

PRESS RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION

Leonberg, 20 October 2017



Picture: Karin Fiedler for GEZE GmbH

The new GEZE development centre is inaugurated by Dr Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut, Minister of Economic Affairs, Labour and Housing in Baden-Württemberg, Brigitte Vöster-Alber, GEZE CEO, Bernhard Schuler, mayor of Leonberg and Florian Birkenmayer, GEZE Managing Director Development.

GEZE opens new development centre

Future-oriented investment for the German site

In order to expand its development capacity, GEZE invested 13 million euro in the construction of a new, highly modern development centre. The opening was celebrated on 20 October 2017 by Dr Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut, Minister of Economic Affairs, Labour and Housing in Baden-Württemberg; Bernhard Schuler, mayor of Leonberg, and the GEZE corporate management. This investment is a further commitment on the part of the specialist in door, window and safety technology as well as building automation to its head office in Leonberg and to the quality standard 'made in Germany'. A total of 28.8 million euro has been invested here over the past five years. An additional 15 million euro is earmarked for the new GEZE Academy.

"GEZE GmbH is not just a model company for Baden-Württemberg. Rather, it is a successful global organisation that is expanding internationally, and at the same time strengthening its roots and its plant in Germany with targeted investments. This again underlines the great contribution that traditional family businesses such as GEZE make to the German economy as a whole," says Minister Dr Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut. Together with Bernhard Schuler, mayor of Leonberg, and the GEZE corporate management, she opened the new

development centre on 20 October 2017. "We are proud of our new, innovative building, which will open up quite new opportunities for our development department. Our aim is to offer our customers and partners worldwide high quality product and networking solutions that perfectly meet their demands. Therefore, over the past five years, we have invested a total of 28.8 million euro, including ongoing costs in this financial year. We have earmarked a further 15 million euro for our GEZE Academy," says Brigitte Vöster-Alber, Chief Executive Officer of GEZE GmbH. Today, guests were able to get an initial impression of the new, innovative building.

Exceptionally smart: the new development centre is itself a Smart Building

The four-story terrace construction, which provides a total surface area of 2,300 square metres for test and validation rooms, office space, conference and meeting areas and a creative space, gives GEZE the platform it needs to expand its portfolio with innovative, networked system solutions for doors and windows in intelligent buildings. The new development centre looks far into the future. GEZE creates the infrastructure and optimum working conditions to further expand its powers of innovation and to offer premium quality system solutions to manage complete building technology in Smart Buildings in the years ahead.

As a matter of course, the new development centre is a Smart Building itself. All the product groups are intelligently networked and integrated into the building management system. Heating, ventilation, light, shading, doors and windows communicate with each other, and interact optimally. Of course, all the automation and safety functions on doors and windows were realised with GEZE products, including the complete smoke and heat extraction system. Therefore, the new development building will serve not just as a laboratory, but also as a test and learning centre. The insights gained are used to further develop the intelligence of GEZE products, and offer customers worldwide optimum solutions.

Further investment in nature conservation:

GEZE helps to stop bee deaths

As well as investing in innovation and the new building, GEZE GmbH is also lending considerable support to environmental conservation and sustainability. An entire biotope has been newly integrated into the building's outdoor facilities. It provides a new habitat for bees, insects and plants threatened with extinction. At the heart of the site are bee and insect hotels as well as unusual trees and shrubs that create a perfect ecosystem. The idea originated from the GEZE training workshop where, some years ago, a Christmas gift – the

first insect hotel – was designed and produced for GEZE's CEO Brigitte Vöster-Alber. This basic idea has now been expanded, and with the help of the apprentices and a company in Leonberg developed to create a local recreation area for people and animals. As such, GEZE is playing an active part in counteracting the threat of bee deaths, and the associated consequences. A walkway, including a newly created pond, has also been created to allow all employees to enjoy relaxing breaks in the fresh air.

"Sustainability and environmental conservation have always been important to GEZE – both in our production as well as in all areas of our daily working life. With the newly designed outdoor facilities, we are delighted to take the opportunity to make a further contribution to environmental conservation, and provide bees threatened with extinction with a new habitat," says Brigitte Vöster-Alber.



Picture: Karin Fiedler for GEZE GmbH

The new GEZE development centre is inaugurated by Dr Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut, Minister of Economic Affairs, Labour and Housing in Baden-Württemberg, Brigitte Vöster-Alber, GEZE CEO, Bernhard Schuler, mayor of Leonberg and Florian Birkenmayer, GEZE Managing Director Development.



Image: Jürgen Pollak for GEZE GmbH

The new development centre, with a total surface area of 2,300 square metres, gives GEZE the platform it needs to expand its portfolio of services with innovative, networked system solutions.



Image: GEZE GmbH

There was also investment in the outside space: a newly created biotope with bee and insect hotels – including a walking path – offers all employees a place of retreat in the fresh air, and at the same protects insect and plant species threatened with extinction.

Press contact:

Julia Graf
Tel.: +49 (0) 7152 203-505
j.graf@geze.com
Fax: +49 (0) 7152 203-237

GEZE GmbH
Reinhold-Vöster-Str. 21-29
D-71229 Leonberg
www.geze.com

About GEZE

The GEZE brand stands for innovation and for top quality products, processes and services. GEZE is one of the leaders in the global market and it is a reliable partner worldwide for door, window and safety technology products and systems. No matter what the requirements of a building are – GEZE implements optimum solutions and combines functionality and security with comfort and design. GEZE door closers open up numerous technical and visual possibilities. Every day, millions of people go through doors equipped with the overhead door closers from the TS 5000 series and enjoy the comfort of automatic door systems, e.g. the Slimdrive range. Barrier free door and window systems provide greater comfort, not only for people with restricted mobility. The glass systems and fitting solutions for the attractively designed sliding systems are the ultimate in design aesthetics. GEZE also offers a wide product range in the field of window and ventilation technology. Complete "intelligent" smoke and heat extraction solutions (RWA) and a comprehensive selection of door systems for RWA air supply solutions are also available for preventive fire protection. GEZE's safety technology includes escape and rescue route solutions, lock technology, and access control systems. The GEZE building management system provides an overview of a building's entire technical facilities. With its systems expertise, GEZE creates coordinated system solutions which combine individual functional and safety requirements in one intelligent system. GEZE product solutions have received numerous awards and can be found in renowned structures all over the world. The company has a global presence with 31 subsidiaries, 27 of which are outside Germany, a flexible and highly efficient sales and service network, and almost 2,800 employees. In the 2016/2017 fiscal year, GEZE achieved a turnover of over 406 million euros.

www.geze.com