EU Regional Policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn announces more than EUR 108 million of EU investments for growth-enhancing projects in Poland

Today on a visit to Warsaw to discuss EU Regional Policy investments in Poland, Commissioner Johannes Hahn announced the approval by the European Commission of three major projects that will boost the country's research and innovation capacity, improve competitiveness and create jobs.

The investments are worth €108.5 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in Poland. They will contribute to building the CEZAMAT research center in Warsaw and two new production plants in Pilkington Automotive Poland in the Świętokrzyskie region and HS Wrocław enterprise in Dolnośląskie.

The projects are expected to create at least 700 jobs once they are completed. They are all financed by the Polish Regional Policy programme “Innovative Economy”.

In his capacity as Regional Policy Commissioner, Johannes Hahn signed off the projects. Speaking from Warsaw where he has been holding discussions on structural funds in Poland he said "Investing in Research & Development and Innovation is one of the major priorities of regional policy. These three projects are an excellent example of the kind of thing we want to see more of in the future. They will not only generate growth at local level through creating job opportunities but they will also have a positive impact on the overall economy of the regions concerned and, in broader terms of the country, through introducing innovations in the automotive and aircraft industry, and bringing forward applied science at European and international level. I very much hope they will also make a contribution to reversing the brain drain."

Polish Minister of Regional Development Elżbieta Bieńkowska, with whom Commissioner Hahn met in Warsaw, said: “Implementation of the approved projects will enhance the competitiveness of the Polish and European economy and therefore we welcomed the Commissioner's decision. We will support investments of high innovative potential also in the next financial perspective - in the years 2014-2020 we will spend over 7.6 bn EUR within the Intelligent Development Programme."

Since January 2013 the Commission has approved 57 "major projects" with a total value of €13.87 bn. Of this the European funds’ contribution (from European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund) is €8.4 bn (61% on average). The rest is from national public or private sector funding.

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The investments approved today should provide the Centre for Advanced Materials and Technologies in Warsaw with state-of-the-art laboratories available to top scientists from Poland and abroad. There will be a focus on research into making components with applications in microelectronics, optoelectronics, nanoelectronics and bioelectronics as well as multipurpose micromaterials and nanomaterials engineering. The project will increase the competitiveness of top research hubs clustered in Warsaw and should attract high skilled researchers and engineers. After implementation by the end of 2014, it is expected 80 new jobs will be created, including 30 research jobs. The investment comes under the priority "R&D Infrastructure". The European Union will finance EUR 76.6 million out of a total investment of EUR 90 million.

The construction of a new production plant at HS Wrocław enterprise in –the Dolnośląskie region with a research and development department will help implement innovative manufacturing processes, including assembly and testing, and will put high quality products on the market for the aircraft industry. Once completed by the end of 2013, the project will have created more than 300 jobs during its implementation, including 140 high quality research jobs. The investment comes under the priority "Investments in innovative projects". The European Union will finance EUR 12.1 million out of a total investment of EUR 65.8 million.

The decision today also makes way for the building of a new production plant at Pilkington Automotive Poland in the Świętokrzyskie region. This will focus on innovative automotive glass production technology to bring high quality products such as windscreens and side windows on the market. After completion of the project, it is forecast that the production capacity for windscreens will increase from 2.3 million to 4 million pieces per year and from 3.5 million to 9 million pieces per year for side windows. The project is expected to create 322 new jobs once completed in 2015.

This investment comes under the priority "Investments in innovative projects". The European Union will finance EUR 19.8 million out of a total investment of EUR 102.34 million.

Background:
These are "major projects", of which the total investment (VAT included) is above €50 million and thus subject to a specific decision by the European Commission, whereas other types of projects are approved at national or regional levels.

Poland has been allocated approximately €67 billion in total cohesion policy funding from 2007-2013.

More information:
EU-funded 'Major Projects'
EU cohesion policy in Poland

Project Contacts:
"Centre for Advanced Materials and Technologies"
"The construction of a new plant for production of innovative glass for the automotive industry"
"Establishment of an innovative production plant for significantly improved aircraft components"
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