

Media release

Successful "Weitsicht" project for RUAG in Thun can now be viewed

Berne, 19 September 2014. RUAG is planning to build an office, industrial and commercial complex at the Kleine Allmend site in Thun. To this end, a public tender for a total services contractor was launched. Yesterday saw the launch of an exhibition showcasing the competition entries at the RUAG industrial park. Guests included representatives of the city, the canton, the assessment committee, RUAG, and the teams taking part. Plans and models of the competition entries can be viewed on Tuesday, 23 September and Thursday, 25 September 2014 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the exposition room at Uttigenstrasse 31, Building 701, in Thun.

The assessment committee, headed by jury chairman Johannes Käferstein, allowed six of the eleven pre-qualification stage applicants to take part in the total services contractor competition, before finally recommending the "Weitsicht" project. The successful project, which emerged from a competition to find a total services contractor, is the first stage in the long-term development of RUAG's industrial park and will contribute significantly to upgrading the Kleine Allmend site. At the same time, it is also the initial project in the cantonal development programme (ESP) for northern Thun and Steffisburg. Situated at a junction between Allmendstrasse and Ringstrasse, the construction site links the Lerchenfeld area to the city of Thun. The "Weitsicht" landmark will be built here.

Space for several hundred workplaces

RUAG divisions will be the main users of the building. The remaining floor space – offices, laboratory and administrative spaces, retail zones and restaurants – will be rented by third-party tenants. The new building offers space for several hundred workplaces over 14 floors.

RUAG launched this project in the form of a competition. The jury, comprising representatives of the Canton of Berne and the city of Thun, selected "Weitsicht" – by contractors Halter AG Gesamtleistungen together with Bauart Architekten und Planer AG – as the winning project. As the RUAG technology group intends to focus its investments on industry, it is looking for a partnership with an investor. The documents for obtaining the building permit and for drafting the site development order will now be prepared in close collaboration with the competition winner and the city of Thun.

Gateway to the Thun industrial park

"'Weitsicht' is not a solitary building but a gateway to the Thun industrial park," says Hans Rudolf Hauri, CEO of RUAG Real Estate AG. The complex should be seen in the context of the long-term ESP Thun Nord city planning programme and the "Bypass" traffic re-routing scheme, on which work is due to be started soon. RUAG is actively driving forward the development of this district, together with the municipal and cantonal authorities, in order to maintain and strengthen Thun as a manufacturing centre. "With 'Weitsicht', RUAG is aiming to centralize workplaces and thereby make significantly more efficient use of the space available in the industrial park. It is important to use precious land resources carefully, and to further consolidate and accentuate the industrial area," reiterates Hans Rudolf Hauri.

Public exhibition:

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RUAG is an international technology group operating in the fields of aerospace and defence. Its holding company is located in Berne, Switzerland. RUAG maintains production sites in Switzerland, Germany, France, Austria, Hungary, Sweden, Malaysia, Australia and the USA. The company employs some 8,200 people worldwide, including 5,000 in Switzerland, of whom 10% are apprentices.

Info box about the RUAG "Weitsicht" project

Property:

"Weitsicht" office and commercial building

Location: Construction site 3 / plot 4650, Allmendstrasse, Thun
Owner: RUAG Real Estate Ltd

Project organization:

General contractor: Halter AG Gesamtleistungen
Architects: Bauart Architekten und Planer AG

Programme

Office and commercial building, restaurants, retail, conference and meeting rooms, parking with 240 spaces
Rental offering: Differentiated; units with basic fit-out, subdivided areas in shell-and-core condition

Basic dimensions (SIA 416)

Floor space: 29,194 m²
Building volume: 103,871 m³
Usable building floor space: 18,658 m²
Building height: 54.88 m

Schedule

Building work expected to begin: Q3 2015
Expected commissioning: Q3 2017

Cost framework:

Total costs: CHF 80.5 million