

Weekly Intelligence Brief

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AfD Wins Saxony-Anhalt State Election

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On 06 SEP, the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), a far-right German political party, won 39 of the 83 seats in Saxony-Anhalt's state parliament, the Landtag, 3 seats short of an outright majority, while the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) lost almost half its seats. This result shows strong support for AfD in Saxony-Anhalt and has implications for the current coalition government.

The current governing coalition is led by Chancellor Friedrich Merz with the CDU and the Christian Social Union (CSU) in alliance with the Social

Democratic Party (SPD). The AfD's political platform primarily focuses on Euro-skeptic nationalism, imposing restrictions on immigration, and limiting climate policies. The Federal Intelligence Service (BND) Germany's domestic intelligence agency, labels the AfD as a 'right wing extremist' party and the established German political parties have refused to form a governing coalition with the AfD. This inhibits the AfD from creating a majority government and hinders its ability to pass legislation.

The AfD's victory in Saxony-Anhalt, one of the poorer German states, is believed to have resulted from discontent with the current coalition's perceived ineffectiveness in addressing

critical issues such as weak economic output, high living costs, and high rates of unemployment. The AfD's win has several implications. First, serves to demonstrated the party's continued rise in popularity since its founding in 2013. Second, it could disrupt the current federal governing coalition by creating an AfD-ruled, competing alliance, potentially requiring the CDU/CSU-SPD coalition to broaden its partnership with other parties to maintain control.

We assess with moderate confidence that it is likely this election result will place additional pressure on the ruling CDU/CSU-SPD coalition by emphasizing voter displeasure with several existing government policies

Nigerian Authorities Dismantle Large-Scale Cartel-Linked Drug

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On 15 SEP, authorities in Nigeria announced that operatives from the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) had dismantled an industrial-scale methamphetamine laboratory in Ebonyi State, following the arrest of a Mexican national with alleged ties to a transnational drug cartel.

NDLEA operatives arrested Arturo Carrera Loaiza at Nigeria's Murtala Muhammed International Airport on 19 AUG as he attempted to flee the country. Photographic and other electronic surveillance evidence recovered during the investigation led operatives to a construction site in Ebonyi State where

the lab was housed. The bust is the agency's second major laboratory dismantlement in six months. In MAY, the NDLEA raided a large-scale operation in Ijebu-Ode in Ogun State, seizing methamphetamine and precursor chemicals valued at roughly \$363 million, tying the lab to Mexican-based transnational cartel operations in Nigeria. The frequent movement of large amounts of precursor chemicals leads to a likely already established logistics chain for these labs. The Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generación (CJNG) and the Sinaloa Cartel have relocated chemists and precursor chemical supply lines to the African continent to establish production and distribution connections across Africa. Authorities in Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa have already raided industrial-

scale laboratories which were linked to separate transnational cartels.

We assess with high confidence that Mexican-based transnational cartels will likely continue expanding methamphetamine production in Nigeria and the wider West African region, as they exploit porous borders and political instability along distribution supply lines.



GSK Licenses Chinese Firm's Cancer Drug in \$750 Million Deal

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On 16 SEP, British pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) agreed to acquire a cancer drug from Chinese firm Chimagen Biosciences in a deal worth up to \$750 million. The deal underscores China's emergence as a global player in biotechnology. GSK announced plans on Tuesday, SEP 15, to buy full global rights to a "potential best-in-class" T-cell engager (TCE) from Chengdu-based Chimagen, targeting treatment for multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer.

TCEs are antibody molecules that act as molecular bridges, connecting a

patient's immune T cells directly to cancer cells. The TCEs have shown promise for multiple Myeloma but have struggled with difficult tolerability profiles. The deal is valued at up to \$750 million, with GSK paying an upfront fee to access full global rights to the TCE program. Chimagen is also eligible for development and commercial milestone payments. It is not the first time GSK has worked with Chimagen, either. A previous agreement in 2024 saw GSK pay up to \$850 million for the rights to develop and sell CMG1A46, a clinical-stage dual CD19 and CD20-targeted TCE, from Chimagen.

GSK stated it will make an undisclosed upfront payment to develop and commercialize Chimagen's TCE assets,

followed by additional payments contingent on the drug's successful development and commercialization. With continued efforts by Chinese biotechnology companies to expand partnerships and commercialization, we can assess with high confidence that it is very likely China will continue to solidify its position as a global contender in biotechnology, as well as further-enhancing their biotechnology capabilities.



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