



## Press Release

### German Optical Museum Jena

#### German Optical Museum to become a reality

- The Optical Museum in the city of Jena to become the German Optical Museum
- Networking with universities creates potential for one of the world's leading museums
- Hub of education for MINT subjects
- Magnet for Jena, the City of Light

JENA, 5 April 2016

Supported by partners from industry, science and the city, the German Optical Museum will be built in the city of Jena. ZEISS seized the initiative to make this museum a reality on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of its company founder. The goal is to establish a foundation which will become the sponsor of the German Optical Museum.

The initiators of the planned foundation are: the Ernst Abbe Foundation, the Carl Zeiss Foundation, the city of Jena, Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the company ZEISS. They will work together to raise the required investment volume and to secure the financing for the running costs. The foundation is open to additional partners, and initial discussions with other interested parties have already been conducted.

Today the initiators adopted the most important key points for the museum and have taken the next steps for designing the new optical museum in Jena. A final decision concerning the realization of a German Optical Museum will depend on e.g. the entire design, which must be defined in the coming months. External experts will be involved in this stage of the process.

"In the same year of Carl Zeiss' 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, it's important to us to begin this significant initiative and important undertaking. I am sure that this museum is not only a suitable, but also a forward-looking way to honor our company founder here in the very city where he started his company," said Dr. Michael Kaschke, President and CEO of Carl Zeiss AG, expressing his excitement.

The previous Optical Museum will be completely redesigned and reestablished as the German Optical Museum and shall serve as a leading museum in the national and international museum

community. Rolf Ferdinand Schmalbrock, who heads the Ernst Abbe Foundation, added: "Today people interested in optics are coming from all around the world to visit this extensive collection. With a new design, the museum could position itself even better internationally, becoming a site which attracts visitors to the region.

The scientific backing from Friedrich Schiller University Jena plays an important role in this venture: "Friedrich Schiller University warmly welcomes this initiative and sees itself as an active partner in the shaping of the museum and providing scientific support," says University President Dr. Walter Rosenthal.

In addition to the putting on display the scientific history of optics and the history of the optical instrument construction, the German Optical Museum will also be a place where the public and experts can meet via many different educational programs.

Talking about the adoption of this plan, Dr. Albrecht Schröter, the Mayor of Jena, commented: "This undertaking demonstrates how well industry, science and the city work together in Jena, ensuring that lofty goals have a chance to succeed. The German Optical Museum project is extremely important for drawing tourists to our city."

**Contact for the press**

ZEISS Group  
Jörg Nitschke, Press Spokesman  
Phone +49 7364 20-3242  
Email: joerg.nitschke@zeiss.com

[www.zeiss.com/press](http://www.zeiss.com/press)

**About ZEISS**

ZEISS is an internationally leading technology enterprise operating in the optics and optoelectronics industries. The ZEISS Group develops and distributes semiconductor manufacturing equipment, measuring technology, microscopes, medical technology, eyeglass lenses, camera and cine lenses, binoculars and planetarium technology. With its solutions, the company constantly advances the world of optics and helps shape technological progress. ZEISS is divided up into the four segments Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology, Research & Quality Technology, Medical Technology, and Vision Care/Consumer Optics. ZEISS is represented in over 40 countries and operates more than 30 production sites, over 50 sales and service locations and about 25 research and development facilities.

In fiscal year 2014/15 the company generated revenue approximating €4.5 billion with around 25,000 employees. Founded in 1846 in Jena, the company is headquartered in Oberkochen, Germany. Carl Zeiss AG is the strategic management holding company that manages the ZEISS Group. The company is wholly owned by the Carl Zeiss Stiftung (Carl Zeiss Foundation).

Further information at [www.zeiss.com](http://www.zeiss.com)