

VE CER ON LINE

NEW INVESTMENT OF 20 MILLION EUROS IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY IN PRILEP

Gentherm is opening 2,000 new jobs

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American "Gentherm" which produces components for the most popular brands of cars, is the first foreign investment in TIDZ "Prilep", and soon it's neighbor in the



zone, will be the second factory of German company "Akomplast".

2,000 new jobs are being provided for the citizens of Prilep and the surrounding area by the US company "Gentherm" which in TIDZ "Prilep" yesterday officially opened its plant, an investment worth 20 million euros. In this factory, which already employs 450 people, the entire production will be realized for components for most brands of cars from the rank of "Mercedes", "BMW", "Ferrari", "Audi", "Fiat, Ford" and the like, intended for Europe.

"The investment of "Gentherm" is estimated at 20 million euros and the new plant will produce parts for the needs of the automotive industry in the European market. What is particularly important for us as a government, but for the entire region, is that "Gentherm" has already begun hiring staff, and the company already employs over 400 people. Over

the next few years, it is expected that the number of employees will increase to 2,000, which is of great importance for the country, and especially for the residents of Prilep and



surrounding cities,” said Prime Minister Emil Dimitriev at the opening of the factory.

He stressed that TIDZ’s plans are extremely important for the Macedonian economy and added that he is glad that the construction of new factories continues in the zones.

“This is the first factory in the zone in Prilep, and I am convinced that with its opening starts a new positive era in which this area will be the home of many more factories and a place where many people will find their employment,” emphasized Dimitirev.

Such expectations, he said, are underpinned by the construction of the second plant of the German company “Akomplast”, which will be a new neighbor” to “Gentherm” and it is expected that they start work in the next period. Negotiations, he added, are underway also other companies and therefore believes, as he said, that this is just a nice beginning of a positive story for this zone.

According to the Vice Premier for Economic Affairs Vladimir Pesevski, the opening of the company in the zone in Prilep will further contribute to reducing unemployment in the city, which with the implementation of complementary economic policies in the last 10 years, has been reduced by over 40%.

We started the negotiations between the Government and the management of “Gentherm” for the realization of this investment in mid-2014, we jointly invested time and effort so that today we could participate in the opening of the plant, in which 20 million euros are invested, said Pesevski.

He said that exports from Macedonia, especially from TIDZ's, will continue to mark growth in the future, and additional benefit of them will be accelerated knowledge transfer and application of new technologies which will be used in companies.

"The new factory of "Gentherm" is proof of the excellent business relations established between Macedonia and the United States. A total of 9 of 23 plants operating or under construction in TIDZ have American capital, and total portfolio of their investments exceeds 150 million euros. After completion of the investment for the year - two, the expected number of employees in US companies in Macedonia will reach over 10,000 people, said Pesevski, adding that Macedonia from an economic aspect, gains a lot from the decision of foreign companies to invest in the country.

The Deputy Prime Minister expressed confidence that the good economic policies laid on solid foundations will contribute to the continued growth of GDP, increased exports and further reduce unemployment which was 38% ten years ago, and has been reduced to 24.5%.



The Director for Technological Industrial Development Zones Viktor Mizo reminded that the cornerstone of TIDZ "Prilep" was set in December 2014 and added that with the opening of the factory "Gentherm" TIDZ "Prilep" becomes the fifth functional economic zone in Macedonia after "Skopje 1" "Skopje 2", "Kicevo" and "Stip".

He specified that in the first phase of investment in "Gentherm" a facility was built with an area of 10,000 square meters, on land with an area of 38,000 square meters, and

according to projections of the company's planned production the facility will increase to 22,000 square meters which will be implemented in several further stages.

“The plant will produce parts for the automotive industry, intended for the European market of all renowned car manufacturers. Currently, 450 people work in the factory and by the end of the year, their number should be increased to 650. In further phases 2000 jobs will be created, Mizo said, adding that the realization of the investment of "Gentherm" is another proof that companies position themselves in areas outside of Skopje.”

Currently, in companies located in the zones in Macedonia he added, 6050 people are employed. By the end of the year, their number will reach approximately 7,500, and the total number of people who will be employed in companies in areas that are currently operating or completing investment undertakings, at optimum realization of investments, will exceed 16,000.

The opening of the factory in TIDZ “Prilep” was attended by VMRO-DPMNE leader, Nikola Gruevski.

In free zones and outside them, factories are constantly popping up.

By the end of last month, more than 6,000 people worked in the free economic zones in Macedonia, but it is expected that by the end of the year, when companies in the zones fully realize their outlined plans, the figure will increase to over 7,000. It is estimated that once the existing 23 companies in the zones will reach their optimum value to their business plans, over 16,500 jobs will be created.

In the zones and outside, across the country in the meantime, there are new facilities being built by foreign and domestic investors, who are constantly announcing new hires. Thus, these types of announcements are from companies that opened their own plant in Macedonia since the beginning of the year, and that is “KSS” with a factory in Kicevo, “ODV Electric” and “Coastal” in Ohrid, “Gentherm” in Prilep, “Johnson Controls” Strumica, domestic investor “High-Tech” “Lear” and others. Italian company “TeknoHose” opened a second plant in Macedonia in February and their plan is to open a third, which according to the announcements, should be opened this month.



Gruevski inspects the work of Urban Expressway - Prilep

During yesterday's visit to Prilep, VMRO-DPMNE leader Nikola Gruevski inspected the construction works of the expressway Urban - Prilep and the already existing local road to the village Volkovo.

Urban expressway - Prilep is being built at a length of 33.5 kilometers with an estimated value of 70 million euros. The first stage is already implemented, a length of 10 km from Farishkata to Drenovo gorge. So far, cleared is 70% of this part of the route, on which it is planned to build 15 bridges and viaducts, and after completion, the the average speed of vehicles will be 80 kilometers per hour.

As informed by the Minister of Transport and Communications Vladimir Misajlovski, in the second phase in the next year, are plans to begin construction of Gradsko - Rosoman - interchange Kavadarci, 16 km long, while in the third phase will be carried expanding section of Trojaci to Pletvar and the entrance near Prilep, a length of 7.5 kilometers. It is expected that the expressway from Gradsko to Prilep, which is being built with funds from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), will be fully ready in

three to four years.

The local road to the village Volkovo is 3,5 klms long and is built with 25 million Denars from the government's Agency for Rural Development. According Prilep Mayor Marjan Ristevski, in the last 11 years, the municipality has built more than 200 kilometers of national, regional and local roads, and streets in the city.

Gruevski, again, informed that the construction of the pipeline Klechovce - Stip is already complete. Next month begins pipeline for Negotino, and next year will begin the gas line Negotino - Kavadarci - Prilep - Bitola. He indicated to mayor Ristevski that in the second half of next year, Prilep will be connected to the gas network.

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