World Eye Reports

Austria



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Model of stability at the heart of Europe

he relationship between Japan and Austria had an unassuming beginning 140 years ago. But what is not surprising is that a common affinity for



Japanese Ambassador to Austria Akio Tanaka

classical music first brought the two countries together in the late 19th century

"1869 was when Japanese-Austrian relations first started. At this time, the Habsburg Emperor gave Mutsuhito Meiji, the Japanese Emperor, a Bösendorfer piano," says Yoshichika Sakai, CEO of the world-famous Austrian piano maker now owned by Japanese company Yamaha.

Since then, relations between the two countries have survived two major wars and trade has grown significantly.

Now Austria's third-largest trading partner, Japan exported around 138.8 billion yen worth of prod-

ucts, consisting mostly of auto- affect the country, but Austria will mobiles and video cameras, to the European country in 2006 while imports from Austria of automobiles, lumber and wood amounted to 179.2 billion yen.

Located at a meeting point of three cultures (Slavic, Austro-German and Italian), Austria has embraced diverse cultural influences to create a unique sociopolitical structure. The distinctive personality and central location ensures that the country will continue playing a vital role in the expanded European Union. A member of the EU since

1995, Austria has grown to become one of the wealthiest and most stable members of this massive market.

"The economic crisis is affecting the whole world, but Austria's banking sector has always been very conservative. The crisis will



Vienna Stock Exchange Director Dr. Michael Buhl

not be as badly hit as the United States or the rest of Western Europe," says Austrian Central Bank Gov. Ewald Nowotny.

JETRO Vienna Deputy Director Shigeru Hayashi

> The country has also served as an effective bridge between Western Europe and former Warsaw Pact nations

"For the past four to five years, we have been trying to consolidate the stock exchanges of Eastern Europe. We currently have shares in the stock exchanges of Budapest, Prague and Ljubljana, and have outperformed many of the major Western markets over the long term," says Dr. Michael Buhl, director of the Vienna Stock Exchange

Because of Austria's ideal location, around 1,000 foreign companies have chosen to establish their headquarters in the country.

"Many Japanese companies want to do business in Eastern Europe and understand that it will be difficult. So most Japanese businessmen use Austria as their headquarters before setting up in Eastern Europe," explains JETRO Vienna Deputy Director Shigeru Hayashi.

Investment incentives in Austria include having low corporate tax and zero property tax.

Aside from boasting a highly developed infrastructure, highly qualified and motivated workforce, and the lowest strike rate in Europe, Austria has also implemented investment incentives, such as a top rate of 25 percent for corporate tax, and zero-rated trade and property tax.

Meanwhile, it also consistently increased expenditure on R&D to maintain competitiveness. From 2000 to 2007, R&D spending grew 70 percent to 6.8 billion euros, the largest rise seen in the EU, which positions Austria as an ideal center for the mechanical engineering, automotive, medical technology, biotechnology and ICT sectors.

Austria has also led the world, including its EU neighbors, in the development of environmental technologies and environmental solutions since the 1980s. Among those pioneering companies was Backhausen, a nearly 200-yearold textile and fabric manufacturer based in Vienna.

"We've introduced a new line of textiles called the Returnity-fabric,



Compared to other EU members and its European neighbors, Austria has weathered the global recession thanks to its strong economic fundamentals. The state-owned Austrian Mint serves as a fitting symbol of the country's financial stability.

which is 100 percent recyclable," year and since 2009 is a special boasts Backhausen Textiles Presiyear for us, I plan to increase this dent Reinhard Backhausen. In other fields, Austria's envi-

almost 8 percent each year.

largest tourist destination.

Austria is also famous for its beau-

tiful scenery and cultural high-

lights, making tourism an impor-

tant contributor to the country's

revenue. It is the world's ninth-

200,000 Japanese tourists every

"Vienna receives an average of

to 250.000," says Japanese Ambassador to Austria Akio Tanaka. ronmental technology industry has Among the most popular destireported an increase in turnover of nations in Vienna are the Belvedere Palace, the Hofburg Imperial Other than its thriving economy, Palace and the Vienna Secession.

"Everyone knows Vienna for the classics, such as Mozart, Strauss and Haydn. But Vienna was the birthplace of modernism too as seen in the works of Schiele and Klimt," says Vienna Tourist Board Managing Director Norbert Kettner. ♦



The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber of Commerce is a government-sanctioned organization that represents the country's business community. It provides assistance to over 300,000 Austrian companies operating across all sectors of the economy. To help celebrate the 140th anniversary of bilateral relations between the two countries in 2009, the group is organizing various events throughout the year, including a trade mission to Japan in the spring. www.wko.at

Aside from being the official diplomatic representative in the country, the Embassy of Japan in Austria facilitates cultural exchanges by hosting events and promoting Japanese culture locally. This year, the embassy is hosting several activities to commemorate 140 years of relations between the two countries. www.at.emb-japan.go.jp

Situated in Vienna, JETRO Austria plays a leading role in strengthening trade and investment between Japan and Austria, as well as the Central and Eastern Europe, and Balkans areas. It provides information and help to many Japanese and Austrian companies that want to expand their businesses in Japan and the CEE. www.jetro.go.jp/austria

Wiener Börse, located in the Austrian capital Vienna, operates the only securities exchange in the country. Its principal task is to ensure the smooth and efficient execution of exchange trading, and to act as an intermediary for market participants by operating internationally recognized electronic trading systems. www.wienerborse.at

Based in Vienna, Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB) is the central bank of Austria and as such, is an integral part of the European System of Central Banks and the Eurosystem. It helps in formulating monetary and economic policies in the country, and in the euro zone. www.oenb.at



A sparkling success story with its roots in the Austrian Alps



spans the globe and is active in 120 countries, sprang from the ideas and passion of its founder - a man committed to strong humanist principles.

Born in Bohemia, Daniel Swarovski I had a staunch entrepreneurial and innovative spirit with a desire to set the world of fashion and jewelry alight by pro







ducing perfect, precision-cut crystals. He developed the first machine for polishing crystal, which he brought to the small, idyllic Austrian Alpine town of Wattens, near Innsbruck, where the company headquarters is still located.

All that happened in 1895. More than a century later, Swarovski continues to thrive on Daniel Swarovski I's spirit as it is run by his fourth- and fifth-generation descendants.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Swarovski offers a variety of top-quality colored crystals (top) and white crystals (above).

Daikin retains expertise in Europe

165 people of different nationalities, and serves 14 countries in Central and Southeastern Europe.

that is experiencing remarkable investment from Western companies. This gives us the opportunity to offer our wide range of products through a well-developed



explains Managing Director Otto Oberhumer, who has been with the company for 35 years.

The company's product line consists of air conditioning, applied systems, heating and refrigeration. This has allowed DACE to service a wide range of clients in the domestic, corporate and industrial markets, unlike others in the business, which offer limited products and services.

Aside from having acquired an extensive knowledge of the vast and diverse European market, Daikin also brings world-renowned Japanese technology to its customers through its local plants.

"While competitors manufacture overseas, more than 70 percent of our products are produced in Daikin's European factories. So we can adapt to the customer and this is a very important success factor," Oberhumer says.

Meanwhile, the company has also invested heavily in its personnel by opening the Daikin Sales



Daikin Air Conditioning Central **Europe Managing Director Otto** Oberhumer

Academy, which opened in 2006 and offers training courses for future employees.

"Educating the younger generation of engineers, dealers and consultants from the countries in which we do business establishes loyalty, and an emotional link to our company," Oberhumer points

out. 🔶 www.daikin-ce.com

Researched and written by Michael Koranda and Michael Koranda and Michael Reports. If you would like further information, including annual reports, from any of the companies featured in this business supplement, please send an e-mail message to info@worldeyereports.com name, mailing address and specific information requested. We will make sure that the companies concerned get your requests and comments.

Austria

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Telekom Austria Group connects Austria to world

ompared to its other international markets, the fixed-net and domestic mobile communications segments of Telekom Austria Group face fierce competition in Austria. But despite this challenge, the company has remained the market leader in the country

To expand its business, Telekom Austria



and set up business in Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Serbia and Slovenia, raising the group's customer base to around 18 million

As a midsize European telecommunications company, and a well-positioned player in Southeastern and Eastern Europe, Telekom Austria Group boasts a solid management team with a first-rate workforce.

This year, CEO Boris Nemsic handed over the top post to longtime colleague Hannes Ametsreiter, the former chief marketing officer of mobilkom Austria and CEO of Telekom Austria TA.

Competing with three other mobile communications providers in a country of only about 8 million people and a mobile penetration rate of 126.6 percent as of last year, Telekom Austria Group has strengthened its nationwide network by investing in more technology and infrastructure to preserve its leading position.

"If you consider the size of the Austrian market, Telekom Austria Group has a very strong footprint. With our leading market position, we have 4.5 million mobile and 2.3

Group looked beyond the country's borders million fixed-line subscribers in Austria, and have expanded operations throughout the region," says Ametsreiter.

> As Austrians remain very receptive to new technologies, 69 percent of households in the country now have Internet access.

By offering customers high-quality products and services, Telekom Austria Group has achieved great success. Its fixed-net segment offers attractive product bundles that merge mobile telephony, broadband Internet, mobile broadband and TV. Mobile broadband has also become big business in Austria, with Telekom Austria Group's domestic mobile subsidiary attracting 400,000 mobile broadband customers as of 2008.

"We benefit from the fact that telecom services are indispensable in everyday life. In today's world, people will continue to use our services due to the fundamental need for human communication. A clearly defined vision and strategy is of key importance to be successful in the long term, and a wide range of quality products and innovative services tailor-made to the needs of our existing, and future customers provide us with a competitive edge." savs Ametsreiter. ♦ www.telekomaustria.com

Sony DADC strikes just the correct note in European capital of music

Tt was a logical decision when Sony DADC (which originally stood for Sony Digital Audio Disc Corp.) established its operations in Salzburg 22 years ago.

"Sony DADC was set up here not only because of the good infrastructure in the heart of Europe and the highly skilled staff resources, but also because of a close friendship between Maestro Herbert von Karajan, Akio Morita and Norio Ohga (then chairman and president of Sony Corp. respectively)," recalls Dieter Daum, president of Sony Disc and Digital Solutions, and CEO of Sony DADC.

"The friends' passion for innovative technologies, music and Salzburg's fame as the city of music back in 1981 led to the global launch of the new audio disc format here in Salzburg," adds Daum.

Starting out as an audio CD manufacturer, the company has grown steadily and now employs about 1,300 people in Salzburg alone. It not only manufactures CDs but also DVDs, Blu-ray Discs and other optical media formats, and also serves as service partner for digital content distribution.

Today, Sony DADC is part of Sony Disc and Digital Solutions, which consists of 28 facilities around the world. The European sites, and sister companies in India, China and Australia are administered from Salzburg.

"We understand that through the development of technology, the demand for audio CDs and CD-ROMs has lessened. So the DVD was introduced. And since 2006, we have even gone past the DVD and developed Blu-ray. In addition, we have also produced recordable discs, and discs for PlayStation consoles and handhelds," Daum explains.

"Our main strength is that we know this business is not just about manufacturing. It is mainly about being a service provider. Technology is very important, but if you don't have the right products at the right time or the right quantity at the right place, then just having technology won't work. It is really about working for and meeting the demands of our customers," he adds.

Being a one-stop shop, Sony DADC offers its customers trouble-free service such as digital content services, authoring, disc replication, packaging, and even handling logistics and cash collection for the finished product.



Sony DADC delivers content to online stores such as Sony Ericsson's PlayNow[™] arena.



Sony DADC's Blu-ray Disc manufacturing facility in Salzburg

"This truly benefits our customers because it saves them time and energy, and allows them to focus on their business, which is creating the content and its marketing," says Daum.

Meanwhile, Sony DADC has also significantly reduced its "carbon footprint" through the use of renewable energy resources for production, closed-loop recycling and offers its customers an eco-friendly packaging line called "Bend-it Green."

In the next few years, the company will focus on expanding its supply chain and supporting its customers' digital distribution strategies.

"We are constantly expanding our full services by establishing local authoring studios, digital service centers and distribution sites. To support our customers' needs, we will not hesitate to make major investments around the world," explains Daum.

Given its achievements and objectives, Sony DADC has become the leading disc and digital solutions provider for the entertainment, education and information industries. \blacklozenge www.sonydadc.com

For Austrian Mint, business remains untarnished

The Austrian Mint has seen business grow steadily as precious metals become safer investments amid a global economic crisis that greatly diminished the value of company shares and bank-issued instruments.

With more than 800 years of experience in producing coins, medals and related products, the company has grown consistently since it played a main role in the issuance of the euro in 2002. It also manufactures coins and semifinished products for 38 countries.

"In 2002, our annual turnover was 543 million euros. Last year, it was 1.208 billion euros," says President and CEO Kurt Meyer.

Among its most sought-after coins is the "Vienna Philharmonic," a beautifully designed 24-karat gold coin issued in four different weights. Sales of this coin surged from 137,500 ounces (3.85 million grams) in 2007 to 795,000 ounces (22.26 million grams) last

In February 2008, the Austrian Mint issued a 1-ounce (28-gram) silver version of the Philharmonic, which proved to be just as popular.

"The sales were incredible. We expected to produce 2.5 million ounces (70 million grams) for the year, but by the end of 2008, we had sold 7.8 million ounces (218.4 million grams). That is about 230 tons of silver," says Meyer. One of the biggest markets for the Austrian Mint is Japan, where it regularly holds a more than 65 percent share of the gold coin market through its longtime partner Tanaka K.K. In

2008, its market share surged to 85 percent. To mark 140 years of Japanese-Austrian relations and the 20th anniversary of the gold Philharmonic coin this year, the Austrian Mint will issue special 20-ounce (560-gram) pieces to commemorate these milestones. \blacklozenge www.austrian-mint.at



Austrian Mint President and CEO Kurt Meyer



THE ART OF CRYSTAL FICTION

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SWAROVSKI KRISTALLWELTEN

Today, EVN is proud to be on

the cutting edge of Japanese tech-

nology once again and is helping

the Japanese with its knowledge in

With EVN's help, a Japanese

company secured a contract to

construct Europe's first-ever high-

efficiency, coal-fired plant in Du-

procurement.

www.evn.at

isburg, Germany. ♦

Austria

www.worldeyereports.com

Amada Austria offers HOERBIGER leads the way EVN remains ideal partner unmatched service

creasingly demanding customers,'

Since 2007, Amada addressed

that situation by investing heavily

in on-site product development,

which has paid off because the

company is able to produce highly

customized solutions that competi-

Taking the lead in pioneering

new technologies, Amada has also

developed more modern, more ad-

vanced and more durable carbide-

tipped blades that are setting the

After more than 20 years of

operations in Austria, Amada is committed to keep production in

the country due to its central loca-

tion and the high level of expertise

high-quality steel manufacturers in

Austria. Knowledge in metallurgy

is high, which allows us access to

the highest-quality research and

know-how," says Kawabata. ♦

"Austria is located in the heart

standards for cutting tools.

found in the industry.

www.amada.at

explains Kawabata.

tors cannot.



Amada Austria Managing Director Katsuhiko Kawabata

Trom its production site in the town of Ternitz in the state of Lower Austria, Amada Austria has maintained its lead in the cutting and bending technology industry for more than 20 years due mostly to a service-centered growth strategy. "Usually service means cus-

tomer care through face to face dealings. We want this to mean more. Service to customers means excellent service in the production process as well. Everyone at Amada Austria - from the production floor worker to the managing director - is involved in creating and delivering the highest-quality products to our customers," stresses Managing Director Katsuhiko Kawabata.

Amada Austria has also attribof Europe, allowing easy delivery uted its success to recent strides in product development. everywhere. There are also many

"Before we only had manufacturing here. We would relay information from customers to Japan and they would come up with new products. Nowadays, this is not fast enough to keep up with in-

'Service to customers means excellent service in the production process as well. Everyone at Amada Austria is involved in creating and delivering the highestquality products'

in challenging times

66 TOERBIGER Compression Technology was the first Austrian company to open a subsidiary in Japan back in 1970 and was, in fact, the first Asian country that HOERBIGER invested in. It took some years to establish ourselves among compressor manufacturers, and in the refining and petrochemical industry, but we approached the market in a Japanese way - building personal relationships, and gaining the confidence of our customers by the performance and the reliability of our products, and our company," recalls Johann Hipfl, chairman of HOERBIGER SBU Compression Technology.

"Japan continues to be a major market for HOER-BIGER and we appreciate our long-standing relationship with all our customers. Their continuous challenge helps us to develop new products and opportunities to grow. I'm proud to say that last year our turnover reached 25 million euros," the company chief adds.

On a global scale, the HOERBIGER Group has posted double-digit growth over the past 15 years and employs 6,400 people all over the world.

"Our key strength is that we are always innovative. We always aim to diversify. As a company, we are diversified in terms of our key markets, which include the oil, gas and process industry, machinery, plant construction and the automotive industry," Hipfl says. "We have high-quality products based upon innovation and technical excellence, a strong service unit as well as a fundamental business backbone to provide customer value on all levels. We will continue to be flexible and adaptable to what the market needs," he also says.

vailing economic crisis, HOERBIGER is confident that it will weather the extended downturn.

As every company in the world deals with the pre-

www.hoerbiger.com



Johann Hipfl, chairman of supervisory board of **HOERBIGER SBU Compression Technology**

that deliver a value proposition that our customers recognize. Our roots go back to 1894, and our corporation has always been optimistic despite difficulties and setbacks. We've survived two world wars and many economic crises in the past," Hipfl says.

"HOERBIGER appreciates the continued and trustful relationship with our customers, and is truly grateful to all our clients. We work hard to continuously provide new technical solutions to our customers and to further strengthen our customer relationships," he adds. ♦

for Japanese companies in Austria and Europe

ven following the onset of the global recession last chairperson of the Supervisory says Gruber. Board.

Following years of intense negotiations with longtime Japanese business partner J-Power, EVN became the first company in the world outside of Japan to employ DeNOx technology.

"We signed an official concounting for two-thirds of its revtract for technical exchange with EVN's environmental services J-Power in 1987, and the partnersegment (drinking water, wasteship has been one based on mutual water purification and waste intrust and friendship ever since,'



EVN's "Duernrohr" power plant in Lower Austria

A reliable partnership for over 30 years



(From left to right) Mitsubishi Motors Corp. President Osamu Masuko, Denzel CEO Alfred Stadler and Denzel General Manager Gregor Strassl during the visit of the Mitsubishi Motors chief

aving signed its first contract to distribute Mitsubishi vehicles in 1978, Denzel became one of the first contemporary Austrian companies to work with the Japanese. And just over 30 years later, Denzel has remained a strong local partner of the Japanese automotive giant.

Highlighting the importance of that partnership, Mitsubsihi Corp. President Osamu Masuko flew to Vienna to attend an anniversary celebration organized by the two companies.

The largest Austrian retailer of Mitsubishi vehicles, Denzel employs 1,200 people, generates an average annual turnover of 514 million euros and oversees a network of 80 well-trained dealers.

"We handle over 30,000 vehicles per year in 14 retail outlets in all major cities of Austria. The business has grown significantly over the past three years as Denzel's Mitsubishi business has grown positively and we just appointed 10 new dealers," says

Denzel General Manager Gregor Strassl. Consolidating its commanding lead in the Austrian market, Denzel has secured the No. 1 position for Mitsubishi pickups in the segment

Denzel backs up these numbers by providing value in all aspects of the automotive business.

"Our distribution, retail and wholesale financing, vehicle rental and after-sales services continue to lead the way in the Austrian market," says Strassl.

Proving its commitment to the Mitsubishi brand, the company is also an active partner of Mitsubishi RalliArt by cooperating with Austrian driver Andreas Aigner, who won the Production World Rally Championship title in 2008 in a Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution.

Based on its close 30-year-old partnership, Denzel is highly optimistic of more years of growth with Mitsubishi Motors. ♦ www.denzel.at



Mitsubishi Motors Europe Vice President Naoya Nakamura (right) hands over the trophy of Mitsubishi RalliArt to Andreas Aigner, 2008 Production World Rally champion in the Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution.

A sparkling success story with its roots in the Austrian Alps

"In the early 1980s, DeNOx technology, aimed at reducing pollution and smog, was very new and highly desirable. At that time, the Japanese knew a great deal about it," recalls Rudolf Gruber,

year, Austria-based energy

group EVN increased total rev-

enue by an impressive 7.3 percent

last year, with earnings from basic

utilities electricity and gas (one

of its two business segments) ac-

cineration) made up the remaining

Over its long history, EVN has

supplied energy to customers in

18 countries in Central and East-

ern Europe. In Austria, it supplies

enue

amount.

over 1 million customers with "We work hard to provide products and services electricity and gas, and another 480,000 people with drinking water in Lower Austria. EVN achieved its leading position by adopting new technology that keeps the company ahead of its rivals.

More than a century later,

Austria seeks even deeper ties with Japan

ustria and Japan commemorate the 140th anniversary A of diplomatic relations in 2009, with both countries recognizing the importance of increasing bilateral trade and deepening cultural ties. To mark the milestone, the two nations organized a yearlong celebration that consists of various economic and cultural events.

World Eye Reports recently interviewed Austrian Minister of Finance Josef Pröll to discuss the state of the country's economy, the challenges that have emerged from the financial downturn and steps to further strengthen ties with Japan.

WER: Given the economic crisis, Austria is not as badly hit as its European neighbors. What factors contributed to this?

Pröll: It boils down to three factors. First, Austria has made good use of the economic opportunities in Eastern Europe. Second, Austria has pursued a sound fiscal and budgetary policy in recent years. And third, our labor market, due to reforms made in the last couple of years, is very flexible. So our economy can adapt quickly.

How would you describe the banking and finance sector in Austria? What trends do you see and how will you keep up with them?

The Austrian banking sector has

seen a very dynamic development in recent years. Our banks and insurance companies are big investors in CEE (Central and Eastern European) countries, where there are huge opportunities for growth in the next decades.

We now see a certain degree of uncertainty in the markets with regards to the economic situation in the CEE. But we think this is exaggerated. Many countries in

Eastern Europe still see growth rates that we in the West can only dream of. Just one example: Retail finance is so profitable in the CEE that the banks never really had the need to invest in CDOs (collaterialized debt obligations) and similar products. The consequence is that they are now free of toxic

How important is Japanese business in Austria and which industries would be best for investment?

It could be a lot more important. Most of our foreign trade is with EU members. Imports from Japan account for only around 2 percent of total imports while exports to Japan account for only less than 1 percent of total exports.

But of course, Japanese brands are very well known in Austria, be it in the field of consumer electronics or cars, and have a reputation for good quality at low prices. As far as investment opportunities are concerned, I can only stress that Austria is a top location for

foreign investment. The tourist industry is, of course, very important, but there are so many promising industries that it is a little hard to name them all.

2009 marks the 140th anniversary of Austrian-Japanese diplomatic ties. What kind of future do you envision for this relationship?

In spite of the fundamental social and political transitions that Austria and Japan have gone through in the past 140 years, our relations have always been very cordial and dynamic. Austria consistently works on establishing ever closer ties with Japan. Our countries are closely connected politically, economically and culturally, and we aim to further deepen our relations.

Do you have any message for our international readers?

> On a personal level, I would say: Do come to Austria. It is well worth a visit. You will not be disappointed

On a political level, I would have the following message: Let us start and focus on youth programs as a long-term investment to stimulate a more intense, and lasting exchange of views and ideas between young Austrians and Japanese. We should aim at including our civil societies in order to create durable platforms for the encounter of our next generation. ♦ www.austria-japan2009.org

Quality, reliability and service "In our business, we give our clients not only the product but also the quality, the reliability and the service. We will continuously adapt our offering to suit anything our clients need," says Helmut Swarovski, head of the executive board, as he defines what the company represents today.

That flexibility and Swarovski's tradition of creative cooperation with leading designers has led to its endlessly versatile crystals. Marketed under the brand name CRYSTALLIZEDTM Swarovski Elements, they are used by artists, artisans and designers all over the world.

Every single precision-cut CRYSTALLIZED[™] element represents the scintillating soul of design, and brings radiance, emotion and desire to the product it adorns.

An eye to the future

What started as an enterprise aimed at providing the jewelry and fashion industry with radiant crystals of exceptional quality is now highly diversified.

Thanks to Swarovski's constant dedication to discovering new and exciting applications, these crystals adorn everything from the finest lingerie, swimwear and leather hides all the way through to astonishing architectural and interior applications.

Swarovski also engages in unique projects like Crystal Palace, the brainchild of Nadja, daughter of Helmut Swarovski and one of the shining lights of the fifth generation.

Crystal Palace brilliance

Every year, Crystal Palace invites selected designers to reinterpret the chandelier in modern format. These works of lighting design art, many of which have become design icons in their own right, are then internationally exhibited in leading fairs in cities

like Milan, Shanghai and Dubai. Crystal Palace is just one of the projects that illustrates the unique role Swarovski plays in inspiring the best in contemporary design. "My daughter, Nadja, is active

in the fashion industry, and she has worked with the likes of Giorgio Armani and Missoni. She has also developed Crystal Palace, Swarovski's chandelier line, and has created a wonderful portfolio of amazing Swarovski chandeliers," Helmut Swarovski says.



Daniel Swarovski I, the founder of the world-famous crystal manufacturer

New markets, new challenges

Swarovski has responded quickly to the challenges of new and exciting international markets, particularly in China, Japan and India, where it is dedicated to supporting its partners and distributors as it enhances its reputation as one of the most important names

in the fashion and luxury goods industry. The company is also active in

other businesses that capitalize on its expertise for creativity, innovation and product excellence. These include the genuine and cre-

ated gemstones marketed as EN-LIGHTENEDTM — Swarovski Elements, the high-precision optical instruments made by Swarovski Optik, Tyrolit cutting and grinding tools, and reflectors for road safety equipment and electronic guidance systems made by Swareflex.

Ginza flagship store

Swarovski also designs and manufactures finished crystal products, jewelry, fashion accessories, home décor objects and collectors' items, including the company's couture line, the Daniel Swarovski collection, which represents the epitome of Swarovski creative dynamism.

Swarovski's finished crystal goods are retailed in the company's flagship stores and boutiques around the world, including one at a prestigious address in Tokyo's Ginza, which opened in November.

"We know that Ginza is one of the most important locations in Tokyo. So we chose to open there because Tokyo is one of the most important cities in the world. Japanese culture and technology are very much admired by Swarovski. We share a belief in the best quality and the highest precision. I value our long-standing friendship with our Japanese clients and look forward to the future," Swarovski says

Swarovski and leading Japanese designer Tokujin Yoshioka

The décor for the Swarovski Ginza store is the work of acclaimed designer Tokujin Yoshioka, who created a multisensory experience in this sparkling new retail architecture.

His "Crystal Forest" vision unites multimedia with light and crystal to form an atmosphere totally in tune with Swarovski's brand identity.

As multimedia screens present customers with abstract lyrical



A view of Wattens, the Austrian town where Swarovski was founded more than 100 years ago and where its central operations remain.

images and information, crystal masterpieces are displayed in the windows and on "floating stages" throughout the boutique.

The result is a harmonious fusion of the poetry of precision, reflecting a myriad of rainbows with every moment.

Swarovski's work with Yoshioka also indicates the value the company places on its creative cooperation with inspired designers. It is also a clear indication of how the company will continue to operate in the future.♦ www.brand.swarovski.com