

Tempelhof Airport takes off

Berlin, 01.06.2021. With a gross floor area of 307,000 square meters and 7,269 rooms, Berlin Tempelhof Airport (THF) has been considered one of the largest buildings in the world since its completion in 1941. Following closure of the airport in 2008, the 300-hectare airfield has been reopened to the public, offering space for a wide variety of leisure activities, while the building and its grounds have been used as a venue for trade fairs, sporting events, concerts, and award ceremonies. The heritage-protected complex is now to be upgraded to make it climate neutral, thus making a valuable contribution to environmental protection. That is the aim behind the 'Technical Infrastructure 2030' project being developed by Tempelhof Projekt GmbH with the support of Stuttgart-based planning and consulting company Drees & Sommer SE.



Over the next few years, Tempelhof Airport is to become Berlin's central hub for art, culture and creative industries.

Photo: Tempelhof Projekt GmbH / Claudius Pflug

Tempelhof Airport's checkered past is inseparable from the history of aviation and the horrors of the Cold War – and the great international solidarity shown during the Berlin Airlift. Tempelhof is not only a symbol of hope and freedom, but also reflects the blend of cultures and diversity of the German capital. A city-wide effort and the initiative of an entire generation is now needed to ensure that the site can continue to fulfill its important role. To this end, Tempelhof needs to be refurbished in keeping with the goal of achieving a climate neutral Berlin as part of the 'Metropole Berlin 2050' project.

Barbara Wiesneth
Head of Press and PR
Phone +49 711 1317-2411 • Mobile +49 172 7995752
barbara.wiesneth@dreso.com

Max Carlo Pradler
PR Manager
Phone +49 711 1317-11620 • Mobil +49 172 7697789
max-carlo.pradler@dreso.com

The first step required is the complete renovation of the central building services equipment in the heritage building. For this stage, Tempelhof Projekt GmbH is currently developing the Technical Infrastructure 2030 project, TI 2030. Jutta Heim-Wenzler, Managing Director of the company, is sure that it will make a major contribution toward achieving Berlin's climate goals, "The project could reduce the building's energy consumption by 44 percent, cutting carbon emissions by some 12,000 tonnes."

Site is to become Berlin's new hub

This reduction in emissions will be achieved by renewing the technical infrastructure, most of which is 80 years old. Tempelhof GmbH is being supported by the Stuttgart-based planning and consulting company Drees & Sommer in submitting its bid for the innovative heritage project. "This project is dear to our hearts. The signal we are sending is clear, "We are doing something for Berlin!" And at the same time, THF is making an active contribution to the European Green Deal – that is, to the green transformation of the economy, climate protection, and the transition to a modern, resource-efficient circular economy," says Kay Promehl, who heads up the engineering consulting team at Drees & Sommer's Berlin regional office.

As part of Vision 2030+, Tempelhof Airport is to become Berlin's central hub for art, culture and creative industries over the next few years. In addition to mixed office space, the hub will also host temporary events and permanent cultural uses. The ground floors of the airport buildings will be made accessible to the public.

The TI 2030 project kicked off two years ago with the development of a building services supply and disposal concept. The upcoming call for tenders for specialist planning will specify the various technical measures and ensure functional interaction. The aim is to complete installation of the systems by 2028 under the direction of Angelika Fehn Krestas, head of Planning & Construction at Tempelhof Projekt GmbH. The focus is on energy supply by exploiting the potential offered by wastewater, air and waste heat, and solar energy. For example, some 4100 megawatt hours can be generated on the 1.2 kilometers of roofs, provided the responsible heritage protection authority approves. Approximately €94 million is to be invested by 2030 – which represents almost €8,000 per tonne of carbon equivalent saved annually in the future.

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max-carlo.pradler@dreso.com

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