



EUROPEAN UNION

European Regional  
Development Fund

Senate Department  
for Economics, Energy  
and Public Enterprises



# ENSURING THAT PRODUCTS KEEP THEIR PROMISES

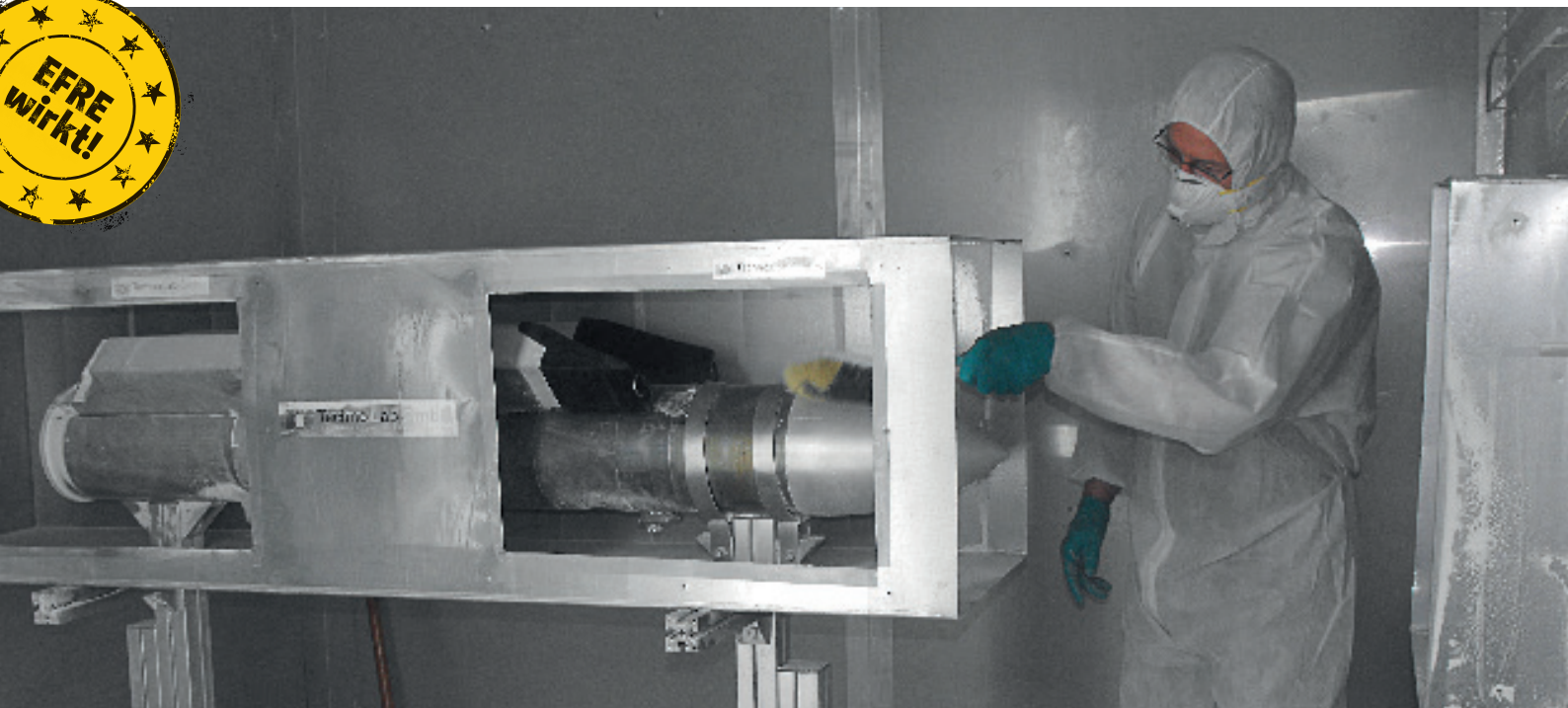
**THE EXPENSIVE WRISTWATCH SHOULD BE WATERPROOF**, the solar collector on the roof cold-resistant, the smartphone shouldn't break into tiny pieces the first time it gets dropped and the engine of the new sports car should survive many kilometres undamaged. We set high quality standards for our products and in particular for commodities.

**THE BERLIN-BASED TECHNOLAB GMBH** tests the quality and reliability of various products or product parts with the help of environmental simulators and damage analysis procedures in accordance with all recent engineer standards so the manufacturer can bring his goods to the market with a clear conscience. To make this costly process possible, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) supported the company. With the aid of a loan from the fund for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME-Funds), *TechnoLab GmbH* was able to finance complex testing instruments and further expand its range. Despite the current low level of interest rates, many small and medium-sized enterprises continue to have problems accessing credit, in particular due to insufficient collaterals and a low equity base. This is where the SME Fund comes in by granting loans for: the establishment, for early-stage investments and also for the expansion and growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in Berlin.

**FROM MOBILE PHONE TO ROCKET DRIVE**, from the smallest valve in the washing machine to the 1.5-ton railway motor, *TechnoLab* examines and tests what the customer wants, but that wasn't always the case. Olaf Nusche and his two co-founders began testing in the automotive industry in the 1990s. However, when other product manufacturers increasingly wanted to have their products tested before they entered the market, the company expanded their range of services. For almost two years *TechnoLab* has its own, widespread test plant with partly purchased, partly developed and constructed testing devices so that all desired tests can take place on site. *TechnoLab* has one of the largest sandstorm facilities in Europe.

**"WE TEST ALL KINDS OF PRODUCTS. FROM MOBILE PHONES TO ROCKET DRIVES, WE'VE HAD EVERYTHING."**

*Olaf Nusche, Managing Director of TechnoLab GmbH*



## QUALITY HAS ITS PRICE

The whole construction was and still is a **financial challenge**. Approximately three million euros have already been invested in the plant, almost a third of which was co-financed by subsidies from the state of Berlin and the federal government. Olaf Nusche appreciates this very much, and he has already used subsidies several times to develop his company and to make all kinds of products safer and more durable. The financial support from the ERDF enabled him to **build complex testing instruments**. Jobs have been created for excellently trained engineers and for working students, who can learn and gain practical experience. In addition, students regularly have the opportunity to write their theses at *TechnoLab*.

## THANKS TO THE ERDF THE NEW TESTING FACILITY WAS ABLE TO GET FINANCED

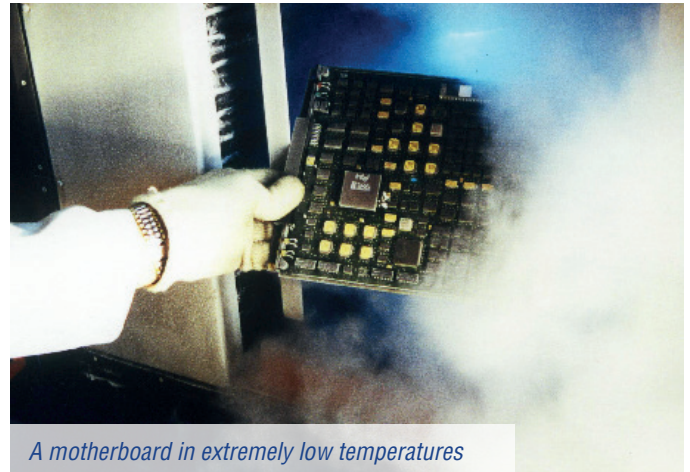
The new *TechnoLab* also exists thanks to the loan from the ERDF and the state's promotion of economic development and is used several times a day for a wide variety of product tests. Berlin was consciously chosen as a business location by Olaf Nusche and his co-founders: Not only should the test facility be equally accessible for international customers and employees, *TechnoLab* should also strengthen and promote the German capital as a place for **innovation and economic success**.

## ERDF HAS AN IMPACT ON BERLIN

For Berlin-based companies, access to capital is a decisive prerequisite for growth and the realisation of innovations. Industry-oriented services - such as the product testing by *Technolab* - are particularly important for manufacturing companies in Berlin. This is why the ERDF supports the granting of loans to Berlin companies that want to grow and invest. The ERDF-supported *SME funds* of the state-owned *Investitionsbank Berlin* gives companies the possibility to get loans **quickly and without complications**. With these funds, **investments, business growth** and **start-ups** can be financed.

### In concrete terms, the ERDF is ensuring that...

- the German economy grows and that Berlin remains an interesting commercial capital for companies worldwide.
- young, innovative and skilled engineers can get a job or an apprenticeship.
- Berlin is promoted as a capital of innovation.
- small and medium-sized enterprises will be supported so they can ensure economic diversity.



### FUNDING: CONTACT:

#### FUNDING PRIORITY 2

Economic productivity  
SME funds

#### ELIGIBLE TOTAL EXPENDITURE

€200,000; 50% from ERDF

#### PROJECT TERM

13/06/2016– 30/06/2018

#### Picture credits:

Technolab GmbH

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