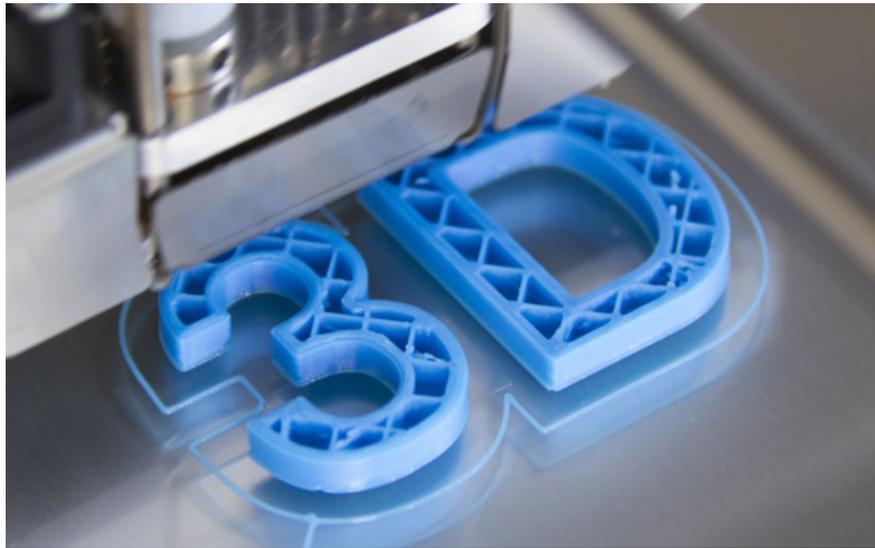


Solingen



Solingen, the City of Blades –
Business location for your future



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Solingen has an international reputation: The registered trademark “Made in Solingen” is the outcome of our 700-year-old economic history – of a brand world within the global brand. Today, the City of Blades presents itself as a homely region on one hand and with an unmistakable corporate and cultural landscape on the other hand.

Other companies and branches with “beacon” character have settled around Solingen’s brand essence. Recently, we were capable of welcoming over 300 visitors to Solingen’s first digital symposium. The infrastructure for fast internet has already been provided to many companies. More commercial space is waiting to be developed.

Inventiveness, curiosity and accuracy are qualities which made the City of Solingen successful and they still promote its development. Even the cultural diversity – music, theater, art and literature – countless offers on local recreation activities as well as the peaceful interaction of people from 140 different countries living here characterize our City of Blades.

Visit us! Get to know us! Come to Solingen!

We look forward to seeing you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Kurzbach'.

Tim Kurzbach
Lord Mayor of Solingen, the City of Blades



A growing large city with many opportunities for companies, entrepreneurs and their families – that is Solingen. We are world-famous for our industrial production for cutlery. “Made in Solingen” means so much more to us today. Solingen sets the course for far-reaching industrial transformation. Solingen launched the biggest network for 3D technology countrywide. With the new battery-powered trolleybuses, we promote emission-free local public transport. We competently accompany you on the journey to industry 4.0 and digitalization projects out of conviction and with enormous passion.

Simply talk to us! Challenge us! We welcome you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Balkenhol'.

Frank Balkenhol
Managing Director, Economic development of the City of Solingen

Images



Evangelical Church in Solingen Gräfrath



Zöppkesmarkt in Solingen city centre



Quality made in Solingen



Forum Produktdesign at Südpark



At a glance



Solingen from above



Cultural and environmental festival Leben braucht Vielfalt

Solingen is a growing large city. With 160,000 residents, the City of Blades is the third largest city in Bergisches Land and the second largest city in the Bergisches Land tri-state region. **Yes, Solingen is located in the countryside.** Half of the entire urban area is made up of forests and agricultural land. Anyone who lives here lives close to nature – a wonderful place for your children to grow up. **Solingen is also multinational.** Many nationalities have been living peacefully with one another in our city for many years. Moreover, foreign investors find contact persons for their interests in our International Business Center Solingen (IBCS) and we are proud of this.

Solingen is clever and hardworking. Education is important to us. Over 40 kindergartens and grammar schools support our families on the journey to the future. The chair for new production technologies and materials of the University of Wuppertal as well as the Institute of Product Innovation of the University of Wuppertal are located in Solingen, in the Forum Produktdesign. No wonder many companies in Solingen assume international top positions.



Deutsches Klingemuseum

Healthy Solingen. There are unlimited opportunities to keep fit and stay healthy in Solingen. The numerous forests offer all generations a variety of sports and pure relaxation. All those who cannot ride mountain bikes or walk at the moment or any more will be taken care of very well. We have clinics in our city as well as many homes which are dedicated to taking care of our senior citizens.

Solingen is fun. Countless museums with partly world-wide unique offers, a theater and concert hall and a music school with a wide range of programs are just some examples of the many cultural offers of the City of Blades. No doubt, there is always something happening in Solingen. It is also good when thousands of residents as well as people from the entire region turn the night into day when the Gräfrather Lichterzauber, the Kultur Nacht or the Solinger Lichternacht begin. Solingen promises unforgettable experiences.

Solingen is centrally located. In the heart of North Rhine-Westphalia with its 18 million residents, Solingen borders on Düsseldorf and Cologne to the west, the Ruhr region to the north and the Wupper Hills to the southeast; simply a fantastic place to live.

Mobile, yes, that is Solingen. This is ensured not only by the largest trolleybus network in the whole of Germany but also by the highways A1, A3 and A46, an IC and ICE stop at the Solingen main train station and in just 25 minutes you can reach Düsseldorf and Cologne/Bonn international airports.

Solingen has a lot of potential for real estate investments. This is shown in the figures of the growing city with a high-income population. The prices of building plots and prices for residential and commercial real estate are rising but they are still moderate with reference to nearby metropolises. The attractiveness of the location is reflected because young families and professionals in particular are discovering Solingen as their future home and they are getting their own homes here – in one of the greenest and safest metropolises in North Rhine-Westphalia. There are fallow areas close to the centre that are available for future commercial development. These promise positive returns.

High-tech made in Solingen

Up to today, the Solingen cutlery industry combines technical and manual work processes into one unit which is committed to only two goals: quality and perfection. Manual knowhow is paired with contemporary technical modernization in this industry which is predominantly characterized by small and medium sized companies. One of the oldest and one of the biggest family-run companies in this segment switched a major part of its production to robots in the 70s without forgoing the manual finish by specialists. To date, the artisans' skill and ability are of great importance to the design and quality of Solingen products. This ability is also reflected in the famous factories of Solingen.

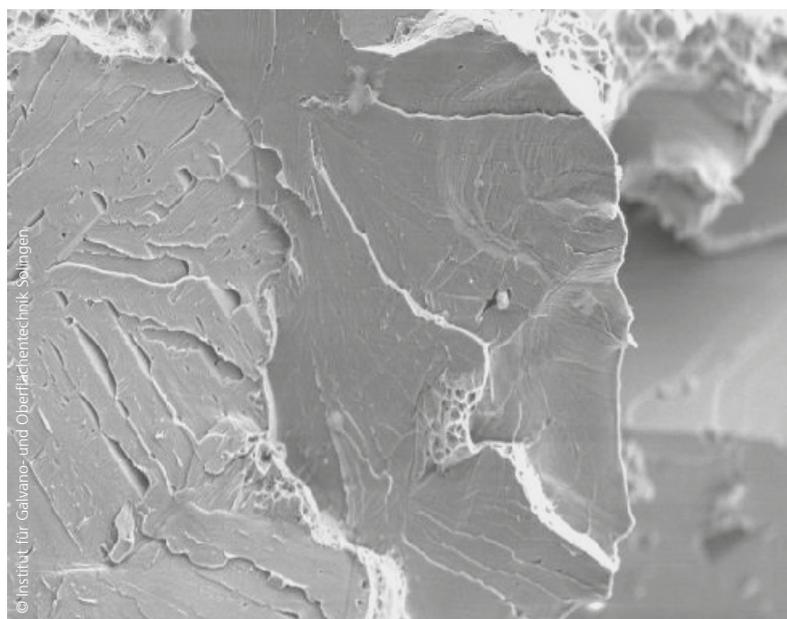


Scissors blanks

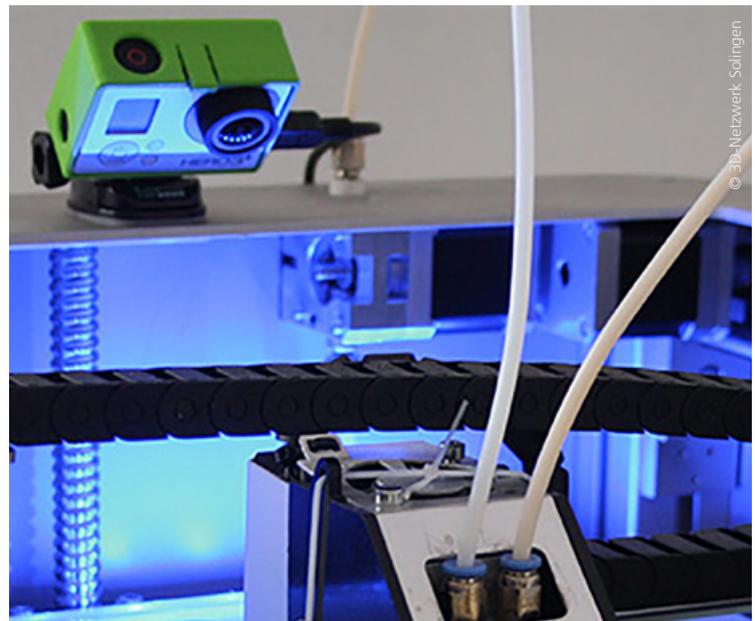
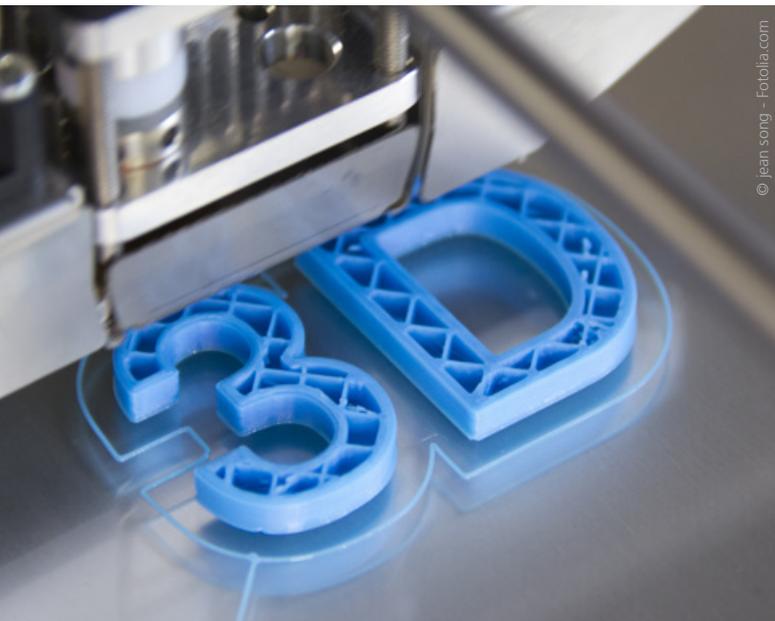
Solingen is moreover a center of **electroplating and surface technology** and it is one of the most important locations of the sector countrywide. The first factories which did electroplating settled in the City of Blades in the 19th century. Today, about 150 companies in Solingen are involved in the electroplating trade. The research and development work at the Institut für Galvano- und Oberflächentechnik Solingen within the metal cluster and BIA as the market leader in the field of plastics finishing are to be highlighted. Our biggest branded companies with international reputation include Wüsthof, Zwilling, Haribo, Led Lenser/Zweibrüder Optoelectronics, Walbusch, BIA Kunststoff- und Galvanotechnik, Codecentric, Heinr. Böker Baumwerk, item Industrietechnik, Brangs + Heinrich and many more companies.



Smithery

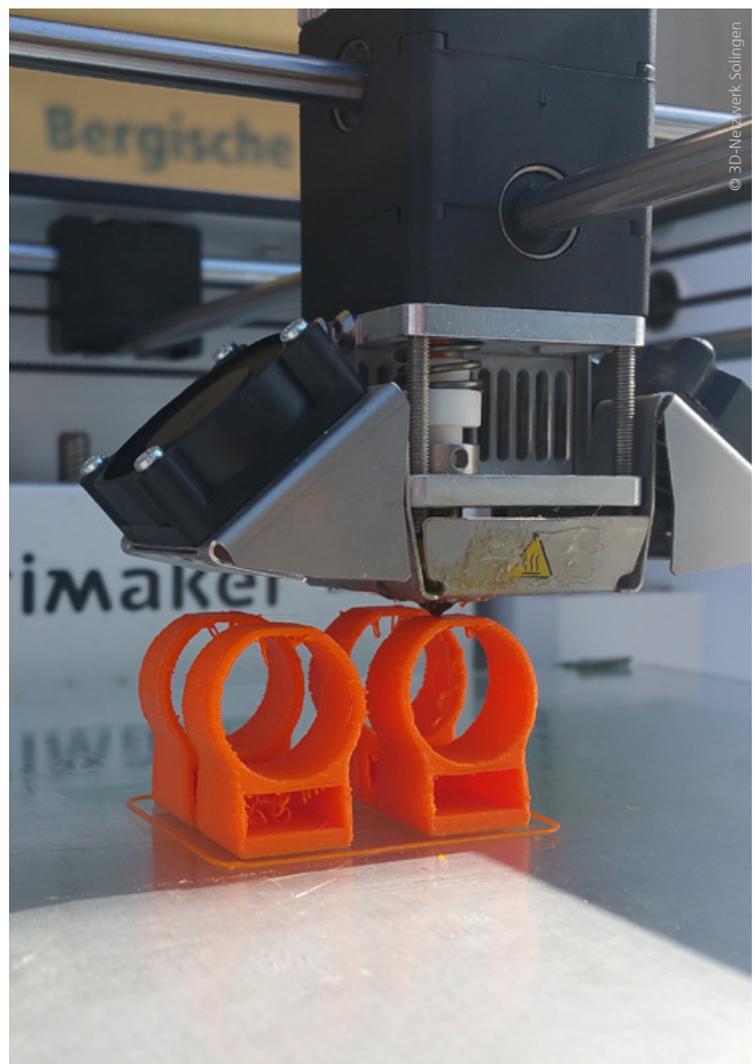


Metallic surface under the microscope



The structural change that industries are exposed to globally is of digital nature. 3D technology plays a vital role in additive manufacturing. Did you know that **Germany's biggest 3D technology network** with members from within the country and abroad is in Solingen? Through the initiative of Economic development, Solingen is consequently promoting the digital structural change. The network has been growing since its establishment in June 2015. Companies, universities, institutions and start-ups based locally and abroad are connected by 3D-Network. Across sectors, digital knowledge is concentrated in Solingen – a competence of priceless value for each production site in global competition.

Solingen is also very sweet: Participants from over 30 countries attend seminars, specialist conferences and training sessions offered every year by the **Zentralfachschule der Deutschen Süßwarenwirtschaft (ZDS)** with their state-of-the-art technical center; for good reason. The confectionery academy is the most prestigious training institute for all areas of the confectionery industry. Moreover, there are preparatory courses for the industrial foreman examination and training for certified food technologists. Since 2016, ZDS has been offering a dual degree course "Confectionery Technologist and Bachelor of Science in Food Technology (baking and confectionery technology) alongside training.

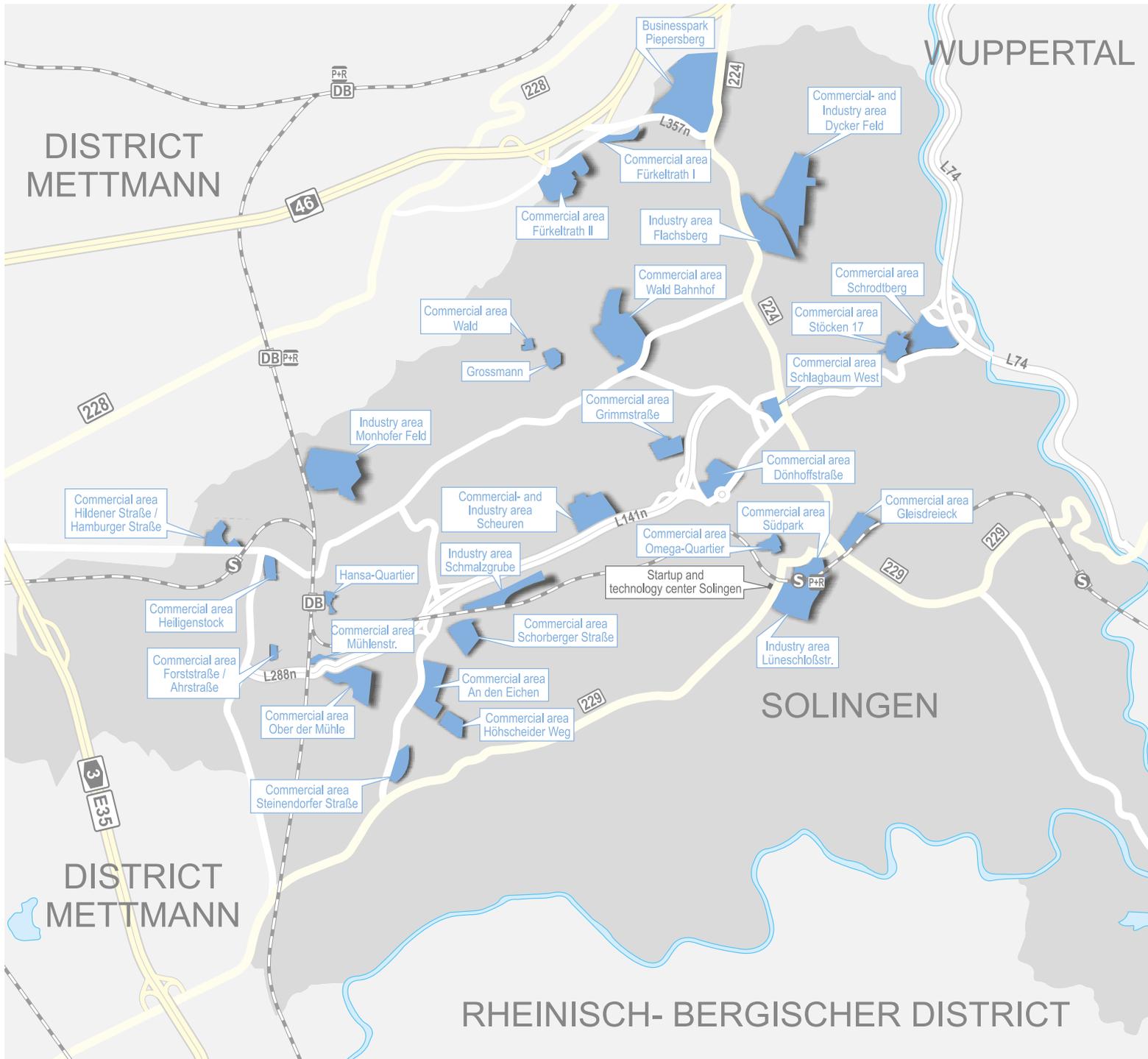


3D print with FDM technology (Fused Deposition Modeling)

Commercial premises

Economic development of the City of Solingen has a wide range of commercial premises for companies that are interested in expansion and settling. For us to meet your individual needs optimally, we stand by your side as a personal partner when planning your project.

In addition, we have the best networks in the region and we then help you to find premises which meet your expectation if we cannot offer any. Just talk to us. Together, we will find the right solution for you. Moreover, we shall present our current offers to you



Our range of services



Startup and technology center Solingen
Economic development of the City of Solingen



Economic development of the City of Solingen is the main point of contact for over 9,000 companies from handicraft businesses to enterprises. Apart from commercial premises management, development and provision of commercial premises, Economic development is also a multifaceted incubator for the young founders and start-up scene of Solingen, the City of Blades. Young, innovative companies and successful long-established companies meet here in workshops and seminars, exchange their knowledge and test for instance the latest methods of innovation management. Additionally, Economic development has launched the biggest network for 3D technology and additive manufacturing in Germany with partners from within the country and abroad. Digital competence – the name Solingen stands for that today as well as for the cutlery industry and for electroplating and surface technology. Furthermore, sustainability and e-mobility are topics which play an important role for Solingen, the City of Blades.

The structural change which industries all over the world are exposed to is of digital nature. 3D technology and additive manufacturing play a pivotal role in industrial production. Metal processing, engine building, surface technology and plastics processing are the focal points of our local industry and additive manufacturing for example in the form of prototyping plays an important role. That way, we secure a key lead for companies in Solingen in the technological competition.

The reactivation of industrial wastelands is the main focus of our sustainable space management. Our objective is to preserve natural habitats and agricultural land where possible. Two projects in particular are currently being focused on. The development of the 4-hectare Omega-Quartier in the middle of a developed city centre and the 6.5-hectare Stöcken 17 (previously P.D. Rasse Söhne) in the suburban area.

While a commercial neighborhood with companies, apartments and cultural offers is coming up on the approximately 4-hectare large Omega space – the outcome of a creative competition among four international architecture firms – a 100% digitalized development location for mobility of the future is supposed to be established on Stöcken 17, the former Rasse-Areal. In all phases of both projects, the residents of Solingen shall be comprehensively involved with their suggestions and ideas. A functioning urban community and sound interaction are simply important to us.



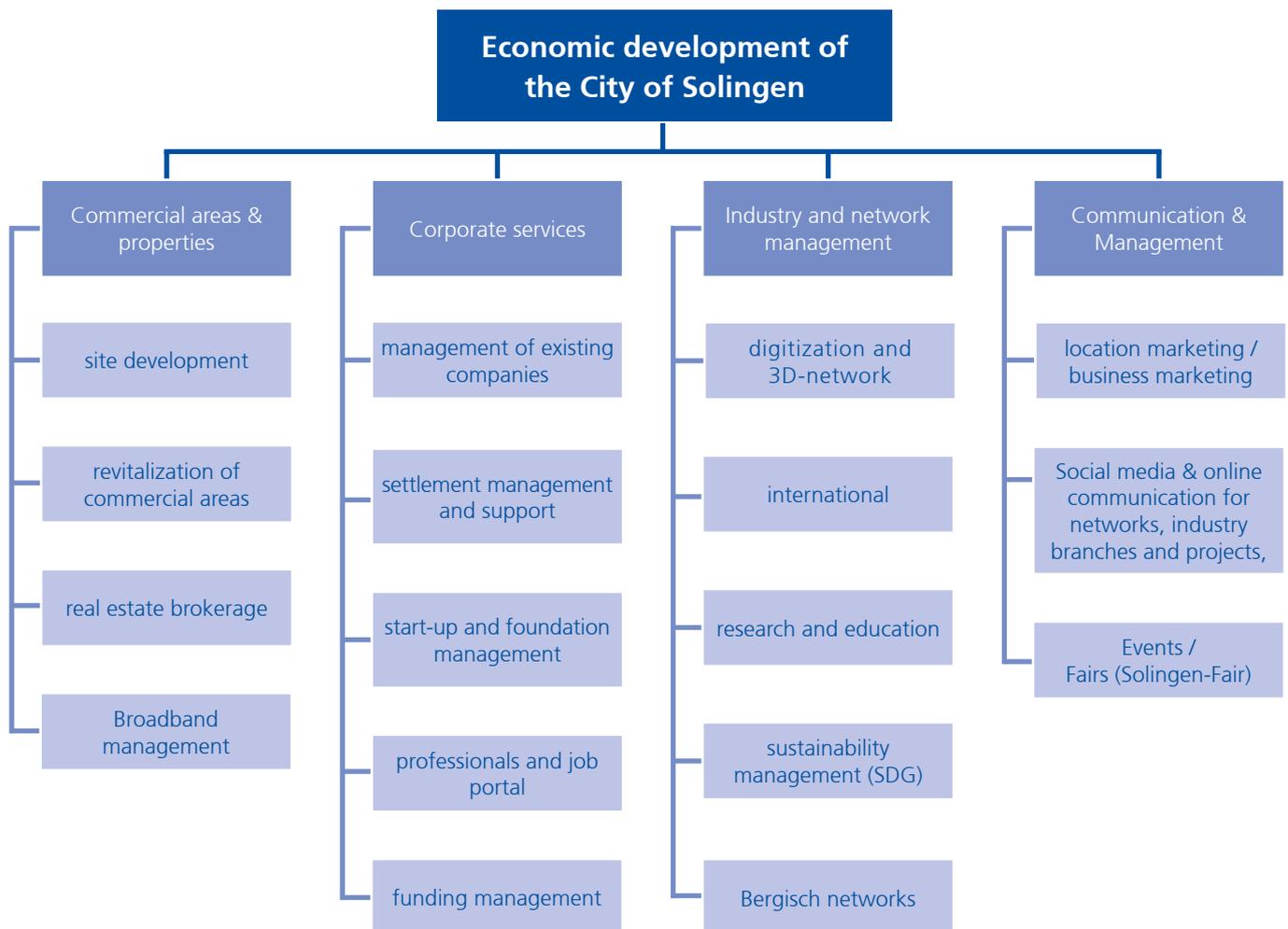
Stöcken 17, former Rasse premises

Companies which want to expand or settle in Solingen are supported by Economic development of the City of Solingen from the beginning to the end, from investment questions to the selection of a suitable location. These experts assist in negotiations with the city administration and they will be happy for your ground-breaking ceremony. If you want to gather speed in cooperation with other companies in Solingen, Economic development shall provide contacts.

Since mid 2014, Solingen has been a part of the assisted regions for the improvement of regional economic structure. Mainly small and medium-sized companies are profiting from it with grants of up to 20% in new assets such as plots, new buildings, machines and facilities with simultaneous personnel organization. Talk to Economic development. It is worth it!

In addition, Economic development has developed an instrument which supports companies in the challenging task of targeted recruitment of skilled employees and executives with its job portal Stellenportal Solingen & Region.

With Economic development, Solingen, the City of Blades offers the main contact person and corresponding services for delegations and foreign investors. Solingen welcomes companies which are interested in establishing distribution channels in Solingen as a European location and which are looking for access to the central economic competencies in form of direct investments in Solingen. In 2018, Economic development of the City of Solingen started the International Business Center and opened and offered a contact point and an information centre with corresponding office choices to interested persons and foreign investors.





3D-network

The 3D-network is an initiative of Economic development of the City of Solingen. Since its establishment in June 2015, the network has already become Germany's biggest network for 3D technologies with companies, start-ups, universities and institutions. The 3D-network is at the Startup and technology center Solingen.

www.3dnetzwerk.com

Stellenportal Solingen & Region

Stellenportal, a virtual platform which is operated by Economic development of the City of Solingen, combines **job listings and applicant pool**. This combination plus the chance of corporate presentation is a real unique selling point in Solingen on a regional level. Bringing together skilled employees and employers from the region – we thereby contribute to a local oriented placement of skilled employees and executives.

www.stellenportal-solingen.de

Coworkit!

Freelancers, creative people, start-ups or even people who are not in Solingen regularly but need work stations can find these in our **co-working space and start-up incubator "coworkit"**, the first of its kind in Solingen. You need a desk or a team office for 3 to 4 people? Including LAN, WLAN, printer, usage of the conference room and coffee at a flat-rate? You are at the right place! Coworkit can offer even more: start-up workshops and presentations, monthly meetings which offer start-ups in Solingen the chance of networking. Moreover, all co-workers get the opportunity to use the 3D lounge of the 3D-network with

corresponding printers and software. Anyone looking for additional support after the coworkit events for example in drawing up a business plan or financing can get this free of charge at our starter center North Rhine-Westfalia.

www.coworkit.de

Solingen-like

What characterizes the business location Solingen and the brand? What does life offer in Solingen? "Solingen-like" is a **portal to Solingen, the City of Blades**. Here you will find information about the City of Blades and learn about the things to know about the history of the City of Blades, the economy and the brand as well as the social life in our city in a charming manner. We recommend our Facebook page in order to stay "up-to-date" daily.

www.facebook.com/solingenlike

IBCS International Business Center Solingen

Solingen, the City of Blades is globally known and is well connected internationally via its companies. It is not only the products and services from Solingen that are sought internationally; Solingen which lies near metropolises is becoming more interesting to companies operating internationally. We as Economic development of the City of Solingen therefore want to push forward our own network with binding structures and have opened the International Business Center Solingen (IBCS).

IBCS is an initiative of Economic development of the City of Solingen in cooperation with Ern-Gruppe from Solingen as well as the international law and tax consultancy firm ECO-VIS with the aim of offering an integral range of services.

www.ibc-solingen.com

Startup and technology center Solingen (arrive and grow)

The **Startup and technology center Solingen** is the first contact point for founders of new businesses and young companies in Solingen. We are offering free consultancy on business start-ups, coaching and mentoring, seminars and workshops as well as flexible office solutions, modern function and seminar rooms.

Start-ups and business consultancy

As a certified Startercenter.NRW Startup and technology center Solingen offers professional support from developing your business idea. You will get support in every phase of your intention of starting a new business. We also have diverse offers for young companies such as seminars which are oriented to specific topics, coaching, consultancy on subsidies and patents.



Work stations in the co-working space

Offices / Co-working space

Apart from consultancy on start-ups, Startup and technology center Solingen also offers the appropriate space for your company. You work in a presentable, historic ambience. The range of options varies from single desks in the **co-working** area to individual offices and large office units. The offer is rounded off by comprehensive service with a main reception, postal service, free conference rooms, diverse function rooms and a professional structure.



Function room in Startup and technology center Solingen

Function rooms

Are you looking for a seminar room in Solingen? We offer space for your meetings, seminars, workshops or conferences. The offer ranges from conference rooms for 8 people to seminar rooms for up to 20 people and conference rooms for up to 140 people. We support your individual wishes with our events service.

Grants

Are you a start-up company that wants to bring your idea to the test phase quickly? Are you about to establish a company? Are you looking for support in the pre-seed or seed phase? Startup and technology center Solingen is the right place to go to for coworkit's start-up grant. Startup and technology center Solingen also offers a professional environment in which you can focus fully on your start-up or the development of your idea with our all-round care-free package.

BERG-PITCH

The BERG-PITCH is the first public start-up pitch in Bergisches Land – an initiative of Economic development and Startup and technology center Solingen. The BERG-PITCH gives start-ups eight minutes for the presentation and another six minutes for questions and answers. Four start-ups have the opportunity to introduce themselves at our pitch. In the end, the public and an expert panel decide who has won the BERG-PITCH and can take the prize.

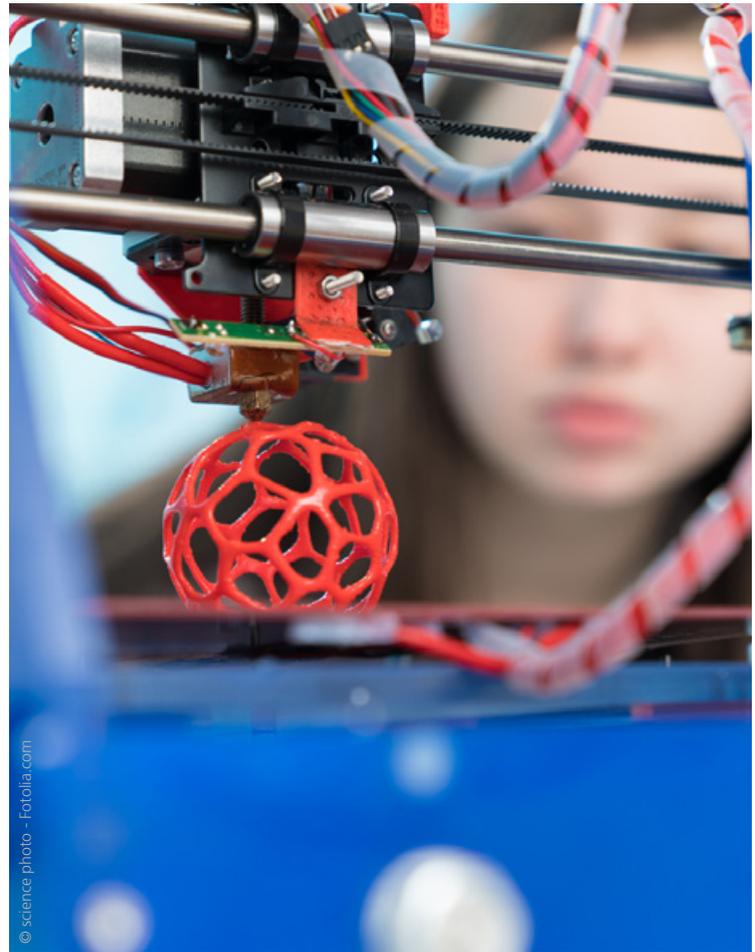
www.gut-sg.de
www.coworkit.de

Industry 4.0: Secure a technological edge!

At some point a business IT specialist came to **3D-network** with a print job. It involved a hand prosthesis. A friend of his had lost the right forearm during an accident. A team consisting of members of the network was quickly established. The hand prosthesis is supposed to be controlled in three ways: via a keypad which is on the prosthesis, via voice command and via pressure impulse from the arm stump (muscle contraction). 3D-networks first medical charity project was born; an additional benefit of the network.

3D-networks main objective is to secure a technological edge for companies in Solingen. Many companies in Solingen and in Bergisches Land are in the production sector. The focal points are metal processing, engine building, surface technology and plastics processing.

We are of the opinion that 3D technology and additive manufacturing offer diverse potential applications and new market opportunities especially for this industry. In our 3D-network, an initiative of Economic development, competencies in aircraft construction and engine building as well as the fashion and textile industries are pooled beyond the cutlery and electroplating industry. Technology providers of the motor industry and medical technology are also represented. In the meantime, our network has developed into the biggest network for 3D technologies in Germany with partners from within the country and abroad.



3D print with FDM technology (Fused Deposition Modeling)

Digital communication requires fast internet via broadband. Solingen caters for this with diverse strategies: In the past few years the Technische Betriebe Solingen have made a name for themselves with the Solicom brand as a provider of fiber optic cables. Over 200 kilometers of fiber optic lines are available for commercial clients. Moreover, the fiber optic infrastructure was expanded in cooperation with the Deutsche Telekom. A third provider in our local market is Unitymedia. Fiber optic connections for the industry and commercial establishments are therefore extensively available. Apart from the corresponding client-specific offers you will certainly find your contact person for services and consultancy in Solingen.

www.3dnetzwerk.com



3D printed model of a hand

Act wisely for our future generations!

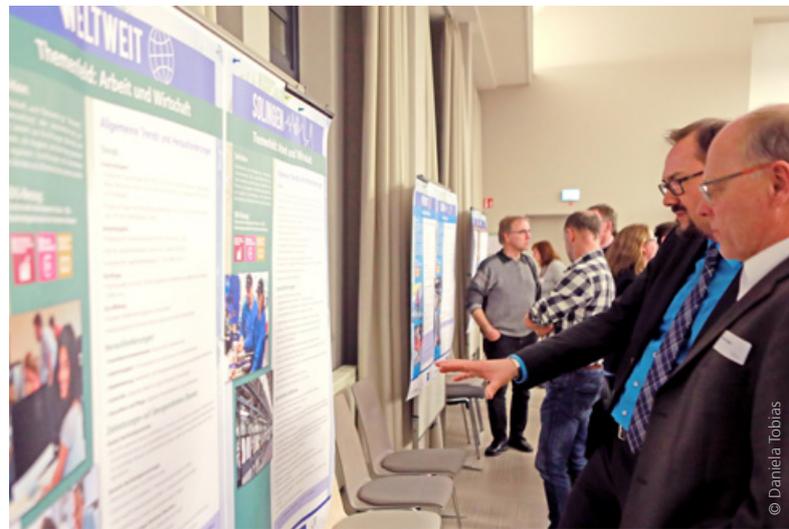
The future starts now. That is how we want to act in Solingen. **“Sustainability”** is increasingly becoming a practiced principle. This is expressed by Solingen’s sustainability conference for instance. This conference is attended not only by experts but also by all residents – young and old.

For years, many people in Solingen have been dealing with different topics revolving around sustainable development – in kindergartens and schools, associations and initiatives, companies and institutions, political parties and administration. This engagement should be continued, intensified and put on an even wider scale. A communal sustainability strategy is supposed to be developed and implemented.

The aim is to develop a strategy for Solingen on sustainable development and implement it and take up the global sustainability goals agreed upon by the United Nations in order to achieve new and innovative impulses for sustainable trade on the communal level.

Almost 200 residents of Solingen of different ages played a part in this. Their ideas, suggestions and visions are incorporated in the city’s sustainability strategy which is supposed to be determined by the policy makers. It involved and involves six topics: social participation, natural resources and environment, climate and energy, mobility, employment and economy as well as global responsibility.

www.solingen.de



Sustainability conference in Solingen



Smart City Solingen: Hey, BOB!

Apart from the resource-sparing space management through the reactivation of industrial wastelands, electro-mobility in Solingen is a main element of sustainable trade. Diesel buses will become a thing of the past when the entire fleet of Solingen's public transportation services shall be replaced by 2030. Solingen is advancing a project in which the overhead contact line is an independent charging infrastructure.

BOB – That is what the new battery-powered trolleybus (**B**atterie-**O**berleitungs-**B**us) is supposed to be called: emission-free local public transport as part of the **"Smart City"** – that is the program. The aim: emission-free local public transport that is powered purely by electricity in the future.

After all: Solingen has the biggest trolleybus network in Germany. A "smart grid", an intelligent power supply system develops when the overhead contact lines become a charging infrastructure and not just an overhead contact line. Pollutants and noise are reduced in that way and the vehicles can recharge dynamically during the drive and also drive without a problem along sections without overhead contact lines hence connecting the outskirts even better.

www.neue-effizienz.de → research → bob-solingen



Bicycle, car, bus: everything with electric drive

Railway station Solingen-Mitte



Our museums – They are worth visiting!

Experience the history of knives, scissors and cutlery in different museums. At the LVR-Industriemuseum Gesenkschmiede Hendrichs you can actively experience how scissors are made in the original ambience among other things. The Deutsche Klingenmuseum Solingen presents itself in a modern way and with an extensive collection of cutlery from many eras.

The Museum Plagiarius deals with plagiarism which frequently affects Solingen's industry. There are certainly museums in Solingen which cover other topics. At the Kunstmuseum Solingen, you can find the Center for Persecuted Arts – which is unique countrywide – as well as exhibitions of modern contemporary art.

www.die-bergischen-drei.de/stadt-solingen



LVR-Industriemuseum Solingen-Gesenkschmiede Hendrichs

Art and Culture: The Südpark



Storehouse and Restaurant StückGUT in Südpark



Forum Produktdesign in Südpark

Many artists have settled in the Südpark which is centrally located in Solingen's city center. The area moreover allures with the Forum Produktdesign and the Museum Plagiarius. On the grounds of the listed former main train station of Solingen, art is given a special space. The Korkenzieherstrasse stretches beyond the Südpark which leads walkers and cyclists through the entire urban area and restaurants and cafés at its periphery invite one to take a break. The Omega site borders the Südpark. Modern apartments, ateliers, restaurants and commercial premises are soon coming up on the former industrial site; an example of good, modern district management at the entrance of the city center.

www.gueterhallen.de

www.ig-wiss.de

www.restaurantstueckgut.de

Impressive excursion destinations

There is a range of excursion destinations in Solingen and the surroundings which impress through a symbiosis of natural landscape and historic ambience – the Solinger Kotten is one of them.

The Müngstener Brücke, the Schloss Burg and the Fauna Zoo are in line with nature and form highlights of the City of Blades and its surroundings.

Picnic under Germany's highest railway bridge

Müngstener Brücke which is 120 years is Germany's highest and most imposing construction of its kind. The legendary bridge is surrounded by Müngsten Bridge Park whose meadows and observation decks invite one to have a picnic, sunbathe, hike and play. Pure relaxation in extraordinary panorama!

www.brueckenpark-muengsten.de



Müngstener Brücke



Schloss Burg

Medieval atmosphere at the Burg Castle

On foot, with the car or with the associated cable car – Schloss Burg is a "must" and it invites one to travel through time into medieval times with a wonderful view. Medieval games regularly ensure entertainment and insights into a time long past. The medieval historic monument will attract more visitors in the future as a modern tourist and conference center.

www.schlossburg.de

Experience industrial history live

Our old Kotten are worth visiting more than once – the Balkhauser Kotten and the Wipperkotten. In the past, Kotten were workshops in which knives and scissors were sharpened and polished. The industrialization of our city commenced in buildings of this kind. There is also a grinding museum in Balkhauser Kotten in which the old craftsman's tradition is demonstrated live.

www.balkhauser-kotten.de

www.wipperkotten.de



Wipperkotten on the Wupper



© Hofgarten Solingen

Hofgarten Solingen

Shopping in the city center

In the city center of Solingen, there are different shopping facilities apart from a big pedestrian zone. One of the city center magnets is the Hofgarten with its architecture which is inspired by nature, industry and fashion. The center offers an interesting shopping world including a varied selection of culinary delights.

www.einkaufen-in-solingen.de
www.hofgartensolingen.de

Shopping in Ohligs

On a long, vehicle-free pedestrian passage, Ohligs offers a wide range of cafés and ice cream parlors apart from numerous shopping facilities which make shopping in Ohligs a relaxed affair.

www.owg-ohligs.de

Shopping in Wald

The market place and the church of Solingen-Wald are surrounded by diverse shopping facilities. In addition, the Friedrich-Ebert-Straße and the Walder Schlauch are nearby with a large number of smaller shops and restaurants.

www.solingen-wald.com

Shopping in Höhscheid

The shopping facilities stretch over the entire main street in Höhscheid: Starting from the Höhscheider Denkmal up to the Grünewald railway station, retail trade offers a diversified range with sufficient parking spaces.

www.hoehscheid.com



FACTORY OUTLET CITY SOLINGEN

Before the big outlet centers in Germany, Solingen was way ahead as a Factory Outlet City. For the residents of Solingen, it was so obvious that no one noticed this unique selling point. Economic development of the City of Solingen first described this unique selling point fully and it contributes to Solingen's fame as a Factory Outlet City with different measures.

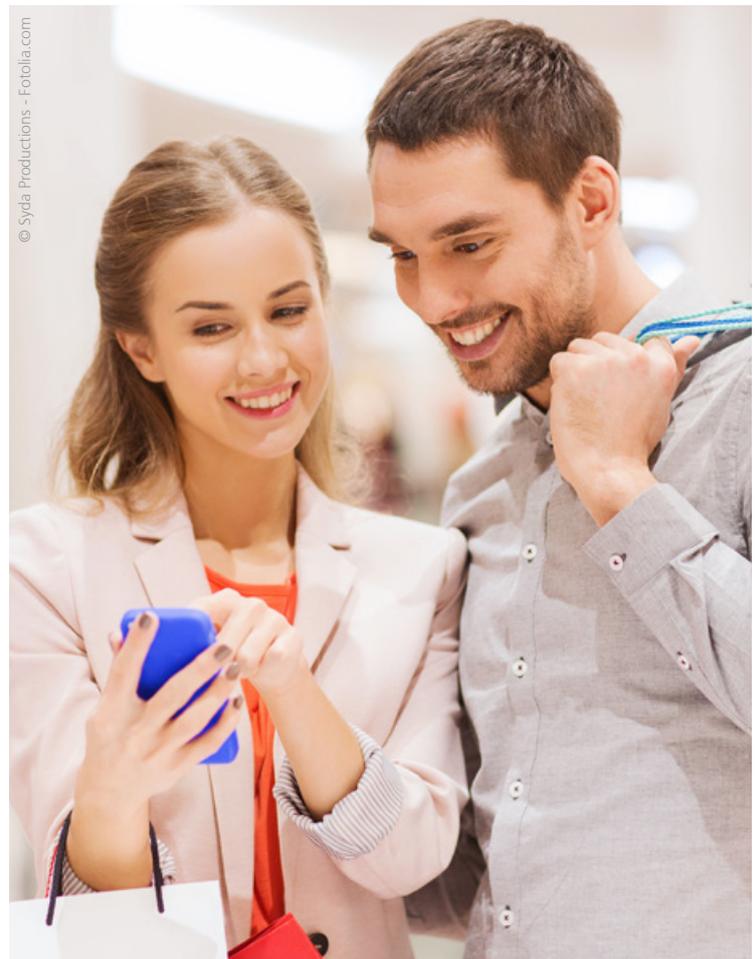
The special feature in Solingen: The City of Blades has certainly grown as a Factory Outlet City and it has originated from itself. Here, no artificially built, replaceable shopping paradise awaits the visitors. In fact, buyers in the Solingen Factory Outlets can convince themselves personally of the quality of the items.

In over 30 locations spread across the town, the offer of world-renowned brands trump with authentic factory sales directly from the manufacturers! With a bit of luck, one can be advised by the boss personally. There is nothing like this anywhere in Germany! Economic development brings order to many of these offers with brochures and its own website.

www.werksverkauf-in-solingen.de



Wide selection at the factory sales



Metropolitan area: Solingen takes responsibility in regional competition

We are putting our future action as a city on secure foundation. The federal government and the state government as well as the European Union support us in this regard. For our voice to be heard clearly, Solingen has joined the metropolitan area of Rheinland. Germany's regions are in stiff competition countrywide.

The cities and districts of the metropolitan area of Rheinland with about 8.5 million people (administrative districts: Cologne and Düsseldorf) benefit from each other through cooperation in transportation, education, culture and tourism. Our Lord mayor, Tim Kurzbach was elected to the board for this association. He stood with the support of Wuppertal, Remscheid and other districts organized under the Kommunale Arbeitsgemeinschaft Bergisch Land.

All in all, Bergisches Land will actively involve itself in all its opportunities in the new metropolitan region because infrastructure projects do not stop at city or district borders.



Cologne Cathedral on the Rhine



Rhine Tower and Medienhafen in Düsseldorf



Müngstener Brücke and Bridge Park



© Himmelsblick

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