

## Quotes

### **Statements ground-breaking ceremony Infineon Technologies Austria 10 November 2018**

#### **A milestone in the history of European industry: Official ground-breaking ceremony – expansion Infineon Villach site**

##### **Sabine Herlitschka, CEO of Infineon Technologies Austria AG:**

"Today we are celebrating the official kick-off for the biggest private investment project Austria has seen in decades. This investment in the key enabling technologies of micro-electronics that are of great strategic importance is a milestone for Infineon, but also a milestone in the history of European industry. Drawing on the know-how of our employees we are significantly strengthening high-tech production and our research and development. This investment demonstrates how future-oriented jobs are created and how the investment can be a turbo for an entire region."

##### **Reinhard Ploss, CEO of Infineon Technologies AG:**

"The future will be digital and electric; these modern trends offer many opportunities for Infineon. The construction of the new 300 mm fab is a clear message to our customers: Infineon is the right partner for joint growth. Our Villach facility offers the best conditions: our staff here has a track record of achieving success with innovative technologies."

##### **Mariya Gabriel, EU Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society**

"The importance of this major investment in the Carinthia region cannot be overemphasized against the background of the global digitization race for technology leadership. It contributes to putting Europe back on the fast lane in technologies that are important for our digital future such as micro- and nano-electronics. I am confident that other companies in Europe will follow the example of this investment. This will help us together regain leadership and effectively deliver on commitments."

##### **Sebastian Kurz, Chancellor of the Republic of Austria:**

"It is not policy makers who create jobs – jobs are created by bold companies and their hard-working employees. We are proud that Austria as a location for business and technology is able to offer the framework conditions for an investment of this magnitude. With today's start of construction, the ground is being prepared for securing new jobs. The investment enables Austria to position itself at top place in the global competition for central key skills. Austria is clearly showing how business and industry trust in our country as a place to work and prosper and moreover that we have made all the right decisions on location development and research promotion."

**Margarete Schramböck, Austrian Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs:**

"The investment of Infineon reflects the company's strong commitment to Austria as a business location, and it proves that Europe will benefit long-term with innovation and highly qualified experts. Digitization is not a job killer here in Villach ... it is a job creator! Prior the decision in favor of Villach, the Austrian Government was already fully committed to assuring optimum framework conditions, and we will continue to support our companies in future as they create jobs and add value here in Austria. The new factory is a valuable and sustainable investment not only for Carinthia but for the entire country as a flourishing and innovative economy."

**Norbert Hofer, Austrian Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology:**

"With the expansion of the Infineon premises in Villach, Austria once again lives up to its role as an international player in the fields of innovative research and production, and this position will enable our country to take on a leading role in the micro-electronics industry. This is an enterprise that can rely on the fullest support from the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology. Today's event demonstrates the massive economic relevance of research and technology that not only create jobs but also add to the significance of Austria as an economic location of undeniable appeal."

**Peter Kaiser, Governor of Carinthia:**

"Carinthia not only has excellent prospects, it is actively designing a successful future. The investment made by Infineon is a turbo boost for the people of Carinthia, for the young generation and for its labor market. In addition to all the highly qualified jobs that will be created at Infineon, we will also see hundreds of additional employment opportunities created by suppliers – from bakers, to teachers and road workers. When a world market leader such as Infineon is committed to expansion of this type and scale, it also sends out an important message to the world: Look, Carinthia is an attractive business location. Come and set up business here, decide in favor of this region. All the stakeholders in Carinthia will join forces to manage the major challenges revolving around the mega project in terms of transport, infrastructure, child care, education etc. One example of this joint effort is the excellence study program for electrical engineering that is planned to be set up at the Carinthian University of Applied Sciences."

**Günther Albel, Mayor of the City of Villach:**

"The people of Villach are proud that the biggest investment in the Austrian economy by far is being made in our city. 1.6 billion euros is an unprecedented boost for the city and the entire region. Many other companies will set up here in the wake of this mega investment creating many top jobs along the way. The investment is also impressive proof of Villach's consistent road map efforts on its way to becoming the high-tech capital in the Austrian south."

**Timo Springer, President of the Federation of Carinthian Industries:**

"An investment of such global significance is a massive opportunity for the region. Carinthia has taken center stage as a high-tech location. Most people know our province only as an attractive tourist region. But we are also dynamically emerging as THE technology hub in the south of Austria. Of all the Austrian provinces, Carinthia is the one with the highest share of industrial high-tech jobs. Infineon is one of our most important companies in this field. It is now up to us to link the value creation chains more tightly around our top-class companies. The service and supplier environment must be developed just the same as the research and educational institutions in the "InnoRegion South". Carinthia must start to think bigger. The preconditions for that are perfect."

**Contact and further information**

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