



P R E S S R E L E A S E

EXPO REAL Munich: ECE presents Forum Mittelrhein Koblenz

— Stand reception with Minister President Oettinger – large crowds at ECE stand

Munich, 5 Oct 2009 – On Monday, 5th October 2009, Forum Mittelrhein Koblenz was presented at the ECE stand reception: Dr. Eberhard Schulte-Wissermann, Lord Mayor of Koblenz, Thomas Hohwieler, Managing Director of STRABAG Real Estate, and Alexander Otto, CEO of ECE, disclosed a model of the project at the International Real Estate fair EXPO REAL in Munich. Forum Mittelrhein consists of a shopping center with 20,000sqm retail area as well as a cultural building providing a media library, museum and tourist center. Between the two buildings a large square of 6,000sqm is created with outdoor restaurants, which could also be used for weekly markets, theater festivals, concerts and sporting events. The project is realized by the Joint Venture between ECE and STRABAG.

“The clever combination of culture, communication and retail at the right place will clearly increase the city center’s functionality and strengthen the city’s development potential,” says the Lord Mayor of Koblenz, Schulte-Wisseemann, confidently.

Alexander Otto declares: “We are proud of this urban development project. With the symbiosis of retail, culture and a large public square, Forum Mittelrhein will become the vibrant center of Koblenz.”

Thomas Hohwieler from STRABAG emphasized as ECE’s Joint Venture partner the business partnership of the two companies: “For the city of Koblenz there is a double guarantee of success for the revival of the city center with those two strong partners.”

Minister President Günther Oettinger was a prominent visitor at ECE's stand reception and gathered information on ECE's activities in Baden-Wurtemberg. ECE created in the past year approx. 3,500 new jobs with its center projects, such as recently Stadtgalerie Heilbronn or Ettlinger Tor in Karlsruhe.

Further highlights at the ECE exhibition stand in hall B2 (stand 340) are the models of the new Thier Areal project in Dortmund as well as the model of Galeria Kaskada in Szczecin, Poland. The financing was recently secured for the 300-million-euro project in Dortmund – in the middle of the financial crisis. Galeria Kaskada is planned to open in 2011 with 140 shops and with its broad range shall also attract customers from Germany to the Polish city.

Successful projects from the Office, Traffic and Industries field are presented at the ECE stand as well. ECE constructs a new central warehouse for Schwab Versand / myToys.de in Langenselbold/Hesse. Some days ago, ECE has been commissioned with the construction of the Hermes-Nord-Hub in Langenhagen near Hanover, after it had already realized the Hermes-Zentral-Hub in Friedewald/Hesse in April.

ECE – a strong partner

Hamburg-based ECE develops, plans, builds, leases and manages large commercial properties since 1965 and actively operates in 13 countries. With 114 managed shopping centers, ECE is European market leader in the field of shopping centers. On an overall sales area of 3.5 million square meters, about 12,000 retail businesses generate 13.1 billion euros in annual sales. Another 21 shopping centers are currently under construction or planned throughout Europe, among them the centrals station cities Vienna central station and Vienna West, Galeria Kaskada in the Polish city Szczecin, Árkád Szeged in Hungary, Rhein-Galerie in Ludwigshafen, Skyline Plaza in Frankfurt as well as shopping centers i. a. in Budapest, Sofia and Istanbul.