

Jena Glows

The City of Light - Jena chose this name because this term describes many facets of the city. Light is not only essential for the local companies of the **optical and photonic technologies** and for **solar technology**. Light also stands for a mindset that always strives for insight and perfection. It is evident in the term "**Light Ideas**", which dates back to Jena's most famous professor, the poet Friedrich Schiller. Last but not least, the term represents the many flashes of inspiration that young researchers experience again and again in Jena.

Networks in the City of Light

Jena's economic networks are also "flooded with light." They're characterized through their **consistent focus on state of the art technology**. Up to date scientific knowledge is translated into market-ready products.

One of the most lively networks is the **CoOptics Excellence Cluster**. Its objective is to make Jena a **motor of innovation for optical technologies** in Europe and to have a say in defining the standards for education and training in this field. About 250 companies, universities, research and educational facilities in the region participate in this network. Currently, the cluster is supported with a sum of 20 million euro from the Free State of Thuringia in order to push innovation in the growth markets ecology and energy, security and mobility as well as life sciences and medicine.

There's something else that contributes to the **success of Jena's networks**: They are so tightly woven that they offer a multitude of contacts and partners to allow economic and scientific challenges to be met. In practice this means: One rarely needs to leave Jena if one is seeking **support on the international level**. From the initial idea to the market ready end product, one can find solutions that light the way. Exactly how it should be in a City of Light.

Network Members:

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OptoNet bundles the interests from 92 companies, research and education facilities, investors and public institutions with the goal of promoting optical technologies. The traditional optics region of Thuringia is one of the most successful "Optics Valleys" of Europe. OptoNet is subsidized by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and is responsible for the coordination of the nationwide project "CoOPTICS - Cooperate in

Optics", which is geared towards the strengthening of the relations between research and economy.

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medways e.V. is an association of leading German research institutes, industrial enterprises and universities. This association allows the development of new procedures for diagnostics and therapy in ophthalmology as well as leading global products of medical technology. medways is a member of the German Medical Technology Alliance.

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The TowerByte eG is an association of different software companies. Every member of the collective is specialized in one or multiple aspects of the E-commerce branch. The services offered include the development, marketing, distribution and implementation of software solutions.

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The Cluster is the **networking, communications and project management platform** for the Life Sciences industry in the region of Central Germany. In close collaboration with start-up companies, the industry and research facilities we develop new business concepts, product ideas and business models. For entrepreneurs and researchers we provide a professional coordination office for Thuringia, Saxony-Anhalt and Saxony to strengthen **supraregional collaboration across different locations** and to facilitate technology transfer in the Life Sciences smoothly and professionally.

BVMW Professional Group "Precision from Jena"

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In May 2006, the BVMW Professional Group "Precision from Jena" became a spin off of the 1998 founded association of the same name. Among others, the goal is the organization of the economic know-how and the strengthening of the innovative forces of the participating companies and specialists.

NEMO-SpectroNet & NEMO-VisQuaNet

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NEMO-SpectroNet & NEMO-VisQuaNet link competences to make difficult constellations visible through colors or spectrums. The data gained in this process is made useful for the fields of research and industry, nutrition and health, transport and security as well as ecology and administration. The Technology and Innovations Park Jena GmbH is a network management facility for the competence network NEMO SpectroNet.

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PolymerMat e.V. plastics cluster is the network for Thuringian companies that produce or process plastics. It establishes a partnership between economy, science and education. The aim of the cluster is to consistently **promote the plastics industry along the value added chain. With its projects, it offers support in strengthening the innovative and economic power of the involved companies.**

Regional Cooperation

Additionally, the city of Jena is committed to cooperating with other regions. (Links open in German)

[Industrial Initiative for Central Germany](#)

[Impulse Region Erfurt-Weimar-Jena](#)

[Sister Cities](#)

[Market Champions](#) from Thuringia

[Landesentwicklungsgesellschaft Thüringen mbH](#)

[Industrial Initiative for Central Germany](#)

[Metropolregion Mitteldeutschland](#)

Jena companies are also actively engaged in the network [OLAB](#).

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