

Press release

## Villach childcare center “International Day Care Center” to be extended

*The groundbreaking ceremony of the extension of the International Day Care Center (IDC) took place on March 14<sup>th</sup> with participation of the Infineon Austria-Board Members Sabine Herlitschka and Thomas Reisinger, the Carinthian State governor Peter Kaiser, Villach’s Mayor Günther Albel, Villach’s Deputy Mayor Petra Oberrauner, Sonnenstrahl GmbH-Manager Sophie Nelhiesel, the chairperson of the works council of Infineon Austria Robert Müllneritsch and the children of the IDC.*

*The International Day Care Center (IDC), a childcare facility operated by Sonnenstrahl GmbH with support from Infineon Austria as cooperation partner, is being extended to provide up to 50 additional places for two to six year olds.*

Villach, 14 March 2016 – The IDC was opened in 2012, with Infineon Austria as an important initiator and cooperation partner. This public amenity, which is operated by Sonnenstrahl GmbH, is based on an innovative educational concept with an international perspective and a focus on science and technology. The childcare center is now being extended to provide **up to 50 additional places for two to six year olds, the groundbreaking ceremony took place on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2016.** “I am especially delighted that our childcare concept has met with such a positive response. The purpose of the extension is therefore on the one hand to meet the considerable demand, and on the other hand in particular to ensure consistency between the younger and older children’s age groups. The aim is for each three year old in the younger age group to be sure of a place in the follow-on kindergarten group. This means that we can offer children and parents seamless childcare up to school age, making a practical contribution to pre-school education”, says Sabine Herlitschka, CEO of Infineon Technologies Austria AG, explaining the rationale for the extension. The IDC **childcare concept** has been very well received – currently the IDC offers 80 places for children aged between 12 months and six years, and **in future** this number will be extended to **130 places.**

**State governor Peter Kaiser** emphasised at the groundbreaking ceremony that “passing on fundamental knowledge can never start early enough. The focal points of the IDC - internationality, language development and technology - convey this knowledge while the concept also creates a sense of security along the way, which is important for both the children and working parents. Providing appropriate infrastructure is a guarantee of continuity and a duty of the state”.

### **Extension to open in autumn 2016**

The agreements – a lease agreement and a subsidy agreement – were signed in January with the Town of Villach. The extension is also supported by the Province of Carinthia. The opening will take place in time for the start of the new school year in September 2016. The annex will be built along the lines of the existing spatial concept in a westerly direction on Siemensstrasse. Around 800,000 EUR is being invested in the extension. **Villach's Mayor Günther Albel says:** "This represents the continuation of a trailblazing concept. The Day Care Center is helping to make professional activity compatible with family life, in a forward-looking and totally successful way." As **Albel** points out, the IDC's educational concept also provides a high quality framework for children whose everyday lives are increasingly reflecting the internationalism and professional activity of their parents. "It is tremendously important that the young people of our town have the best educational opportunities in order to provide them with even greater opportunities in life. Villach offers all forms and types of school, from international children's nurseries, to secondary schools focusing on a wide variety of special subjects, to the university of applied science and university degree courses."

### **International Day Care Center**

The IDC is operated by Sonnenstrahl GmbH, and with its 18 teachers (seven of whom have English as their mother tongue) provides bilingual childcare in German and English for children from around 16 nations. In accordance with the needs and requirements of today's working world, the IDC is open throughout the year from 7am to 5.30pm (excluding 24 December to 1 January). The main focus is on internationalism, the development of bilingual skills, and play-based familiarization with scientific and technological topics.

### **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 by 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 about 3,500 employees (1,300 of whom 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](http://www.infineon.com/austria)

Further information about the International Day Care Center: [www.idc-villach.at](http://www.idc-villach.at)

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