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## PRESS RELEASE

### Opening of the New AXA Assistance Service Centre in Frankfurt (Oder)

*Brandenburg's Trade Minister Junghanns sees positive developments for the region*

Frankfurt (Oder), 18 April 2006 --- The global service and insurance concern AXA Assistance Germany officially opened its new service centre at a press conference in the the Oder Tower in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. Amongst the guests was Brandenburg's Minister for Trade and Industry *Ulrich Junghanns*. "I am very glad that the renowned AXA group has chosen to establish its new service centre in Frankfurt (Oder). This decision underlines how attractive this area has become for modern service providers. The capital city region Berlin-Brandenburg is increasingly seen as *the* modern service provision centre in the 'new' German states with a growing local and European charm. Here companies can find motivated employees for their customer service centres, who have language skills including those required for the expanding service market in Eastern Europe", explained Minister Junghanns. "Frankfurt, alongside other cities in Brandenburg, has developed into an excellent location for the modern service industry", he continued. "The siting of AXA in Frankfurt strengthens or economy and creates new jobs", Minister Junghanns stressed, thanking the company for its commitment to the city on the Oder.

Yves Masson, CEO of the AXA Assistance Group, referred in his speech to the "excellently trained and competent employees", with whom the branch office is staffed and who have achieved "the highest standards in the service industry". Along with Martin A. Weintz, who represented AXA Assistance Germany, Yves Masson thanked the *Investor Center Ostbrandenburg* and the city of Frankfurt (Oder) for speedy, competent and flexible assistance in setting up and organising the new service centre. A tour of the new branch office gave government, industry



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and press representatives an opportunity to get a closer picture of the wide range of services that AXA Assistance offers.

In the new service centre AXA Assistance will deal with international corporations from the automobile, tourism and credit card industries. In addition to these companies, AXA Assistance will also use this location to care for its TierPartner product. AXA Assistance's TierPartner offers a high-performance health insurance for cats and dogs. This new product allows pet owners to calculate and cover the sharply rising costs of veterinary services, and offers further services such as care for pets during the owner's illness.

The new service centre in Frankfurt (Oder) lays an excellent foundation for the further growth of AXA Assistance Germany. The company performed over 200,000 acts of assistance for its clients around the world last year, e.g. breakdown and accident assistance, medical transfers and car damage claims.

AXA Assistance Germany is a member of the globally active AXA Assistance Group, which has its headquarters in Paris. The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the insurance group AXA S.A., which is listed on the Paris and New York stock exchanges.

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