

GIZ Campus Bonn



Forging new ideas for sustainable
development worldwide

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Our vision: A sustainable office building where staff feel free to unleash their full creativity to shape a future worth living around the world.

Tanja Gönner, Chair of the Management Board

Welcome to GIZ's new Campus in Bonn

Imagine if you were given creative control in designing your ideal workplace – what would it look like? Would it be an open-plan work space, or would you have individual cubicles? Where would you sit, and with whom? What else would you need to be at ease at your workplace? Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH posed these questions, and the answers have taken form at GIZ's new campus in Bonn, with its innovative use of space.

Situated at Bonn's landmark Trajekt-kreisel roundabout, the campus consists of the Meander Building (completed in 2015), and the adjacent Campus Forum, which opened its doors in early 2020. At almost 40,000 square metres, the Campus accommodates up to 1,500 GIZ staff. That is ample space to give their creativity free rein, in line with the demands of a modern

working world that is undergoing constant change through digitalisation and globalisation.

"The architecture and the construction techniques used at the Campus reflect the values that GIZ and our staff represent in every part of the world," says Tanja Gönner, Chair of GIZ's Management Board. Both buildings comply with stringent sustainability standards – from the materials used to the energy-efficient heating system and the interiors. "We aimed to come as close as possible to climate neutrality, while ensuring that costs did not spiral out of control," explains Thorsten Schäfer-Gümbel, the Managing Director responsible for the new building. Both construction projects, designed by CLP GmbH and built by the Ten Brinke Group, were completed on time and within budget.

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a prominent glass facade. In the foreground, a wooden sign with horizontal slats displays the word 'giz' in large, red, lowercase letters, with the number '36' below it. The sign is set in a grassy area. A bare tree stands to the left of the sign, and a paved walkway with a blue railing is visible on the left side of the building. The sky is clear and blue.

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Sustainable from top to bottom

Sustainability is the cornerstone of GIZ's work worldwide. Therefore, it went without saying that the company's office buildings would comply with its own exacting standards. "Sustainability is the fundamental architectural principle that can be seen throughout the entire Campus," explains Isabel Mattes-Kücükali, the Director General responsible for GIZ's properties. "Not only is it good for the environment; it also cuts running costs." The Meander Building has already been given a gold rating by the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB). The certification process for the Campus Forum is under way.

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Isabel Mattes-Kücükali, Director General of the Procurement, Property, Contracting, International Language Services Department



Green power from the roof

The photovoltaic system mounted on the roofs of both buildings uses solar power to efficiently generate electricity. Green electricity supplements demand, if and when the PV system generates insufficient power.

Sustainable building materials

Insulation materials, paints, tiles – the materials used in the GIZ Campus buildings were manufactured in environmentally sustainable ways, minimising resource use, and are all biodegradable.



Recyclable interior design

The parquet floor in the Campus Forum is made of fast-growing bamboo; the wallpaper of seaweed. Most lighting is cradle-to-cradle certified, and thus can be fully recycled. The LED lighting system used throughout adapts the light output to the available daylight, saving valuable energy.

Efficient use of rainwater

“Either it rains or the level crossings are down,” John le Carré famously wrote of Bonn. Whenever it rains, the plants and gravel on the roofs filter the rainwater, which is collected in a cistern in the basement, and is used to flush the toilets.



Heating through ambient energy

A system of heat pumps uses ground-water energy to heat the offices in winter. 80% of this heating energy tapped from groundwater is free of charge. Fascinating fact: The heating system in the Campus Forum is one of the first of its kind in the world to use CO₂ as a coolant. In summer, sun louvres on the building's exterior façade help staff keep cool, thus reducing the use of the air conditioning system.

Making strides with electric mobility

The underground car parks of both Campus buildings offer numerous charging stations for electric cars and bikes. Staff who choose to leave their cars at home can sign up for the staff cycling initiative 'Mit dem Rad zur Arbeit'. You can't get any greener – or healthier – than this!

Green spaces for more biodiversity

More than 150 indigenous plant species have transformed the grounds of the GIZ Campus into a green oasis, where not only the staff, but also insects, can thrive. GIZ has its own rooftop bee colony, which is supervised by a group of in-house staff. They sell their honey to colleagues, with all profits going to a regional biodiversity preservation association.

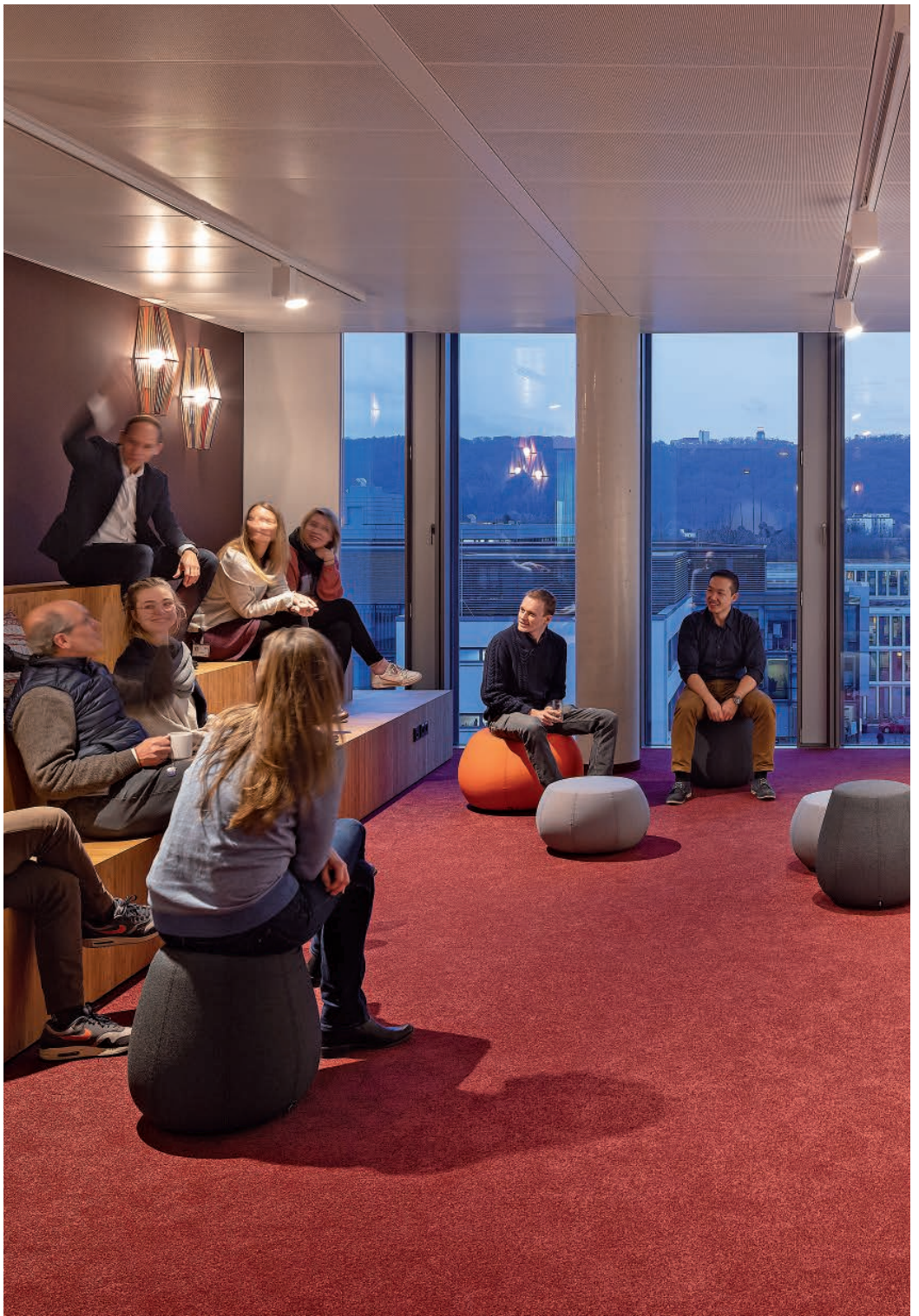


Investing in GIZ's Bonn base

Besides Eschborn just outside of Frankfurt, Bonn is the other of GIZ's two headquarters. The company has consistently invested in its Bonn base: EUR 235 million was spent over five years in the construction of the GIZ Campus. A further EUR 32 million went towards building the Campus Kottenforst further training centre in Bonn-Röttgen.

"Bonn is an ideal base for GIZ, as a federally owned enterprise for sustainable

development in international cooperation," says Tanja Gönner. Its proximity to its main commissioning party, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), as well as to the UN and many other Bonn-based international cooperation organisations is a decisive factor here. "Our new GIZ Campus in the heart of Bonn and the Campus Kottenforst symbolise our commitment, because we feel very much at home in Germany's 'sustainability capital'."





The Campus Forum – a finger on the pulse of the present

“The office is dead ... Long live the office!”

The working world is changing. Smart-phones, laptops, cloud computing, and virtual meetings make it possible to work from almost anywhere in the world. At the same time, many staff members want greater flexibility, so they can drop their children off at the nursery before work, for instance. Then they can use the peace and quiet of the evening at home to deal with emails or focus on crafting a new concept or strategy. What is pertinent is the result of their work – not where it is performed.

Does this however mean that offices will soon become redundant? Definitely not, if the experts are to be believed. But office space will increasingly be used for social networking and creative exchange. In addition to the traditional individual offices, new types of work spaces are needed that allow for more flexible working styles.

It was important to us to create a work space concept that focuses on the needs of our employees.

Thorsten Schäfer-Gümbel, GIZ Labour Relations Director



Work space diversity is the key

“It was important to us to create a work space concept that focuses on the needs of our employees,” says Thorsten Schäfer-Gümbel, GIZ Labour Relations Director. Depending on the work at hand, there are varying requirements of an ideal work environment. A financial controller might need a quiet workplace to focus better on budget spreadsheets, while a member of the social media team might prefer to toss ideas around with colleagues across the room. The architects at LEPEL & LEPEL have translated these diverse needs into an ultra-modern interior design.

The Campus Forum offers work spaces for every purpose: a large coworking space, ‘arenas’ for smaller meetings and presentations, an activity area for breaks and informal occasions, kitchenettes for spontaneous meet ups, versatile green spaces outdoors – but also enough closed-off spaces for quiet work and confidential meetings or calls. The adjacent Meander Building still offers all staff their own private workplace. “Thus, we hope we’ve been able to meet the various needs of our employees,” says Thorsten Schäfer-Gümbel.





Staff have a say in the design

The new working space is truly the fruit of a collective endeavour, with GIZ staff involved from the outset.

“For three years, the complex change process involved discussion forums, workshops and expert presentations, where we were able to contribute our ideas and obtain interesting information,” Sabine Blummer, Management Assistant in the Sector and Global Programmes Department, tells us. “For example, it was important to me that there were enough opportunities for quiet work. This was implemented in the design, and I am now confident that I can always find a quiet place when I need it.”





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Sabine Blummer, Management Assistant and Campus Ambassador

“The exemplary participation of staff in the puzzle workshops was an important factor in enabling the sections and divisions to forge an identity,” observes Brigitte Abdalla from the Agricultural Policy and Food Security Programme, who doubles as a Campus Ambassador.

“Our colleagues were very actively involved,” says Henriette Strothmann, Director of the Property 1 Division (Bonn). “Without their commitment and constant exchange (also with the various GIZ bodies involved), and the input from other companies, the Campus would not have been designed the way it stands today.”



As a service provider with worldwide operations in the fields of international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work, GIZ works with its partners to develop effective solutions that offer people better prospects and sustainably improve their living conditions. GIZ is a public-benefit federal enterprise and supports the German Government and a host of public and private sector clients in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment promotion, energy and the environment, and peace and security.

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