

PRESS RELEASE

Large Investment in Halle (Saale) – Schwarz Produktion Expands Baking Factory and Creates Many New Jobs

Halle (Saale), 19/02/2025

Schwarz Produktion is sending a strong signal for the future by investing more than 300 million euros in the industrial bakery Bonback Halle (Saale). After purchasing the factory last year, the production capacities are now to be expanded significantly. A deep-freezing high-bay warehouse is also to be established as a new logistics hub for the site in Star Park Halle (Saale). The number of jobs is to increase by more than 400.

In the presence of the Minister of Economic Affairs in the Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt, Sven Schulze, and Halle's Mayor, Egbert Geier, Schwarz Produktion CEO, Jörg Aldenkott, presented the project during a press conference.

“By expanding the Bonback Halle (Saale) site, we are responding to the great success of our baked goods in the Lidl and Kaufland bakeries. The customers appreciate the outstanding quality of the Bonback products. And this is one of the reasons why the Lidl bakery was crowned Best Bakery again in 2024,” explained Jörg Aldenkott.

Bonback Halle (Saale) consistently utilises the combination of the traditional baking craft and modern production methods. With no preservatives added, based on predominantly regional ingredients and with plenty of time for rising, the Bonback doughs are prepared with great care. The stone oven ensures the unique taste of the loaves and rolls from Halle.

During a tour of the Bonback Halle (Saale) site, the Minister of Economic Affairs expressed his delight: “Schwarz Produktion's investment is a strong signal of support for Halle, for Saxony-Anhalt and for our economic development. 300 million euros, over 400 new jobs – this goes to show that our federal state offers businesses excellent conditions to grow. This secures jobs, strengthens our region and makes it clear that Saxony-Anhalt is a key location for investment.”

Mayor Egbert Geier added: “The expansion of the Bonback Halle (Saale) site shows once more that the city offers the best conditions to attract businesses. We support investors with key points of contact and keep the communication channels short. This is what made it possible for Bonback to start the construction work straight away. Not least owing to our consistent and ongoing expansion of the infrastructure in Star Park, we have met the requirements for Schwarz Produktion's investment commitment. I am pleased that we have gained this business as a partner. The investment will strengthen us on our path to sustainable and forward-thinking economic development.”

“The expansion is a clear commitment to the Halle (Saale) site. Here, we find the perfect conditions for us to continue to develop. This ranges from a motivated and highly-qualified team of employees to the necessary spaces and, not to mention, the support of the city administration – without all the red tape,” Jörg Aldenkott concluded.

About the Expansion Project

A significant expansion of the existing production facilities is planned. In addition to the two existing baking production lines, a new two-storey production building is to be built, providing space for further equipment. There are also plans for a modern, automated deep-freezing high-bay warehouse with room to store around 60,000 full pallets. The latest cooling systems will

provide a high level of energy efficiency and the entire site will be supplied with 100% green energy.

Current and future employees stand at the centre of the expansion project. A modern working environment and appreciative working conditions are features of Schwarz Produktion's company culture. The Bonback Halle (Saale) site offers secure jobs with exciting prospects. In conjunction with tariff-based remuneration, extensive social benefits and opportunities for further training and development, there will be an attractive overall package for the numerous specialists who are intended to join the existing team at Bonback Halle (Saale) in the coming months.

The expansion is anticipated to begin in early 2026, once all the necessary approvals have been obtained. The expanded production facility is planned to start operations in 2027.

About Bonback and Schwarz Produktion

Bonback Halle (Saale) is one of the most modern industrial bakeries in Germany and has been part of Schwarz Produktion since the start of 2024. The bakery's 180+ employees have produced approximately 150 million high-quality and rustic stone-baked products in Halle (Saale) every year since 2018. Back then it was still known by its former name, ARTiBack. Bonback Halle (Saale) is one of five Schwarz Produktion sites in Saxony-Anhalt. With a total of around 1500 employees, the companies of Schwarz Produktion play a key role in the region. In addition to the two drinks factories, MEG Jessen and MEG Leißling, the plastics production facility in Roßbach (Braunsbedra) is also part of a unique and ecologically sustainable PET recycling loop. In addition, Weißenfels is home to the administrative headquarters of Schwarz Produktion.

In the Schwarz Produktion companies, a total of around 6000 employees at 16 sites produce high-quality foodstuffs and sustainable packaging and materials. As well as baked goods, the companies of Schwarz Produktion also produce mineral water and soft drinks, chocolate, dried fruit, ice cream, coffee, pasta products and paper. What is more, the company's three plastics and recycling plants make up a central component of a one-of-a-kind PET recycling loop.

About Schwarz Group

Schwarz Group is a leading retail group with around 13,900 stores and 575,000 employees in 32 countries. During the 2023 financial year, the companies of Schwarz Group generated a total revenue of 167.2 billion euros. With their unique ecosystem, they cover the full value cycle: from production to retail, to recycling and digitisation. They create solutions which make the lives of billions of people more sustainable, healthier and safer – both now and in the future. They are acting ahead.

Lidl and Kaufland are its pillars in the food retail market and feature in the everyday lives of 7.2 billion customers. Many own-brand products and plenty of sustainable packaging on their shelves come directly from Schwarz Produktion. Environmental service provider PreZero uses its reusable material management system to support a well-functioning circular economy, thus investing in a clean future. As an IT and digital partner, Schwarz Digits offers impressive digital products and services which meet the stringent German data protection standards, thus guaranteeing the greatest digital sovereignty possible. As a partner service provider, Schwarz Corporate Solutions supports the Schwarz Group companies with everything relating to administration, personnel, and operations activities.

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