

Press Release

Extension to Villach childcare center “International Day Care Center” formally opened

Villach, 21 October 2016 – Giant soap bubbles everywhere, together with a babble of voices in different languages as children revel in the excitement of discovery. This was the official opening of the “International Day Care Center” (IDC) in Villach. At the start of the new nursery school year in September, there are now 40 more children than in previous years attending the bilingual day care centre focusing on science and technology as well as internationality and interculturalism. The centre now cares for 120 children aged between twelve months and six years from 18 different nations. Infineon Austria CEO Sabine Herlitschka said: “I am delighted that the day care centre and the educational concept behind it is being so well received. With the extension we are responding to the huge demand for places at the IDC. But above all we are providing continuous care from an early age right through to the pre-school stage. The international environment offers the children an open perspective on different cultures, the children switch from one language to another and back again, and they enter on a journey of discovery together.”

A party for young researchers & developers

The IDC children gave their new friends a warm welcome today at a party. In addition to the families of the children, the guests included the Carinthian State Governor Peter Kaiser, the Mayor of Villach Günther Albel and Deputy Mayor Petra Oberrauner, the three Infineon Austria Management Board members Sabine Herlitschka, Thomas Reisinger and Oliver Heinrich and the manager of Sonnenstrahl GmbH Sophie Nelhiebel.

In keeping with the childcare concept, there was plenty of research and discovery on the programme this afternoon, with soap bubble artists creating giant soap bubbles to the astonishment of young and old, and children using experimentation stations to explore their everyday world.

Infrastructure created for high-demand concept

The childcare centre is operated by Sonnenstrahl GmbH, a company formed in 2012 with Infineon Austria as an important initiator and cooperation partner. Infineon, the City of Villach and the Province of Carinthia have supported the extension project as partners. The total capital investment was around 800,000 EUR. State Governor Peter Kaiser said: “It is precisely at this age that children are curious and always asking questions. The main focus of the IDC responds to this with its international, bilingual and scientific approach, conveying knowledge through play. The provision of the corresponding infrastructure is a guarantee of continuity and a duty of the state.” A sense of security as an essential part of the facility is a central factor for the children and also for their professional parents. Villach Mayor

Günther Albel is very enthusiastic: “The Infineon childcare centre is very much part of the high quality and educationally up-to-date childcare provision in our city. With its international approach it also supports Villach’s open perspective on the world.”

About the International Day Care Center

A public amenity which is operated by Sonnenstrahl GmbH, the IDC is based on an innovative educational concept with an international perspective and a focus on science and technology. With 28 teachers, ten of whom have English as their mother tongue, the IDC provides bilingual (German and English) care for children from around 18 nations. In accordance with the needs and requirements of today’s world of work, the IDC is open all year from 7 am to 5.30 pm (except 24 December to 1 January). The main focus is on internationalism, the development of bilingual skills and play-based familiarisation with scientific and technological topics.

Further information about the International Day Care Center can be found at: www.idc-villach.at

About Infineon Austria

Infineon Technologies Austria AG is a group company of Infineon Technologies AG, a worldwide leading supplier of semiconductor solutions to make life more simple, secure and more environmentally friendly. Micro-electronics from Infineon reduces the energy consumption of consumer electronics, household devices and industrial installations. It contributes considerably to the comfort, safety and sustainability of vehicles and provides secure transactions in a connected world.

Besides Germany, Infineon Austria is the only site capable of meeting competencies for research & development, production as well as global business responsibility. Its headquarters is based in Villach, further branches are located in Graz, Klagenfurt, Linz and Vienna. With around 3,500 employees (1,300 are in research & development) from around 60 nations, the company achieved a turnover of €1.4 billion in the 2015 fiscal year (ending in September). Infineon Austria is the most research oriented company in Austria with a research quota of 25% of the total turnover.

Further information at www.infineon.com/austria

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