Dutch royal couple visited Leipzig for cooperation agreements
Great opportunity for small and medium-sized companies from all over Germany

As part of a four-day trip through Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia, on 9th February King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima, accompanied by a 30-strong trade delegation from the biobased chemistry industry, attended the signing of two cooperation agreements between the Netherlands and Germany in Leipzig.

Dutch trade delegation with the royal couple Willem-Alexander and Máxima. Photo: © Michael Bomke / NL embassy

Strategic cooperations to open up new markets

The memoranda concluded between the Dutch cluster Biobased Delta and the Central German leading-edge cluster BioEconomy, as well as the German Biomass Research Centre (DBFZ) and the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN), offers major opportunities for small and medium-sized companies from all over Germany. The cooperation agreements provide for the future close intertwining of Dutch and German research institutes within various research and development projects and the establishing of international business relationships with small and medium-sized companies. The aim is to forge technological partnerships for the purpose of promoting the development of biobased sectors as well as the expansion of industrial value-creation chains in the field of non-food biomass in both countries.
Becoming project partners at the International BioEconomy Conference in Halle

The groundwork for the recently signed German-Dutch cooperation agreement was laid at the International Bioeconomy Conference in 2016. Here the BeNeLux partner region was represented by a large number of prestigious stakeholders and scientists. The Bioeconomy Conference is jointly organised by the leading-edge cluster BioEconomy and the ScienceCampus – Plant-Based Bioeconomy Halle (WCH). Both of them network the relevant sectors and expertise in this country in the Central German Metropolitan Region and are specifically seeking German cooperation partners for a wide range of international participation projects in the timber and forestry industry, the chemical, materials and plastics industry as well as in plant engineering and the energy sector. Together they are inviting interested companies to the Leopoldina Academy in Halle/ Saale for the 6th International Bioeconomy Conference to be held on 10th and 11th May 2017.

This conference is one of the most prestigious bioeconomy events in the whole of Germany, attracting international representatives from science and industry every year to a lively exchange of information. This year’s partner country is France. Interested companies can register at: www.bioeconomy-conference.de.

Trade delegation impressed by the cluster region infrastructure

On the eve of the royal visit to the Leipzig Science Park, on 8th February 30 business representatives from Dutch research and industry visited various companies and key locations in and around Halle, such as the glycerine manufacturer Glacon Chemie, the Process Center for the Use of Renewable Raw Materials – Fraunhofer Center for Chemical-Biological Processes (CBP) and the isobutene producer Global BioEnergies at the Leuna Chemical Park. The orientation tour was organised by the leading-edge cluster BioEconomy. The Dutch guests were particularly impressed both by the well-established industrial and chemical parks and the outstanding infrastructure of the cluster region, in which national partners of the participation projects can also become involved.

As a value-added cluster, the BioEconomy Cluster in Central Germany is focused on the integrated and energetic use of non-food biomass for the generation of materials, chemicals, innovative products and energy sources. Our partners in industry and research are working on cross-sector value-creation chains and interlink the timber and forestry industry with the chemical and plastics industries, plant engineering and the energy sector.

In 2012, the cluster was selected as one of the award winners in the Leading-Edge Cluster Competition of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).