our fashion store is “Fashion and People”. People play the key role in our business, be it our customers and or our employees. The great majority of the latter are locals whose key strengths are a blend of close ties to their native region, a down-to-earth approach and great application married with a high motivation, focus and a cosmopolitan spirit.”



Christoph Maier
Member of the Board of Directors of
Thomas-Krenn.AG, Freyung

“The creation of a top product requires an optimum of collaboration by all involved. Our employees, who incidentally are all from the region, are the key to the success of our company. Another important factor is the support by the county administration, especially when we built our new headquarters in 2006. Thus Thomas-Krenn.AG has been able to stay successful against fierce international competition.”



Josef Liebl
CEO, SLE electronic GmbH,
Grafenau

“I regard my “Waidler”* as the most important contributor to our company’s success. These motivated, highly qualified employees ensure the company’s innovative strength, manufacturing reliability and superior product quality. Excellently trained and qualified people with great motivation and close identification with “their” company are a hallmark of our region.”

* „Waidler“ is a term for native Bavarian Forest people in the local vernacular.

Further information and contacts

Freyung-Grafenau county offers you a wide choice of attractive, fully-developed business parks. Comprehensive details on most of our region's business and industrial parks can be obtained at www.sisby.de. SISBY is the central information and location portal for commercial sites and premises in Bavaria. The free SISBY service provides a range of data on each location, including:

- available commercial sites and premises
- contact details of local and regional business development authorities
- key structural data such as local commercial tax rates, population, infrastructure and business services

If you decide to locate your business or business unit in Freyung-Grafenau you are opting for a location with a workforce whose dedication, motivation and reliability is unrivalled and a key ingredient for the long-term success of the region's companies. Moreover, you and your staff will also be able to enjoy and benefit from one of the most beautiful and unspoilt natural landscapes in Europe that offers scope and opportunities for recreation and relaxation that make life worth living in our hectic times.

Freyung-Grafenau is always the right choice for you with public administrators who are eager to pave the way for you and cut red tape.





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