





WORLDSKILLS LEIPZIG 2013 OPENS FOR VISITORS

Leipzig, 3 July 2013: WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 has begun. This morning, politicians and heads of companies gathered to symbolically commence the Competition by cutting a ribbon at the Samsung pavilion. Subsequently, they were able to make first impressions on a tour of the grounds and meet with participants and visitors.

The EU Commissioner for Education, Culture and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou, thanked sponsors, hosts and organizers for making possible a "world-class event". She explained how WorldSkills is a wonderful event where industry and education can enter into discourse. Later today, the Commissioner presented the "European Alliance of Apprenticeships" – a pan-European cooperation for vocational education.

The President of WorldSkills International, Simon Bartley, welcomed the first visitors with the words: "Enjoy the Event and experience your future in the making." Jae-shin Kim, Korean Ambassador and Dr. Ji Oh Song, Executive Vice President and Senior Advisor at Samsung, congratulated: "As Overall Event Presenter, we feel honored to host the Opening Ceremony and provide the starting point for the round tour with our Samsung Pavilion. We hope that the festivities will be an adequate commencement for this exciting Event and wish every participant a successful Competition."

The group of high profile visitors, among them Cornelia Quennet-Thielen, State Secretary of the Federal Minister for Education and Research, Sven Morlok, Deputy Minister President of Saxony and State Minister for Economy, Labor and Transportation, Brunhild Kurth, State Minister for Culture, the Mayor of the City of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung, CEO of WorldSkills Germany, Elfi Klumpp, Martin Buhl-Wagner, Executive Director of the Leipzig Trade Fair, as well as Dr. Theodor Niehaus and Hubert Romer, President and CEO of WorldSkills Leipzig 2013, visited the events Hairdressing, Welding, Autobody Repair and others.

Later, the group also visited a number of interactive booths by sponsors and exhibitors. At different stations, they wielded power tools and showed off their









craftsmanship. The highlight was the DMG Mori Seiki booth, where Mayor Jung received a specially designed medal in honor of these special guests.

Under the patronage of the German Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel, WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 will take place at the Leipzig trade fair, July 2-7. At the Competition, more than 1000 skilled youth up to the age of 22 from all over the globe compete for the world title.

Find out more at: www.worldskillsleipzig2013.com. Contact for Journalists: Werner Kipp, Kipp@worldskillsleipzig2013.com.

WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Saxonian State Ministry of Economy, Technology and Transportation and the European Social Fund.

WorldSkills Germany is the national Member organisation of WorldSkills International. WorldSkills Germany supports top performance and creates platforms for successful careers by hosting regional and national skills competitions. The organisation was founded in 2006. WorldSkills Germany is also a member of WorldSkills Europe.

Find out more at: www.worldskillsgermany.com. Contact for Journalists: Jörg Wehrmann, Wehrmann@worldskillsgermany.com

WorldSkills International is a not for profit membership association open to agencies or bodies which have a responsibility for promoting vocational education and training in their respective countries/regions. WorldSkills International operates worldwide in 65 countries and is politically and denominationally neutral. WorldSkills International provides a unique means of exchange and comparison of world-class competency standards in the industrial trades and service sectors of the global economy.

Find out more at: <u>www.worldskills.org</u>. Contact for Journalists: Michelle Bussey, <u>Michelle.Bussey@worldskills.org</u>.









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