NRW.GLOBAL BUSINESS
Trade & Investment Agency

From Coal to Code

Rheinisches Revier as a Hub for Digital Technologies

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An unprecedented transformation is taking place in Rheinisches Revier: Europe's largest lignite mining region is being transformed into the continent's first climate-neutral industrial region. Digital technologies are set to play a key role in this and international investors will also play their part. In fact, software, AI and cloud computing companies will benefit from ideal conditions in Rheinisches Revier.



Be part of an emerging data hub

Germany's industrial center is also setting the pace in the digital economy. Tech companies in North Rhine-Westphalia generate around 20 percent of the digital technologies sector's national turnover – some 15 billion euros. Rheinisches Revier is on its way to consolidating and expanding NRW's leading position. The region is working to establish itself as a hub for artificial intelligence, cloud computing and software development – and international companies that invest and settle here are expected to play a decisive role.

Among the many advantages for tech investors, a unique geostrategic location really stands out:

- Two important data routes intersect in Rheinisches Revier.
- In total, up to 60 million users can be reached in the metropolitan area around the district in less than 20 milliseconds.

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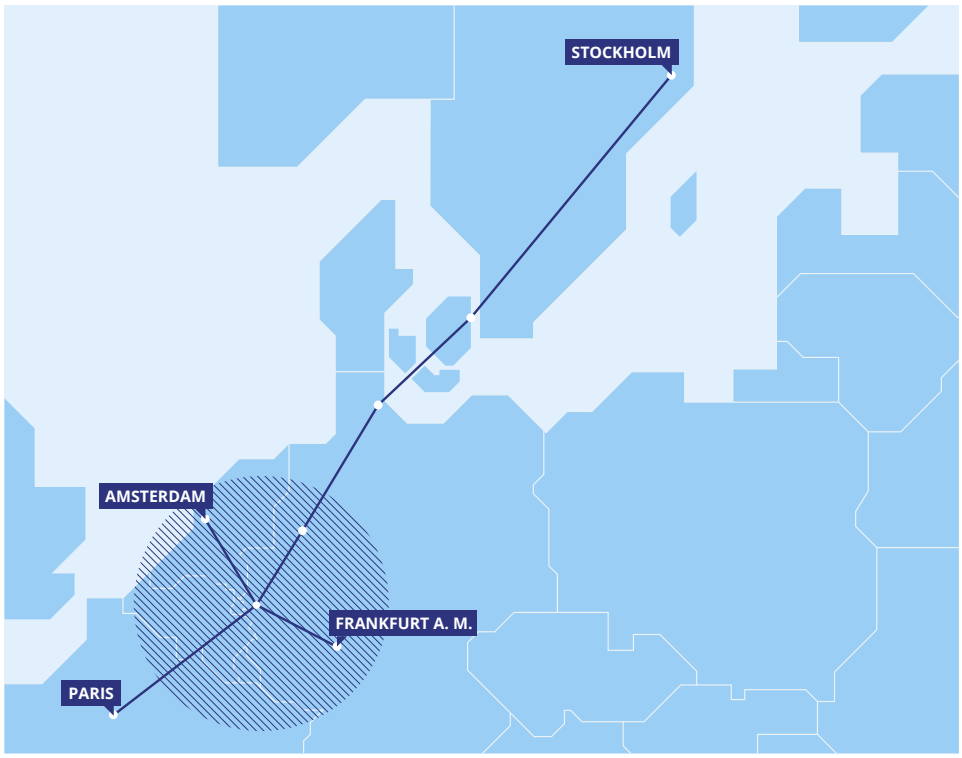


Microsoft is strengthening the unique locational advantage for digital companies in Rheinisches Revier. The tech giant is building three hyperscale data centers with data hubs in the Rhine-Erft district. They form the focus of Microsoft's largest investment in Germany to date.

1,000,000,000,000,000,000

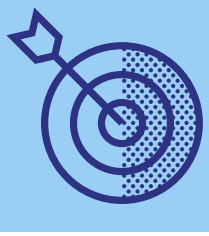
(1 quintillion) calculations per second:
Forschungszentrum Jülich is home to JUPITER,
Europe's first exascale computer

60 m

users with a
latency of
under 20 ms

3

Microsoft hyperscale data centers to be built in Rhein-Erft-Kreis



Be part of a vital industrial network

Microsoft's investment is enabling continued growth for Rheinisches Revier as a digital location. At the same time, tech companies have long felt at home in the west of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Company	Role in the value chain	Description
Accure Battery Intelligence	**SaaS/battery data analytics & diagnostics platform**	Monitors and analyzes battery performance: cloud platform ingests battery data, runs diagnostics for safety, lifetime and warranty optimization.
ACP IT Solutions GmbH	**System integration & solutions**	Provides comprehensive IT services including consulting, infrastructure, cloud, licensing, managed workplace and support for digital classroom solutions.
AixConcept GmbH	**System integration & solutions**	Provides managed school IT services: cloud or hybrid networks, hardware, software and support for digital classroom solutions.
Aixigo AG	**Financial software & WealthTech**	Offers API-based wealth management platform: modules for portfolio advice, risk and reporting to banks and asset managers.
Amber Search GmbH	**Enterprise search, generative AI software & platform**	Provides AI-powered enterprise search combining internal data sources.
ambihome GmbH	**Product & service development**	Provides turnkey KNX-based smart home systems for residential building automation: lighting, climate, shading, alarm, etc.
Anticipate GmbH	**Industrial quality inspection/ manufacturing SaaS & AI**	Develops AI-based visual quality inspection and worker guidance systems: captures images in manual and automated assembly, gives feedback to reduce defects and overall improvements.
Artificient	**Product & service development**	Builds AI-powered mobility data tools: mobile SDK, IoT fleet modules and portals for insurers, shared mobility and logistics.
CAMAIX GmbH	**CAD/CAM software & services**	Sells CAD/CAM software licenses, develops post-processors, offers NC code simulation, training and service for CNC industries.

Clinomic Medical GmbH	**Product & service development**	Develops “Mona” platform: AI-enabled tele-ICU and cloud tools to streamline ICU workflows, documentation and decision support in acute care.
ComConsult GmbH	**IT consulting & system integration**	Offers manufacturer-neutral IT consulting, planning and training: network/security/data center planning, digitalization process support.
Computacenter AG & Co. OHG	**System integration & solutions**	Offers infrastructure, cloud and workplace solutions for enterprises, and the public sector worldwide.
CSB-System SE	**Product & service provider**	Offers sector-specific enterprise software, hardware and consulting to process industries and trade.
Dialego AG	**Product & service development**	Provides AI-enhanced market-research and consumer insights tools for branding, innovation and concept testing across FMCG, pharma, etc.
Euronet Software GmbH	**Product & service development**	Develops software, marketing, consulting tools tailored for opticians and hearing-care businesses, alleviating admin tasks and enhancing client engagement.
FACTUR Billing Solutions GmbH	**Process outsourcing & service provider**	Offers process and IT services (SAP IS-U etc.) to energy utilities.
Flaixible GmbH	**Operation & service provider**	Provides contact-center, messaging and workforce-management services, plus custom software and process automation for clients.
FloodWaive Predictive Intelligence GmbH	**Environmental AI/ climate risk tech / geospatial SaaS**	Delivers flood risk software using AI, hydro models and geodata to support early warning and resilience.
Gridhound GmbH	**Smart grid AI & energy infrastructure software**	Delivers AI-based software for grid monitoring and fault detection; supports utilities with predictive tools.
gridX GmbH	**Energy IoT/ EMS platform/ e-mobility / SaaS**	Delivers EMS software to monitor and control distributed energy assets incl. solar, EV & storage.
Heusch/ Boesefeldt GmbH	**Traffic telematics systems & software**	Designs, implements and operates traffic telematics: collects traffic data, does predictive analytics, delivers control systems and consulting.

IconPro GmbH	**Industrial AI, edge & enterprise software, production optimization**	Delivers AI software for predictive quality, maintenance, and process optimization in manufacturing.
IKADO GmbH	**Software development & IT consulting/system integration**	Provides hardware and software planning, custom applications, system integration, consulting and sales of IT devices.
Inform GmbH	**Application & scaling**	Develops AI-based optimization software for logistics, aviation, manufacturing, and finance to improve operational decision-making.
Intersolute GmbH	**IT infrastructure services, system integration, cloud & security**	Delivers IT services incl. cloud, colocation, infrastructure, consulting, development, web and apps.
Intrabit GmbH	**Managed services & support**	Offers custom IT system solutions: managed services, software development, hosting, security and infrastructure support for enterprises.
IVU Traffic Technologies AG	**Transport IT & public transit software vendor**	Provides standardized software and cloud-services for public transport firms: planning, dispatch, ticketing, fleet and personnel management.
Marx Automation GmbH	**Industrial automation, system integration, robotics & smart manufacturing**	Delivers automation systems, robotics and software for process and production optimization in industry.
netgo Group	**System integration & solutions**	Provides end-to-end IT solutions: cloud and managed services, security, workplace and network infrastructure for enterprises and public sector clients.
Niologic GmbH	**Data science, AI, cloud engineering, MLOps**	Delivers data and AI consulting incl. ML models, cloud platforms, analytics and due diligence.
oculavis GmbH	**AR-based remote service, industrial SaaS & CMMS**	Delivers AR remote support and CMMS tools for industrial service and maintenance.

ORAYLIS GmbH	**platform engineering, business analytics, data & AI consulting**	Delivers enterprise data and AI platforms, incl. strategy, cloud architecture, ML apps.
OSPHIM GmbH	**Industrial AI, plastics manufacturing software & process optimization**	Delivers software for injection-molding process optimization using ML, data acquisition and analytics.
OVS Computer (Citadelle Systems)	**IT system house, managed services, infrastructure & cloud provider**	Operates as an external IT department, offering managed services, infrastructure, cloud, security and full-scope IT support for businesses in the region.
Safion GmbH	**Battery diagnostics & performance analytics**	Develops battery testing systems using impedance spectroscopy and software to predict lifetime, safety and performance for OEMs and labs.
SIMPLY Communicate	**System integration & solutions**	Offers combined IT-service, cloud and telecom solutions plus media/advertising services to SMEs including business phone and marketing.
SmartMunk GmbH	**CX analytics, text mining, visual feedback & AI**	Delivers software for customer feedback analysis and concept testing using AI-powered text mining and visual input tools.
SODEFA GmbH & Co. KG	**AI software development, digital transformation & custom platforms**	Delivers custom AI and IT software including chatbots, assistants and analytics tools.
SONAH GmbH	**Smart city, IoT sensors, urban data platform**	Delivers smart city sensors and software for parking, waste and traffic management using edge-AI.
Soptim AG	**Product & service provider**	Designs, delivers and operates energy-market software (grid ops, trading, billing, redispatch, cloud tools).
Taxy.io GmbH	**LegalTech, TaxTech, NLP & AI platforms**	Delivers AI-powered software for tax advisory incl. document search, automation and risk checks.

Thinking Networks AG	**SaaS/financial & operational planning software**	Offers cloud-based enterprise planning tool: integrates financials, forecasts, budgets, ESG and operational planning.
VEDA GmbH	**HR software & SaaS/HR cloud services**	Provides cloud HR platform covering payroll, time and attendance, recruiting, learning and development, outsources/payroll and consulting.
Vier Cognesys GmbH	**Conversational AI, CX platforms & omnichannel SaaS**	Delivers AI-powered software for customer dialogue incl. speech analytics and omnichannel automation.

Be part of future-oriented projects

Not far from the three planned data centers, this synergistic environment will be realized in two digital parks. The Bergheim park will focus on data-driven solutions in AI, cloud computing, and software, primarily benefiting the energy sector. The second digital park, located in Frimmersdorf, will transform a former power plant into a mixed-use tech, research and production hub. Each location is projected to create 2,500 jobs. Yet these two parks in Bergheim and Frimmersdorf are by no means the only major projects.

AI Village	Is being developed as Europe's first fully digitalized campus for research, development and testing of AI, and robotics innovations. It aims to create up to 5,000 new jobs.
Blockchain Reallabor	Enables companies to test blockchain applications in practice and promotes Rheinisches Revier as a model hub for digital business models.
Blockchain 4DMP	Develops a platform for Rheinisches Revier which uses a blockchain-based data marketplace and an AI algorithm for vibration detection to stabilize production processes and enable real-time quality prediction.
Center für digital vernetzte Produktion	Comprises three interconnected machine networks and is intended to develop innovative products for electromobility, aviation and hydrogen-powered mobility. The project will create over 280 new jobs.
Decree	Develops a tool for mobility providers that enables transparent, non-discriminatory in-house data management to smoothly exchange data via mobility platforms. This will ease market entry for new providers.

Neurotec II	Investigates new neuro-inspired electronics based on memristive devices in Rheinisches Revier. The project aims to significantly increase computing speed and energy efficiency through neuromorphic architectures.
Material Digital	Develops a digital infrastructure for materials using decentralized data servers hosted locally by partners, standardized data and evaluation schemas. The platform will connect stakeholders and establish governance structures.
PaiRs – Pairing Recommendation System	Develops a cross-domain, open data infrastructure with hybrid AI that can detect crises early, forecast their impacts and generate data-driven recommendations for action.

Be part of strong clusters and networks

Tech companies and start-ups, politics and science are joining forces through dynamic clusters and networks in virtually every part of Rheinisches Revier. A major asset for investors looking to gain a foothold in the region.

digitalHUB Aachen	Connects start-ups, IT providers and traditional industries in the Aachen region to jointly develop and implement digital business models, supported by regional institutions and academia.
KI.NRW	Drives the application of artificial intelligence in North Rhine-Westphalia by promoting technology transfer, education and innovation. It also supports AI initiatives in Rheinisches Revier, such as the AI Village in Hürth and research partnerships with Fraunhofer institutes.
digiHub Düsseldorf/Rheinland	Supports the industrial transformation of the Rheinisches Revier by helping start-ups, companies and research institutions collaborate on digital innovation and GreenTech, accelerating climate-neutral solutions and technology transfer.

Be part of a cutting-edge science community

Rheinisches Revier features one of the most application-oriented scientific landscapes in the whole of Germany. Investors therefore not only have access to highly trained specialists with entrepreneurial flair but can also find internationally renowned research partners.

Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ)	Hosts the upcoming JUPITER supercomputer – the first European exascale system – for advanced AI-powered scientific simulations. Forschungszentrum Jülich is one of Europe's leading interdisciplinary research centers focusing on supercomputing, quantum technologies and artificial intelligence.
RWTH Aachen University	Focuses on smart manufacturing, sensor systems, data science, edge/cloud computing and blockchain, with active roles in major projects like Blockchain Reallabor and the NeuroSys cluster. RWTH Aachen is a German University of Excellence with dedicated centers for artificial intelligence and robotics.
FH Aachen – University of Applied Sciences	Supports AI-related applied research through institutes such as MASKOR and is involved in initiatives like WIRKsam to shape AI-enabled work environments. The university links academic expertise with practical industrial use cases.
Studio 6 – Hub for Digital Future Technologies	Serves as a cross-sectoral innovation platform for the co-creation of Web3 and decentralized digital business models. The hub is backed by partners such as TH Köln, REWE Group and Fraunhofer FIT.
FIR an der RWTH Aachen	Focuses on enhancing industrial value creation through digital transformation in production, service and business processes. FIR (Research – Innovation – Realization) is an applied research institute at RWTH Aachen founded in 1953.

Our services for investors

Rheinisches Revier's transformation is a high-priority political project, for which the German federal government and the state of NRW have set aside 14.8 billion EUR. Utilizing the massive tech expertise is pivotal for the region's development, so there's a variety of funding opportunities. NRW's trade agency NRW.Global Business helps investors get the most out of their options – long before and after they've settled in the region.

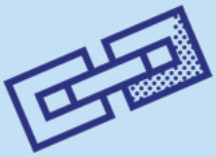
Consulting and planning

Consulting services regarding financial, real estate and networking questions



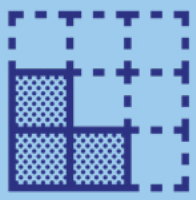
Location selection

Scouting for locations, shaping regional partnerships and support for identifying suitable funding instruments



Growth support after initial setup

Keeping track of companies' development and supporting them with expansion plans



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