

## **The City of Bergheim, a successful business location**

### **Bergheim as a place to do business**

Bergheim, situated in the middle of the Aachen-Düsseldorf-Cologne region, is an extremely successful business location. The variety of businesses that have located here range from traditional manufacturing to young companies that keep growing thanks to their innovative business ideas. In this way, a diverse mix of business sectors has developed, which has turned the city of Bergheim, seat of the county government, into an important and widely recognized place for doing business, even beyond the boundaries of the region.

In addition, the geographical position of Bergheim in the heart of the central European economic area, which is an economic powerhouse, is impressive. The region is, after all, an important part of the largest European economic area. Within one hour's driving distance from Bergheim, you can reach 16 million people, within three hours even more than 60 million. This is also the travel time for a truck to reach the seaports of Antwerpen and Rotterdam thanks to the excellent access Bergheim has to two three-lane highways. There is only a short distance from Bergheim to the river Rhine, an international waterway and transportation channel (25km). Also, there are convenient connections to the major international airports of Düsseldorf, Frankfurt and Amsterdam.

### **Bergheim is energy**

Bergheim is a community that has a long industrial history. For more than 100 years, large-scale open-pit mining characterised the economic life of the community. At the Nieraußem site, the coal produced was turned into electrical power. This means:

People living in Bergheim and the region have grown up with plants and factories in their backyards. Therefore, they don't have any reservations about industrial development, because they realize that it creates jobs and training opportunities and thus prosperity.

This is also the reason why RWE has even expanded the Niederaußem power plant, although no coal has been produced in the Bergheim community for eight years. In 2004, the most modern and most environmentally friendly lignite-fired power plant to date went on-line at Niederaußem with an output of no less than 1000 MW of power. At this site, RWE also set up the "innovation center coal" two years ago, in order to do research on and test technological approaches of

generating power in a way that protects the environment and the climate. The center currently runs six pilot projects, which RWE has funded at a cost of more than 96 million Euro so far. I intend to develop a partnership-based cooperation with this corporation, which will generate many benefits. One current example is the good will the company has shown in reviewing a relocation of the biogas plant, an attitude that is not at all common. It is not just the city, however, but the businesses in the community as well that benefit from such synergies.

### **Bergheim and its sights and recreational options**

Ever since the coal mines were shut down, we have been able to focus on the natural beauty of our community much more than before. Along the river Erft with its charming meadows can be found several medieval castles, palaces and water mills, which have been lovingly restored in the past few years. Bergheim is also the mecca for German racehorse-breeding. There are no less than seven stud farms in our community. The Schlenderhahn stud farm, due to its outstanding breeding success, has become famous worldwide.

Golfers will find an excellent infrastructure for pursuing their sport. Within a radius of only 15 km, there are seven golf courses that are not just beautifully nestled in the regional landscape but are also the venues of international tournaments.

### **The City of Bergheim – County Seat**

With a land area of app.100 sq.km and a population of more than 62.000, Bergheim is the administrative seat of the Rhine-Erft county, which was created in 1975 (pop. app.400.000; land area app.700 sq.km). Situated on the left side of the river Rhine, this county directly borders on the southern and western metropolitan areas of the City of Cologne. Boasting a diversified business structure, it is one of the economically strongest counties in the federal state of Northrhine-Westphalia.

### **Bergheim and its close neighbor Cologne**

Naturally, Bergheim benefits from its proximity to Cologne. The Lanxess Arena, for example, where the first-league ice hockey team “Kölner Haie” plays its home games and which stages big concerts of internationally famous artists,

can be reached within 30 minutes. It only takes 25 minutes to arrive in the historic center of Cologne with its heritage from 2000 years of history. It does not take any longer to reach the Philharmonic Concert Hall which is widely praised for its excellent acoustics and is only a short walk from the Cathedral. Among people living in Bergheim, you will also find a large group of supporters of the world-famous football club FC Cologne, who can reach their club's home ground in just 20 minutes.

**In short:**

The City of Bergheim is the ideal location for your innovative company

- because of its excellent transportation network
- because of its people, who are used to living and working in an industrialized region
- and because of the outstanding opportunities it offers for recreation and leisure activities