

Headline News

- United States-based **Solar Turbines EAME** has commenced construction of an industrial facility at the Triangle industrial zone. It is a new repair center for the renovation of Caterpillar gas turbines for a large part of Europe and other continents. According to the Ústí Region up to 450 people should find employment on site in the future. The plant should launch operations in April 2012. The tender for the construction supplier was won by Swietelsky Stavební, its Building Construction West division. Solar Turbines closely scrutinized investment conditions in several European countries and CzechInvest spent hundreds of hours to help the investor make the decision to select the Žatec Triangle zone.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 8

Business

- Pharmaceutical company **Teva Pharmaceuticals CR**'s plant in Opava, which is currently being completed, will produce seven billion pills per year. The information was provided to ČIA by the spokesperson for Teva Pharmaceuticals CR, Pavel Košek, according to whom the total investment into the plant exceeds CZK 1 bln. Mr. Košek says that this is the highest investment into the pharmaceutical industry in the Czech Republic since 1989.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 4

- Toy producer **Lego Group** plans to expand the production capacity in its Kladno plant by 25%. The company will recruit roughly 200 new employees, in addition to the existing 1,100 employees. Lego will start building two new production halls in April. The production capacity will thus be expanded by 17,000 square meters from the current 28,640 square meters. The investment will reach CZK 1.2 bln. Production launch is planned for May 2012.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 11

- **Škoda Auto** will invest CZK 800 mln into the expansion of its M13 production hall in Mladá Boleslav. The daily production capacity will increase to 1,300 vehicles or from the current 225,000 to 325,000 vehicles per year. According to Škodováký Odborář the company is planning to invest money into the nearby eighth gate where it plans to build a new computer center. The planned investments also include an expansion of parking areas.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 3

- **CTP Invest** has requested an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for its plan to situate the production assembly and service facility of **ABB** in the newly built 09 building at CTPark in Ostrava-Hrabová. ABB is active in the energy sector and automation. A total of 210 employees should be employed on site. The project should

commence this year and be completed next year.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 3

- From the EIA point of view, the Ústí Regional Authority has approved the plan by **AGC Automotive Czech**, a producer of auto glass, to increase production in its existing plant in Bílina. The plan's objective is to increase the volume of current production of side windows including the frames. The line installations are expected to be completed by 2012.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 14

- The firm **Rohde & Schwarz**, which is doing business in the area of electronic testing and metering devices, information technologies and radio communications, will invest CZK 250 mln into its Vimperk plant this year. According to the company, the aim of the investment project is to invest CZK 150 mln into production technologies and CZK 100 mln into new production halls.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 23

- The firm **Huisman Konstrucke**, which produces heavy lifting equipment, prepares to build assembly halls in its facility in Sviadnov, Frýdek-Místek district. The investment, totaling several hundreds of millions of korunas, will enable the company to develop and produce special equipment, such as drilling sets for oil fields or sea cranes. The company has

informed that it plans to recruit 200 new workers within the next two years in relation to the production boost.

Source: , Mar 24

- **Denesa** and **Creative Caps** are coming to the Strategic Industrial Zone Holešov. The companies have already signed a memorandum of understanding with Zlín Region. According to Industry Servis ZK Executive Manager Jakub Černoch, investors can ask for a zoning decision, a development permit and pass the EIA process thanks to the memorandum. The newly occupied area will cover 1.6 hectare and the total investment will likely reach CZK 35 mln. The zone will thus offer 20 new jobs.

Source: , Mar 24

R&D

- The **Association for Foreign Investment** and the **American Chamber of Commerce** in the Czech Republic have announced the adVENTURE project. The aim of this initiative is to support the development of innovative start-up firms and the commercialisation of research and development findings. The partner of adVENTURE is PwC Česká republika and the project is supported by CzechInvest and the Czech Private Equity and Venture Capital Association. Would you like to find out the commercial potential of your research, seed or start-up project? Just register in the project and you will have the possibility to gain feedback from renowned specialists and to meet with potential investors. The adVENTURE conference will take place in Prague on 19 May 2011.

<http://www.spolupraceroku.cz/adventure/prihlaska>

Source: *CzechInvest, Mar 31*

- **CzechInvest** has become a member of the **Massachusetts Biotechnology Council** (MassBio), the non-for-profit organization, which represents and provides services and

support for the Massachusetts biotechnology industry. CzechInvest received a year membership and an opportunity to participate in industry events during the year 2011.

Source: *CzechInvest, Mar 31*

- **Czech Technology Day**, which was held in Boston on March 23rd 2011, was focused mainly on biotechnology sector and possibilities of cooperation between Czech and American counterparts. Meetings took place in the Cambridge Innovation Center and the Technology Licensing Office of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Source: *CzechInvest, Mar 31*

- In the future the investment incentive system could expand to include projects involving research, development or strategic business services such as software. According to Industry and Trade Minister Martin Kocourek these forthcoming changes are part of the amendment to the investment incentives act. He added that new investments are key for economic prosperity which is why it is important to focus also on supporting the ones that are more demanding when it comes to technology and knowledge.

Source: , Mar 8

Economy

- According to the governor of the Czech National Bank (CNB), Miroslav Singer, the **Czech economy** might reach the pre-crisis level approximately by the end of this year. According to the central bank's prediction, GDP will grow by 1.6% in 2011, following the gain of 2.3% in 2010.

Source: , Mar 4

Culture

- Vivaldi's serenata L'Unione della Pace, e di Marte will be played in a modern-era global premiere in the Czech Museum of Music in Prague on May 7, 2011. The concert will be held within the Baroque Arts Festival.

Česká informační agentura is the event's media partner.

Source: , Mar 25

CzechInvest

- The agency CzechInvest organizes the **International Conference Industrial Zones in the Czech Republic** on 26 April 2011 in Prague. Held under the auspices of the Minister of Industry and Trade Martin Kocourek, the conference will present the current situation and future of industrial zones in the CR, the support of investments into industrial zones and strategies and use of brownfields in the CR.

Source: *CzechInvest, Mar 31*

- The agency **CzechInvest** secured a total of 209 new investment projects from Czech and foreign companies last year, worth totally CZK 16.25 bln. This is an increase of 10% on 2009. According to CzechInvest's statistics, the highest volume of investments was focused on production projects (CZK 13.8 bln). The investments secured in 2010 will result into up to 9,423 job positions, up 40% y/y.

Source: , Mar 8

- The **CzechAccelerator** programme in Silicon Valley has been successful and this programme will operate also in Singapore, Israel, Switzerland and the eastern coast of the USA at the beginning of next year. CzechInvest CEO Miroslav Křížek said that the agency will pay also a participation in conferences or license acquisitions in the new programme.

Source: , Mar 24

Exchange Rates
Averages for March 2011
EUR 1 = CZK 24.392
GBP 1 = CZK 28.152
USD 1 = CZK 17.424

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www.cianews.cz



Contact: CzechInvest - Investment and Business Development Agency
Stepanska 15, 120 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic
Tel.: +420 296 342 500, E-mail: fdi@czechinvest.org
Web: www.czechinvest.org