

**Feierstunde anlässlich des 100. Triebwerks von Rolls Royce**

**am 07. März 2019 in Dahlewitz**

**Grußwort**

***Es gilt das gesprochene Wort***

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

26 years ago, this site here was an empty field.

There was nothing except plenty of grass – and maybe some farm animals.  
We don't really know.

Thanks to Rolls Royce, this has become a technological hub. Dahlewitz has turned into an economic powerhouse, attracting talents from all over the world. Men and women from over 50 nations work here.

These days, in Germany, we often talk about the importance of open-mindedness and what we can do to protect liberal values. Rolls Royce is an excellent example – because it demonstrates that we can do so much better if we think globally and respect each other.

Brandenburg has benefited greatly from Rolls Royce and the aviation industry – because of the industry's economic strength but also because aviation has always been at the forefront of technological progress.

There are many examples: Rolls Royce's Power Gearbox, the development of hybrid-electric technologies, the use of virtual reality applications and artificial intelligence and so on.

In a few years we might see the next brand new topic. Aviation is a highly dynamic field – which is good for Brandenburg.

When I say that Brandenburg has benefited greatly I also think of our universities. One of Rolls Royce's most important academic partners is the BTU Cottbus Senftenberg, the Brandenburg University of Technology in Cottbus, whose president I was before I became Minister of Economic Affairs. The BTU was the first University Technology Centre of Rolls Royce in Germany. When the BTU was awarded the UTC-status, in 2005, I was still vice president of the Technical University of Berlin.

And I can remember very well that by then I was not at all amused about this decision. I wanted Rolls Royce to come to Berlin and to cooperate with us, the Technical University. Later, when I came to Cottbus, I was of course very happy about Rolls Royce's close collaboration with the BTU.

This cooperation between Rolls Royce and the BTU has been a breeding ground for innovative technologies. Partnerships between science and industry will become even more important in the near future. As you know, the federal government is likely to phase out coal power. This decision will entail further structural transformation in the Lusatia region. Both public and private investment will be necessary to cushion the effects of structural change. I agree with Minister President Woidke, who recently said: East Germany needs a technological boost. Such a boost would help us to successfully manage the upcoming challenges.

Leading Companies like Rolls Royce have played an important role in strengthening our economic position. And I am sure that Rolls Royce will continue to do so.

As a matter of fact: We are very grateful that you are here.

We are very grateful about your lasting commitment.

And we are grateful about your plans to even expand your activities in Brandenburg.

In September 2017, Rolls Royce Dahlewitz started the series production of its Trent XWB. Since then dozens of aircraft engines have been produced here and have been sold to major carriers. Today we are celebrating **number 100**. 100 state-of-the-art aircraft engines within one and a half years – this is really impressive. The Rolls Royce workforce has done a great job. Congratulations!

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all worried about the upcoming Brexit. For this very reason, it matters much to us that Rolls Royce Germany considers itself a truly European company.

Again: we are very glad to have you here. The state government of Brandenburg will continue to support Rolls Royce in the best way possible. Thank you.