



**DOING BUSINESS IN THE EUREGIO MEUSE-RHINE**  
**The newsletter of the Chambers of Commerce of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine**

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## CHAMBER NEWS

### **RECENT TOPICS**

[COM: Aachen/Eupen/Maastricht, June ]

There is a great deal of valuable information in the e-mail notices being sent from Meuse-Rhine's Chambers at present. Eupen-Malmedy-St. Vith has news on their site about the German truck tolls coming into effect at the end of August. Maastricht tells us how to do business abroad (info from [rvankessel@maastricht.kvk.nl](mailto:rvankessel@maastricht.kvk.nl)). There have been seminars on doing business in Poland and the CE marks and Quality Assurance. We also know well in advance that the Eupen-Malmedy-St. Vith annual reception will be December 18.

<http://www.aachen.ihk.de>

<http://www.ihk-eupen.be/>

### **AACHEN CHAMBERS IN EUSKIRCHEN**

[BIZ: Aachen, May 1]

On March 21, the Aachen Chamber of Commerce officially opened its new branch in the vocational educational center in Euskirchen. Export-oriented businesses and training centers and start ups will profit from the services offered. Services in Euskirchen are provided to 8,000 businesses. This is a continuation of eastward moves which also lead to a new branch in Düren. It allows the Aachen chamber to expand its influence Colognewards.

<http://www.aachen.ihk.de>

### **FLEMISH CHAMBERS 1 STOP SHOP**

[BIZ: Hasselt, April]

The Flemish Economic Union and the Flemish Chamber of Commerce, which from January 1 2004 will form a new Flemish Employers Organization called VOKA, are setting up a one-stop business shop which will be called 'Biz Ondernemingsloket' (VZW). This information center will be operated jointly with the Social Security Funds (VEV) and 'social secretariat' of SD WORX (a Belgian social service company executing payroll and tax calculations for 500,000 Belgian employees). This help desk will deal with all the formalities of setting up business with special facilities for start-ups.

<http://www.khnl.be>

## BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

### **WARNER MUSIC UP FOR SALE**

[BIZ: Alsdorf, June 14]

According to reports from WDR's Studio Aachen, talks are ongoing with potential purchasers for Warner Music. If the sale goes through, production in Alsdorf is expected to continue. 1,400 are employed at the Alsdorf facility.

Warner Music International's (WMI) manufacturing and distribution plant in Alsdorf, near Aachen, established in 1975, is WMI's global manufacturing and distribution base, with an annual capacity of 150 million CDs and 80 million DVDs. WMI, a division of Warner Music Group, an AOL Time Warner company, has its headquarters in New York with offices in London and operates in over 70 countries through a network of 47 affiliates and numerous licensees.

(Source: WDR, Studio Aachen)

<http://www.wmme.de/main/index.html>

## **JET BLUE ORDER**

[BIZ: Gosselies, June 12]

The USD 3bn order for 100 Brazilian Embraer 190 aircraft - deliveries starting in the third quarter of 2005 - with an option for 100 more, from from the US regional low cost airline Jet Blue, means work for Walloon-based Sonaca which makes fuselage parts and aero-structural components for aircraft wings.

<http://www.sonaca.com/>

## **SENIOR BELGIAN CONSULTANTS**

[BIZ: Eupen, June 2]

The East Belgian Development Company, WFG held a meeting in connection with the set up of an 'Xistence' organization in Eupen to investigate the prospect of experienced, retired executives putting their experience at the service of business again, within a network known as Senior Belgian Consultants, in East Belgium.

<http://www.xistence.be>

## **AACHEN OFFICE IN THE US**

[BIZ: Aachen, June]

PO-Solutions, a company headed by Dorothea Nobis from Aachen, is offering a range of office services to companies from Aachen and elsewhere operating in the US market. The range of services goes from customized office services to the rental of offices and translation facilities. It also includes the transport and storage of goods.

<http://www.po-solutions.com>

## **RUBBER COMPOUNDING**

[BIZ: Hückelhoven, June]

GFD Technology GmbH has produced increased growth, with revenues rising to EUR 33m (up 10%); a satisfying result for 2002, for this rubber compounding business in Hückelhoven-Baal, making the year the most successful for the new company. Cooperation with the automotive sector and construction and cable industry, in the European context, holds promise for 2003. GFD technology GmbH develops and produces rubber compounds, primarily for applications in the automotive, construction, waste water and cable systems. The compounds are produced using, highly automated, fully process controlled mixing lines, based on the latest technology.

<http://www.gfd-technology.de/>

## **VELDMAN TENTS IN WORLD TOP 3**

[BIZ: Bree, June]

In March, the Bree company, Veldman Tent Technology took over the American Universal Fabric Structures in Las Vegas, which made Veldman Tent Technology one of the largest companies for temporary structures worldwide, with revenues of EUR 15m. The companies are complementary, Veldman specializing in aluminium structures and UFS in steel. The markets are also complementary in Europe, the Middle East, Australia, the US and the Far East. Veldman Tent Technology is a producer and renter of temporary accommodation; production and sales are already 50% of the revenues.

<http://www.veldmantent.com/>

## **PARSYTEC BRANCH IN ERKELENZ**

[BIZ: Erkelenz, June]

Parasytec AG, specialists in surface inspection for the steel and paper industry, with its headquarters in Aachen, has located its newest and largest subsidiary in Erkelenz. Parasytec Solutions GmbH with 30 staff will be serving its European customers from this new center and also developing specific software solutions and services.

<http://www.parsytec.de>

## **MEDIAMARKT IN HASSELT**

[BIZ: Hasselt, June]

Mediamarkt, the low cost German consumer electronics retailer - Europe's largest, with 250 megastores in 9 countries - has opened in Hasselt, employing 210. This follows new outlets in Brussels and Antwerp.

<http://www.mediamarkt.com/>

## **DEVELO ANALOG FIRST**

[BIZ: Aachen, May 26]

A report by Ulrich Kölsch, in the *Aachener-Zeitung*, reveals that one of the heirs to the bankrupt Elsa AG, the Aachen company, Develo AG, leads the field in analog modems according to the Society for Consumer Research in Germany. The firm was founded on May 1, 2002, and was able to use Elsa's 20 year experience in the business, since its team came from the Elsa company. They produce analog, ISDN and ADSL equipment for data communication, Internet access and network components, including those for in-house power line PC networks. With a 30-man team, half of whom are involved in research and development, and outsourcing in China, they are projecting revenues of EUR 11m for H1, 2003.

<http://www.develo.de>

## **FEV CHANGE AT THE TOP**

[IND: Aachen, May 23]

FEV, an independent engineering services provider operating worldwide, has been a leader in engine design technology for almost a quarter of a century. It is now seeing a change at the top with Professor Stefan Pischinger taking over as CEO from his father, Professor Franz Pischinger, the founder of the company. Professor Stefan Pischinger was born in Graz (Austria) on May 21, 1961. Since November 1, 1997 he has been a Professor at the Institute of Automotive Engineering in Aachen and the Director of the Institute for Combustion Engines at the Technical University in Aachen. At the same time, he became a director of FEV Motorentechnik GmbH in Aachen. After completing his Masters Degree in 1985 at the RWTH Aachen and getting his PhD at MIT for a dissertation on: "Lean Gasoline Engines and Ignition Systems", he was active for a number of years in Design and Testing at Mercedes Benz AG in Stuttgart.

<http://www.car-aachen.de>

## **GLOBAL E-QUALITY WEBSITE**

[BIZ: Maastricht, May 16]

The European Centre for Digital Communication has launched the Global E-Quality Network website. The Global E-Quality Network facilitates and coordinates the activities for an open virtual thematic research network, where an interactive and dynamic knowledge exchange can take place by offering its members a framework for e-publishing and e-discussions. The Network is a follow-up to the successful Infonomics conference 'Global E-Quality. Rethinking ICTs in Africa, Asia and Latin-America', held in Maastricht last year.

<http://www.globalequality.info>

## **EUR 50M KAUFHOF INVESTMENT**

[BIZ: Aachen, May 15]

After 18 years of waiting, plans are to be submitted to the city for the Kaufhof Department store extension in the Adelbergstrasse in Aachen. A covered arcade/gallery with 20 smaller businesses is to be built on the parking lot behind the building. Completion is scheduled for autumn 2005.

Updates put the total expenditure at around EUR 70m, with a scheduled investment at EUR 50m.

<http://www.wdr.de>

## **B.R.T. MAASMECHELEN**

[IND: Maasmechelen, May 14]

The Limburg(B) Development Company, LRM, and the fencing specialists Kopal are investing in a new production plant B.R.T. in Maasmechelen. B.R.T. will produce tubular structures for the fencing business. Construction started at the 'Oude Bunders' Business Park at the end of 2002 and the 8,000m<sup>2</sup> plant will start operations in June of this year. Recruitment starts in May and June and 18 people will be recruited for the first year. This figure is expected to rise to 40. The total investment is around EUR 6.5m. Shareholders in LRM have invested EUR 2m in venture capital to start up the new plant. KBC found the rest. The plant has a vertically integrated production process with a slitter, tube line and powder coating line. The company will cover the whole trajectory from coils to customized and painted tubes. The paint line will also take on work from third parties.

<http://www.lrm.be>

## **JBC SELLS FASHIONPOINT**

[BIZ: Maasmechelen, May 14]

Clothing group JBC has sold its stake in Fashion Point to the founder Luc Kumpen. Fashion Point has four outlets in Maasmechelen, Obsis, Man Fashion, Kids Fashion and Fashion Point which occupy 4,000m<sup>2</sup> sales surface area and employs 60. JBC took a 75% stake in the Fashion Point company in 2001 which also included two Girls Fashion shops at that point. It retains a 75% stake in the Girls Fashion chain which focuses on clothing for young girls. (Source: VKWLimburg)

<http://www.jbc.be>

## **IMTECH'S EUR 20M AUTO ORDER**

[BIZ: Born, May 13]

Imtech N.V. (technical service provider in Europe) has received orders worth about EUR 20m for various technical solutions in car factories operated by BMW in Germany, Volvo in Belgium and NedCar in the Netherlands. BMW, Bayerische Motoren Werke AG, is constructing one of the most modern car factories in the world in Leipzig in East Germany. In two enormous production facilities covering a total surface area of more than 150,000 m<sup>2</sup>, Imtech will provide all technical solutions for air conditioning and climate control. In addition, Imtech is responsible for the complex process engineering technology in the fully automated paint line. In the Volvo factory in Gent, Belgium, the Volvo S50 and Volvo S60 are produced. Imtech is responsible here for the development and implementation of the hardware and software for the robot production of the bodywork, including all electrical engineering and the construction of control panels. NedCar in Born, a partnership between Mitsubishi Motors Corporation and DaimlerChrysler, will be producing a new generation of cars as from 2004: DaimlerChrysler's new Smart and a Mitsubishi Compact Car. Imtech is responsible here (in combination) for the control engineering technology, the electrical engineering and the data communication traffic. Last year, Imtech was also able to report an order of 29 million euro for providing the technical infrastructure in a new test centre to be built for DaimlerChrysler in Stuttgart.

<http://www.imtech.nl>

## **EVS Q1 REVENUES UP 23%**

[BIZ: Liège, May 9]

Liège-based, EVS Broadcast Equipment, designs, develops and markets professional digital equipment for radio, television and cinema. The company employs over 175 in nine countries and sells its products to the professional video and audio sectors in more than 60. For Q1, 2003, revenues at EUR 10.3m, were 23% ahead of the Q4, 2002 and 58% ahead of the Q1, 2002. This strong growth is driven principally by the success of High Definition Live Slow Motion recorders in the USA and by the performance of broadcast solutions in Europe. See details on the website.

<http://www.evs.tv>

## **CMI WELDING US JOINT VENTURE**

[IND: Liège, May 5]

Cockerill Mechanical Industries, based in Seraing, and Welding Services Inc., based in Atlanta-Norcross/USA have joined forces to create "CMI Welding Services."

CMI, employing 1700 worldwide, is a diversified Belgian engineering and industrial maintenance group with its main activities in the steel, energy and industrial equipment industries. Through its "CMI Energy Services" division, the CMI group specializes in the maintenance of industrial boilers and thermal equipment. Its activities are performed from several locations in the Walloon country, Flanders, Netherlands, and France. It relies on extensive know-how in boiler design and manufacturing and a work force specialized in tube fabricating and high technology welding. Welding Services Inc., employing 600 worldwide, is a specialist in high technology welding applications, with primary emphasis on the power and processing industries. It has pioneered and developed, over the past 15 years, the high performance overlay technology trademarked as UNIFUSE ®. This process, utilizing high grade stainless and nickel-based superalloys, has been highly successful for significantly increasing the life of waterwalls, boiler tubes and other components in severe erosion/corrosion working conditions. These applications cover a wide range in the waste-to-energy, coal burning power plants, as well as steel and processing industries. The overlay technology is either applied in the field to extend the life of existing equipment or on new components to insure maximum durability. The joint venture, "CMI Welding Services," incorporated April 29, 2003 in Belgium, is headquartered in Seraing, near Liege.

<http://www.cmi.be>

## **LEADERS IN SILICONIZED PAPER**

[BIZ: Jülich, May]

At the end of last month, Jülich-based Schleipen & Erkens AG (S+E), went live with its new multi-lingual website (see the link below). In November 2002, S+E, as part of the Schürfeld Group, had decided to focus on its core business of siliconized paper and hived off its affiliated companies to the Schürfeld Group.

As a result of this move, the company in Jülich, and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Silicart S.p.A, in Bologna, Italy, now exclusively produce siliconized paper for products such as stickers, labels, promotional material, plasters, and envelopes. As European market leader, S+E, also meets the logistical challenges. Its annual production capacity for siliconized paper is 600 million square meters - enough to paper over New York City and weighing as much as an ocean liner. All this finds its way from the company's plants in Germany and Italy to 200 regular customers worldwide. (Source: Aachener Zeitung).

<http://www.schleipen-erkens.de>

## **HOLDING BACK THE WATERS**

[BIZ: Tessengerlo, May]

United Innovators BV BA have developed a panel to hold back water and demonstrated this at a training center for the fire brigade (PLOT) Genk. Hydroboard® is a watertight panel which prevents water and mud from entering doors and garages. This could be useful in areas under threat of flood. The Hydroboard® is universally applicable for most ordinary doors and garages and has two standard sizes, 140cm and 200cm for garages each with a height of 50cm.

<http://www.unitedinnovators.com>

## **FLANDERS DRIVE IN LOMMEL**

[BIZ: Lommel, April 25]

Flanders Drive Engineering Center (FDEC), a high-tech center for the Flemish automotive supply industry, has started construction of its test infrastructure in Lommel - a EUR 16m investment. FDEC will be a development center with virtual design and a laboratory, specific testing equipment and the infrastructure of the Ford test track. Companies on the project can make use of the Ford Lommel test track. The objective of the center is to improve the competitive edge of Flemish automotive suppliers in Europe. (Source: De Standaard)

<http://www.flandersdrive.be/>

## **STREETCARS FOR BUDAPEST**

[BIZ: Wegberg-Wildenrath, April 24]

Siemens train test track in Wegberg-Wildenrath, has received an order worth EUR 150m from the Budapest tram company to provide them with 40 streetcar combinations in the near future. They will be running in Budapest from 2005. The International Rail Technology Center ( IRTC ) Wegberg-Wildenrath is located in the center of the Aachen / Düsseldorf/Cologne area. This central location and the direct vicinity to the interesting and growing markets of the Benelux countries and a direct connection to the economically important, densely populated areas of the Rheinschiene and Ruhrgebiet make the Wegberg-Wildenrath location particularly important for new rail technology companies.

<http://www.brf.be>

## **CARE4DATA AND CEGEKA**

[BIZ: Hasselt, April 24]

Cegeka, which designs, develops, implements and runs software for the healthcare system and for the management of hazardous materials and safety data, has signed an outsourcing agreement for all Care4Data's IT-related operations. The contract runs for a period of five years and is worth EUR 2.5m. This is the first contract between the two companies. Five members of staff will be involved in the implementation of this agreement.

Care4Data operates throughout Europe and specializes in data carriers. It is active in the area of production, fulfillment and trade.

<http://www.care4data.be>

## **BRITISH CONTRACT FOR TENNECO**

[IND: Sint Truiden, April 18]

Tenneco Automotive, the American manufacturer of automotive parts, has concluded a strategic contract with Kwik-Fit which makes Tenneco the exclusive supplier of shock absorbers for the 900 branches of Kwik-Fit in the United Kingdom. Tenneco Automotive will supply Kwik-Fit in the UK from its manufacturing plant in Sint Truiden, Belgium - the Sint Truiden branch of Tenneco, also known as Monroe, will be supplying Monroe Reflex, Sensa-Trac and other brands of shock absorbers. Kwik-Fit operates from more than 1,900 service points across Europe and includes Speedy, in France and Spain, and Pit-Stop in Germany. The company services the requirements of almost 7.5 million motorists a year. Tenneco Central makes shock absorbers both for the spare parts market (40%) and for the manufacturers (60%). The Sint Truiden company has achieved revenues of EUR 240m and employs 1,300.

<http://www.tenneco-automotive.com>

## **SIEMENS TO TAKE OVER CYCOS**

[BIZ: Alsdorf, April 17]

Because of the takeover bid by Siemens AG for Cycos, the AGM will be held in the third quarter. The precise date has not yet been announced. Siemens announced its offer to acquire Cycos to strengthen its activities in real-time communications software, Siemens' Information and Communication Networks Group (ICN) plans to acquire the German company Cycos AG. Siemens has announced its offer to acquire Cycos to strengthen its activities in real-time communications software and will make a public cash offer of EUR 5.50 per share for all outstanding Cycos stock in May. The value of the offer will amount to around EUR 42m. Cycos is a specialist in the fast-growing market for Unified Messaging solutions. The aim of the acquisition is to further expand ICN's leading position in the area of voice and data convergence and to drive the development of its global HiPath IP communications architecture.

Following Siemens' decision to make an acquisition offer, Cycos' principle shareholders and others, who together own some 66% of the company's stock, indicated their willingness to sell their shares to Siemens for EUR 5.50 per share. A cash offer at the same price will also be made to all remaining Cycos shareholders. The Managing and Supervisory Boards of Cycos AG have welcomed the offer and advised shareholders to accept it.

<http://www.cycos.com>

## LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### **76.000m<sup>2</sup> GENK LOGISTICS**

[LOG: Genk, June 11]

Real Estate consultants, DTZ Winssinger Tie Leung and Cushman & Wakefield Healey & Baker have recently been appointed exclusive joint agents for the set up of a 76.000 m<sup>2</sup> modern logistical complex at a prime location in Genk. The client is the Dutch company, Ewals Cargo Care b.v. for the former IKEA quality site along the Slingerweg et Gordelweg on the Genk South Left Bank Industrial Park. These are modern warehouses, with 9 to 13m of free space, modern vertical pallet management systems, 63 truck bays and space to park 100 trucks. It's also close to Ford Genk.

<http://www.dtz.be/>

### **VERVIERS OUTLET MALL**

[INFRA: Verviers, June 3]

The future outlet mall on the site of the former Western railway station in Verviers will specialize in sports articles and sport clothing. This was made known recently when the promoters of the new development confirmed their investment intentions after some encouragement from Mayor Claude Desama.

From the Summer of 2004, 50 designer outlets will set up shop in the Ardennes Outlet Center which will cover 80,000m<sup>2</sup>. The promoters are the Ram Eurocentres Ltd, a British company and Messrs Blaton and Moury have had the required permits since 2001. The offer in Verviers should be something like that already existing in Roermond, where, in one and a half year's of business, a total of three million clients were recorded.

There will be additionally 1,000 parking slots. With access to a population of a 19 million in a broad radius, the investment is estimated at EUR 27m. In Messancy near Arlon, there is also a new outlet center and the outlet mall in Maasmechelen, which opened two years ago, is being expanded.

<http://www.brf.be>

### **RAILION WASTE TRANSPORTS**

[LOG: Geleen, May 30]

Since the beginning of May, Railion has been running a daily train for Essent Milieu carrying household waste from Haanrade to the processing center in Moerdijk. The trains generally have nine wagons which can carry 27 waste containers. Using the ACTS system, the waste containers can be very rapidly transferred from truck to train and visa versa.

Originally, ACTS (Afzet Container Transport Systeem) was a new system for transferring containers from trucks to trains and vice versa without complicated interchange facilities. All waste transport in The Netherlands has now been changed to this system.

Railion carries 700,000 tons of domestic garbage from 12 locations in the Netherlands to the processing centers in Moerdijk and Wijster in the Netherlands annually. The contract for South Limburg currently runs for one year.

<http://www.railion.nl>

### **EUR 27M FOR GENK**

[INFRA: Genk, May 15]

The city of Genk will be receiving EUR 27m from the Flemish region over the next five years. According to Mayor Gabriëls, the money will be spent on improving the quality of life in the downtown area and increasing leisure facilities. Special support will go to the weaker members of society and to local business. In the province of Limburg (B), a similar agreement has already been concluded with Hasselt. Eleven Flemish cities will profit from this program.

<http://www.brf.be>

## **NIJS TAKES OVER LEURS**

[LOG: Lommel, May 14]

The Nijs Logistics Group in Lommel has taken over its smaller competitor Leurs Express in Hasselt, including their 12 employees. Leurs in Hasselt will be closed down. Leurs specializes in distribution within the Benelux countries, Northern France and Germany. Nijs has in recent years expanded its logistics and warehousing activities and employs around 100. The group achieved revenues of EUR 10m in 2001.

<http://www.vkw.limburg.be>

## **NEW LIEGE PORT SITE**

[INFRA: Liège, April 29]

A new 90 hectare site at Oupeye on the banks of the Albert canal at the juncture of the canal and the bridge at Hermalle-sous-Argenteau is to add to the assets of the Port of Liège. The investment at EUR 7.5m will deliver a multimodal port that will meet the needs of partners at Antwerp. The site is also expected to generate a thousand new jobs.

(Source: Le Soir/ La Libre Belgique)

<http://www.liege.port-autonome.be/>

## **COLOGNE-DUEREN LINK**

[INFRA: Düren, April 29]

The S-Bahn, suburban rail link, between Düren and Cologne has now been completed. On April 20 the station at Merzenich, in the district of Düren, will be open for business. This makes Düren less than an hour away from Cologne. In the near future this station will also have a park and ride facility. In the long term, there is expected to be an increase in passengers, according to a spokesman.

<http://www.wdr.de>

## **CAR TRANSPORT BY RAILION**

[LOG: Genk, April 22]

Starting at the end of April, Railion will be running two 700 meter long car trains from Genk to Cobelfret's new roll-on/roll-off terminal in Flushing. The trains will be transporting the Ford Mondeo and Ford Transit from the Belgian plants via Sloehaven in Flushing to England. This operation is in cooperation with B-Cargo. The order comes from Cobelfret, one of Belgium's largest shipping lines which is concerned with various types of logistical service provision. In addition to the bulk transport of bauxite and grain, Cobelfret is active in shortsea transport and road/rail. The Cobelfret Rail Division has 600 units of its own rolling stock for car transport. The new Cobelfret terminal has a 60 hectare yard. The company is expected to double this capacity in the course of next year. Prorail has ensured that there is a 2km extension to the harbour rail line at the request of Railion and a rail connection to the terminal. The contract runs through 2003 with an option of an extension.

<http://www.railion.nl>

## **INTERELECTRA DOWN THE DRAINS**

[INFRA: Hasselt, April 15]

In addition to electricity, gas, cable networks and telecoms, the Limburg inter-municipal provider, Interelectra, also wants to manage municipal sewerage and the waste water system in future.

This means that the company would manage and maintain the sewers run by the municipalities.

US Cross Border Leasing, is also interested in the Belgian sewers, but apparently the interest is largely motivated by fiscal considerations. See link.

<http://www.vkw-limburg.be>

## **TONGRES EAST EXPANDS**

[INFRA: Tongres, April 15]

Another 45 hectares are to be added to the business park in Tongres East. According to Councillor Eddy Box and the Flemish Prime Minister Patrick Dewael, the second phase of Tongres East has to be completed within a year. Businesses currently established at the site have said that they want to expand and the investment in Tongres will provide 300 jobs. 2,000 people are currently employed at the 100 hectare business park at Tongres East.

<http://www.vkw-limburg.be>

## GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

### **DG IN BERLIN**

[GOV: Eupen, June 3]

Belgium's German-speaking community week has been held in Berlin, using the slogan 'German is also spoken in Belgium.' There were talks between the economic development agencies and organizations in and around Berlin. Lectures by the authors Bruno Kartheuser, Guido Thomé and Robert Schaus and a presentation of the book 'Belgium - collapse or a modern federal future?' There was also be an exhibition by the Hauset-based artist, Antonio Maro in the old city hall of Potsdam.

<http://www.brf.be>

### **LIMBURG (NL) IN EURONETWORK**

[GOV: Maastricht, May 26]

The Netherlands Province of Limburg has published its cabinet list with a detailed account of the responsibilities of each member.

The Governor is responsible for general coordination;

Martin Eurlings (CDA) has a primary responsibility for business;

Odile Wolfs (PvdA) is responsible for youth;

Mat Vestjens (VVD) has a portfolio broadly covering safety;

Ger Driessen's portfolio involves space for Limburg;

Herman Vreken (CDA) is concerned with core neighbourhoods;

Henk Evers (PvdA) is responsible for the environment;

Less impressionistic designations are available at the website.

<http://www.limburg.nl>

### **EDUCATION FOR MEUSE-RHINE**

[EDU: Liège, May 22]

The Meuse-Rhine Foundation supports pilot projects, studies and the development of networks to promote cooperation in vocational training. Five educational institutions are involved in the Province of Liège from September 2003 to December 2004. Modules include language, culture, legal and technical competences, including the Dutch and German language and culture and information on the social and fiscal legislation of the countries. There is also a two week internship in a Euroregional business using another language.

<http://www.lalibre.be>

## **PATENT CENTER LAUNCHED**

[EDU: Liège, May 20]

The Walloon Minister, Serge Kubla, for Economics, Research and New Technology and the Rector of the University of Liège and Robert Geurts, (Director General of Market Regulation and Organization at Federal Department of Economics, SMEs and Energy) announced in Liège in the context of an international conference, that a center was to be created at the University of Liège for information and expertise on intellectual property, known as PATLIB. It will represent an investment of EUR 2,305,800 through to 2006 and will be co-financed by the Walloon region via DGTRE (DG: technology, research and energy) and the European Structural Fund, EFRD Objectif II (25%). It is designed to help Walloon inventors, centers of research and businesses or private individuals and will assist them in patenting their technologies: essential in the Walloon country for the development of new business.

<http://www.ulg.ac.be>

## **PARKSTAD DEVELOPMENT CO**

[GOV: Parkstad, May 13]

On Tuesday May 13 Hub Meijers, Chairman of the Parkstad Limburg Development Association, held a press conference to present the Association's first newsletter. The newsletter introduced the Parkstad development team which includes Eke Zijlstra, Chairman of the Board of the GOZL/Atrium Stichting; Ernest Drijkoningen, Program Manager Parkstad Limburg; Peter Thomas, Kerkrade Councilor; Harry Schrijnemakers, local LWV (Employers' Association) Chairman ad MD of Rendamax; Marianne Dunnewijk, Chairman of the Board, Hogeschool Zuyd; Roel Wever, Secretary/Director Parkstad Limburg; Hub Meijers, Mayor of Onderbanken; Hans Laudy, Chairman of the regional consultative body for Housing Associations, and Dieudonné Akkermans, Brunssum Municipal Councilor.

The development company is a combination of private and public law institutions and includes, in addition to the municipalities, large employers such as ABP, CBS and DSM, research and education institutions such as Hoge School Zuyd, Arcus, ROC and Open University and intermediary organizations like the Employer's Association and the Chamber of Commerce. Topics dealt with are the development of historic buildings, tourist facilities and service centers in Parkstad Limburg - the service center may include a post office, bank, employment bureau and sometimes a supermarket. This also sometimes includes a desk for the municipality, library function and medical care facilities. There will also be facilities for pop music and attention will be paid to sheltered living facilities.

<http://www.regio-psl.nl>

## **EUREGIONALE 2008 AGENCY**

[GOV: Aachen, May 9]

In the next five years, eight people will be closely related to the development of the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion and the distribution of millions. Mayor Jürgen Linden presented the members of the Euregionale 2008 Agency in Aachen recently. Among the Directors are Barabara Vanderlinden from Brussels an internationally famous curator; Marianne Dunnewijk (Heerlen) Chairman of the Hogeschool Zuyd; Professor Kunibert Wachten, Head of the Institute for Town and Regional Planning at the University of Aachen; Professor Klaus Selle, Head of the Department of Planning Theory and City Planning. In addition to the Euroregional Manager, Ralph P. Meyer, three specialists have been entrusted with project management: Julia Schmidt from Münster, art historian; Volmar Delheij, Vaals, historian and Rusbeh Nawab, Eupen, sociologist.

Project proposals will cluster around three topics. 1) Projects on political, linguistic and cultural differences. 2) Projects on linking institutes of higher education, research institutes and business and 3) cross-border landscapes, roads and buildings.

In the coming weeks the first concrete projects will be proposed to be supported by the State of North-Rhine Westphalia.

<http://www.aachener-zeitung.de>

## **PLAYING TRAINS AT AACHEN U**

[GOV: Wildenrath, May 1]

Siemens and Aachen University are planning a cooperative project. Siemens' rail test track at Wegberg-Wildenrath wants to establish a center for knowledge interchange at Aachen University. The object is to exchange knowledge and information in the area of railway studies. Currently the University is working on the Cargo Mover tests at the test center in Wildenrath.

<http://www.wdr.de>

## **DUTCH MBA STARTS**

[GOV: Maastricht, April 22]

The University of Maastricht Graduate School of International Management, the Business School of the AACSB Accredited Faculty of Economics & Business Administration, will start its first "Part-time MBA in Dutch" program with 18 participants. GSIM is very happy to see that in the first year of the business school's establishment, it can launch its first MBA program, despite the difficult economic climate. So the Business School of UM/FdEWB is now actually 'in business'. Applications are now being received for several other MBA programs (Full-time MBA, MBA in Life Sciences, MBA in Hotel and Tourism Management).

The first class this part-time MBA includes experienced senior- and middle managers ranging in age from 35-50, from companies like DSM, Nedcar, Trega, Ordina and others. On Friday May 2, the class of 2003 will get a warm welcome (with coffee and vlaai) followed by introductory sessions and a tour of the University of Maastricht. The next day their performing skills will be challenged in a creative workshop on teambuilding. For 15 months, twice a month –on Fridays and Saturdays- these executives will mingle on our urban campus with regular students and staff for a new and exciting post-experience MBA program.

<http://www.gsim.nl>

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### **MULTI-SLICE CT AT AACHEN**

[LIFE-SCI: Aachen, June 8]

The Radiological Diagnostics Department at Aachen's University Clinic has recently acquired the only multi-slice CT scanner in the region. The instrument can handle 32 slices in a matter of seconds. The multislice CT scanner speeds diagnosis and treatment of patients, including trauma patients with severe injuries. The multislice CT scanner is similar in appearance to the conventional spiral CT. The difference is in the number of images or slices the scanner generates per second. As the X-ray source and detectors move around the patient, patients do not have to hold their breath for as long, and the technician uses less contrast material. The greater number of rows allows the scanner to acquire more images per second.

<http://www.aachener-zeitung.de>

### **EUPEN HOSPITAL JOINS UP**

[LIFE-SCI: Eupen, June 4]

As the only German-speaking partner, the Eupen hospital has joined a project with 25 Flemish and Dutch hospitals called the 'clinical path' which is intended to ease the patients' path to treatment in hospitals and improve service quality.

<http://www.brf.be>

### **WALLOON SPACE SHOW IN CANADA**

[SCI-TECH: Liège, June 3]

Four University of Liège high tech spin-offs, part of the Walloon Space Logistics technology incubator, have taken part in an export trip to Canada and took part in the Quebec Futuralia Fair. The companies involved were Lasea, Optrion, Occhio and Pepite. Currently the incubator includes Ten start-ups and is generating a turnover of EUR 4m and employs 60.

Short term prospects by the end of 2003 should lead to revenues of EUR 7m and 90 jobs.

<http://www.wsl.be>

## **EPOCH SELLS TO EUROGENTEC**

[LIFE-SCI: Liège, May 28]

Epoch Biosciences, Inc. (Nasdaq: EBIO), a provider of proprietary products that accelerate genomic analysis, and Eurogentec S.A., a Liège-based supplier of products and services for European life science companies, announced a definitive agreement for Epoch to sell the assets and customer base of its specialty oligonucleotide operations located in San Diego, California to Eurogentec. The earlier agreement between Epoch and Eurogentec, announced in February 2002, expanded distribution of Epoch's proprietary reagents to researchers in international markets. Under the distribution agreement, Eurogentec was granted the right to use Epoch dyes and quenchers to produce custom oligonucleotides for sale in Europe and in Japan through a joint venture between Eurogentec and Nippon Gene Co. Ltd.

<http://www.eurogentec.com>

## **CYCLOTRON 3-TESLA FMRI SYSTEM**

[LIFE-SCI: Liège, May 27]

The Cyclotron Research Center at the University of Liège which focuses on the biological basis of cerebral processes in humans using functional neuroimaging techniques including positron emission tomography (PET), electroencephalography (EEG) and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation has introduced its brand new Siemens 3-Tesla functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging System (fMRI). The acquisition of the EUR 2m system makes the University of Liège the only one in Belgium to have this high performance new equipment. The 3 Tesla MRI allows a better understanding of the functioning of the brain, the role of sleep and examination of certain pathologies like comas or dementia.

<http://www.ulg.ac.be>

## **BIOFORUM 2003 TOPICS**

[LIFE-SCI: Liège, May 9]

The Bioforum was held at the Sart Tilman campus of the University of Liège and, in addition to major speeches by leading scholars, the day was characterized by the participation and contribution of the students who presented posters on their research which are listed below. In the initial presentations on genomics and proteomics there was a focus on quantitative approaches and on the business management side which was concluded by Dr Jan Thio's Biotech case which we have referred to elsewhere. (NB List not copied)

<http://www.bioliege.org>

## **FOOD SAFETY IN ST VITH**

[LIFE-SCI: St Vith, May 7]

The Federal Agency for Food Safety in Belgium is opening a new branch in St. Vith this summer. Staff will be seconded from the provincial center of the agency for food safety in Liège to the new establishment, which was proposed by the Federal Minister for Consumer Protection and Public Health, Jef Tavernier, recently.

<http://www.brf.be>

## **FRUIT TESTING STATION**

[LIFE-SCI: Cerexhe-Heuseux, May 7]

The Walloon Minister of Agriculture José Happart has set up a fruit testing center Pro-Fruit which will be supported by the Walloon region, the Province of Liège and the town of Soumagne to the tune of EUR 250,000 annually. The team will include six, three of whom will be technicians specializing in herbicides, fungicides and insecticides. The Walloon region has 100 fruit producers and around 10 subsidised research centers. This center is already working with the University of Liège and the Faculty of Agriculture at Gembloux will also play a role in the company. Pro-Fruit was originally founded by José Happart's father. His brother Jean-Marie, also a fruit grower, has been with the organization since 1968. (Source: Echo).

<http://www.echonet.be>

## **LIFETEC JOINS UP**

[LIFE-SCI: Aachen, May 1]

LifeTec Aachen-Jülich is moving into the technology center, AGIT's home, on the Europaplatz in Aachen. LifeTec Aachen-Jülich was set up in June 2000 and it is going to be more closely associated with the Euroregional life sciences project. Its role is to strengthen life sciences in the Aachen-Jülich region. It is a network of scholars, representatives of industry and new start-ups with development companies and venture capital organizations. It organizes a seminar once a year. Last year the topic was stem cells. There are also regular meetings for start-ups. Christof Knocke is also Aachen's University's delegate for the Euroregional project in which the university is one of seven partners, including AGIT, LIOF, WFG, City of Maastricht, Universities of Liège and Maastricht. Other close neighbours at AGIT provide a certain synergy. These include Aachen's Med Tech conference center and AKM, the medical technology partnership. This Summer, LifeTec Aachen-Jülich is going to hold a seminar on the 'end of aging' and a one day life sciences' conference at the end of September. Christof Knocke can be reached at [knocke@lifescienceagency.de](mailto:knocke@lifescienceagency.de) Tel: 00 49 241 963 1475

<http://www.agit.de>

## **PATENTS & LICENSING**

[LIFE-SCI: Kerkrade, April 29]

The Euroregional Life Sciences afternoon seminar was held at the Rolduc Conference Center in Kerkrade on April 29, 2003 and covered 'Systematic Innovation and Problem Solving - Real Life Cases' by Wim van den Elshout of DSM solutions. This was all about TRIZ: the Theory of Inventive Problem Solving, and "TRIZ" is its acronym in Russian. TRIZ was developed by Genrich Altshuller and his colleagues in the former USSR starting in 1946, and is now being developed and practiced throughout the world. TRIZ research began with the hypothesis that there are universal principles of invention that are the basis for creative innovations that advance technology, and that if these principles could be identified and codified, they could be taught to people to make the process of invention more predictable. The research has proceeded in several stages over the last 50 years. Over 2 million patents have been examined, classified by level of inventiveness, and analyzed to look for principles of innovation.

This was followed by 'Commercialization of Technology: Intellectual Property Management and Business Strategy' by Sjeff de Kimpe, the presentation focused on various forms of intellectual property. Then came Ivo Galli of the European Patent Office talking about 'Embracing Life: Patenting of Biotechnological Inventions' and finally 'Infringement of Patents' by Mars van Leent, Patent attorney with Steinhauser Hoogenraad Advocaten.

The next round in the Life Science seminars will be in Liège on May 9, where some 447 have already registered, including 40 from Aachen and 40 from Maastricht.

<http://www.lifescienceslimburg.nl>