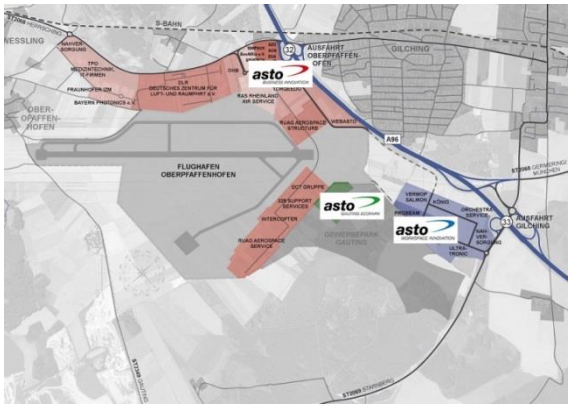
Astro-Park at the Foothills of the Alps: A New Piece of Art

Created by the Berlin-based painter and sculptor Alvar Beyer, the sculpture "Up to the Stars" of polished stainless steel was inaugurated at the end of November 2018 with the participation of Bavarian government representatives. The sculpture is Alvar Bayer's interpretation of the interplay of technology and art.
With a maximum height of 330 cm and a width of 290 cm, the sculpture "Up to the Stars" has a total surface of almost 20 square meters, enough projection area for dreams to take off.
For me, the sculpture suggests a supersonic airplane with feathered wings, or a winged reentry capsule coming back from a time-machine trip – or the Berlin based artist wanted to allude to the role the Oberpfaffenhofen airport played during the Berlin airlift 1948/49.



The sculpture "Up to the stars" after its unveiling with the artist Alvar Beyer (middle) and the managing directors Ekkehart Fabian (right) and Dr. med. Bernd Schulte-Middelich (left) on 30th November 2018. All images [1]

The large wing-like areas are a perfect match for the Aerospace and Technology Center Astro-Park ("astropark") and its direct neighborhood, the German Aerospace Center, RUAG and OHB.

According to Alvar Bayer's interpretation the sculpture "relates to the history of the local area as a place of aviation development".

The story started with the founding of the airport Oberpfaffenhofen in 1933 by the legendary aircraft manufacturer and technology pioneer Claude Dornier, who among other innovations developed the first functioning VTOL aircraft (DO-31), as well as the robust flying instruments DO-27 (STOL), DO-28, the Skyservant, the workhorse of aviation and various revolutionary flying boats, still being echoed today in the "Seastar" development.
Of course also Lilium's development of an autonomous flying air taxi at Astro-Park Oberpfaffenhofen is following proudly in the spirit of these innovations.
The former airport site nowadays is partly RUAG Aerospace, partly Astro-Park terrain.

The Astro-Park site is located in close proximity to today's business airport Oberpfaffenhofen, but also to the German Space Operations Center (DLR/GSOC), where in 1969 the entry into space exploration with the control responsibility for the first German research satellite AZUR took place; in 1982 the first participation in a manned space mission was marked by Ulf Merbold's FSLP Spacelab flight.
In 1992 the inauguration of the Columbus Control Center (Col-CC) - which since 1998 is responsible for the operation of the International Space Station (ISS) - was performed by ESA and Bavarian government representatives.[2]

Also located on the DLR premises is the Galileo control center complex for the European navigation system since 2009. [3]
The multi-award winning DLR Institute of Robotics and Mechatronics, one of the leading development centers for social, industrial and space applications of robotics should be mentioned also.[4]
Thus, the astropark location provides ideal prerequisites for synergy effects with established companies (industrial applications) and start-ups (high-tec innovations).

Astro-Park: Creating Jobs. Promoting Innovation [1]

Around the Oberpfaffenhofen airport an expanding international hub of enterprises working on industrial applications in high-tech industries is developing. In addition to the established multinationals, the Astro-Park "Business Innovation" project includes already numerous small and medium-sized enterprises. The project is keen to attract further new busines and technology applications.
Astro-Park is being developed in close consultation with the surrounding towns of Gilching, Wessling, Gauting and the District of Starnberg.
The company is in charge of end-to-end management of projects throughout Germany, from channelling the initial ideas through to taking occupancy of the property.

Astro-Park: List of established Companies [1]

OHB System AG (Raumfahrt Weßling-Oberpfaffenhofen

Lilium GmbH

Materialise GmbH

Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen

AOA Apparatebau Gauting GmbH

bavAIRia e.V.

BERNS Engineers GmbH

Concat AG

Denk mit! Zwerge Astopark (Kinderkrippe)

European Space Agency

Exterity

HE Space Operations GmbH

Infotechnik GmbH

INSYEN AG

iTANCIA GmbH

Dornier Seawings GmbH

Michael Blaschko GmbH

ORYX Technologies GmbH

P3 Voith Aerospace GmbH

paul+paul GmbH & Co.KG

air-law.de (Rechtsanwalt Frank Dörner)

Richard Schulz Tiefbau GmbH & Co.KG

Spheros GmbH

Telespazio VEGA Deutschland GmbH

Therapiezentrum Astopark - Physiotherapie

TSUBAKI DEUTSCHLAND GmbH

ViaLight Communications GmbH

WAGNER Elektroheiztechnik GmbH

Needless to say, that many of the afore mentioned companies are members or partners of the international "SpaceOps"- Organization motivated by their interactions with various space activities of DLR's space operations control centers.
The detailed company profiles can easily be found on the respective internet pages.

References:

[1] Astro-Park https://www.astopark.de/en/auto-group-en/

[2] DLR GSOC https://www.dlr.de/rb/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-6821/4251_read-40169/

[3] Galileo Control Center https://www.dlr.de/gfr/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-9565/16483_read-40351/

[4] Institut für Robotik und Mechatronik https://www.dlr.de/rm/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-8017