

Headline News

- According to the “**European Cities and Regions of the Future 2012/2013**” ranking compiled by the prestigious British **fDi Magazine**, Czech cities and regions are very well positioned in terms of supporting foreign direct investments. Brno, Ostrava and Cheb ranked in the top ten Eastern European cities with the best investment support. Three Czech regions – Central Bohemia, Plzen and Pardubice – hold leading positions among the top ten Eastern European regions in this category. Furthermore, the British investment journal ranked Prague in the top ten business-friendly European capitals.

Source: *CzechInvest, Mar 30*

Business

- The TPCA plant, joint-venture between **PSA Peugeot Citroen** and **Toyota Motor Corporation**, celebrated the production of its two millionth vehicle. In the Czech Republic TPCA produces the Toyota Aygo, Peugeot 107 and Citroen C1. Operations started with the support of **CzechInvest** in February 2005 and a year later the annual capacity of 300,000 cars was reached. “Thanks to our well qualified staff we can provide high quality products to our customers. Building a plant for production of small city cars in the heart of Europe was a good decision” said Satoshi Tachihara, President of TPCA.

Source: *CzechInvest, Mar 30*

- The firm **Behr Czech** plans to invest ca. EUR 14-16 mln (CZK 393.68 mln) into the building lot, hall and first technologies within its project for the building of a new production plant in the municipality of Ostrov. The information was provided to CIA by Behr Czech’s assistant director David Srna. The project is motivated by the expansion of the production of air conditioning systems. The maximum annual capacity is set to 2.5 mln air conditioning systems. The plant will employ ca. 1,500 persons.

Source: *CIA, Mar 14*

- The firm **Linde Pohony**, which produces forklift stackers, has applied for environmental impact assessment (EIA) for its plan for the construction of three halls for engineering construction and assembly in Cesky Krumlov. The total employee base is foreseen at 650 persons. The company plans to start building two of the halls in October 2012, with completion foreseen for February 2014. The construction of the third hall should begin in October 2015 and end in February 2016.

Source: *CIA, Mar 20*

- The firm **Erdrich Umformtechnik**, which produces parts and assembly sets for the producers of systems for the automotive industry, has applied for environmental impact assessment (EIA) for its plan for

the boosting of the capacity of the ammoniac reservoir and storage technology change in Krnov. The plant has over 235 employees now. Construction launch is scheduled to start in the second half of 2012, with completion foreseen within 10 weeks.

Source: *CIA, Mar 14*

- US Federal Aviation Administration has awarded type certification to GE Aviation’s turbo-propeller engine H80. The engines, manufactured in the Czech Republic, may thus be put into operation in Q4 2012. **GE Aviation Czech’s** business director Milan Slapak has told CIA that Thrush 510G will be the first aircraft to use the engines, followed by L410 from Kunovice-based **Aircraft Industries**.

Source: *CIA, Mar 21*

- The **Goodman Group** will build a pre-ordered building with an area of 22,000 m2 for **SAS Autosystemtechnik** in Mlada Boleslav. Cockpits for cars will be manufactured on location and supplied to the Skoda Auto plant for assembly. CIA was told by the group’s PR representative Radek Ivaniskin that the investment totals EUR 17 to 18 mln (up to CZK 444.6 mln). Roughly 500 new jobs will be created.

Source: *CIA, Mar 22*

- The Central Bohemia regional authority has approved the environmental impact assessment for **Skoda Auto’s** project to build Skoda Auto

Technical Development in Mlada Boleslav at the Cesana – South facility. CIA was told by Skoda Auto spokesman Jozef Balaz, this is an investment worth millions of euros.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 20

- **Doosan Bobcat Engineering** has requested an environmental impact assessment for the construction of its industrial facility with administration in Dobris. The facility includes three main buildings: an administrative building, development center and energy center. Construction should commence in the third quarter of 2013 and be completed in the third quarter of 2014. The offices will provide space for 125 employees.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 27

- The regional authority of Usti Region has permitted in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) the intention of **Denas Decin** to extend the operation of its galvanisation plant. The intention includes the installation of a new line for the technology of aluminium adjustment in the current premise of the company. The realisation of the project will likely begin in the second quarter of 2012.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 22

R&D

- Olomouc Magistrate has decided about the location of the new building of the VTP UP Olomouc Start-up Business Incubator, based upon a request from **Palacky University Olomouc**. The structure will be three-storey and will house 22 offices and 22 laboratories.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 1

- The Central Bohemia Region Office has permitted the construction of the **VTP Technopark Kralupy** project within the environmental impact assessment (EIA). The regional authority says that the project will have no major impact on environment and is thus subject to no further proceedings.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 7

- The Statutory Municipality of Ostrava has requested an

environmental impact assessment for the expansion of the **Ostrava science-technology park**. Individual phases will be launched gradually once the project is approved until 2020 or 2025. The project is now being assessed by the Moravia-Silesia regional authority.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 22

- Central Bohemia Region Office has approved the plan of the firm **PV Roztoky** for the building of the Roztoky II Science and Technology Plan in the environmental impact assessment (EIA). The plan covers the expansion of the new state-of-the-art science and technology complex for the purpose of science and applied research. Work on the project is scheduled to start in the summer of 2012.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 27

Economy

- The Lower House of the Parliament of the Czech Republic approved in the third reading the Amendment of the **Investment Incentive Act** on Wednesday, March 21. If approved by the Senate, the investment incentives will be offered in the Czech Republic to companies involved in the research and development or strategic services. The period during which the companies will be able to enjoy the discounted corporate tax rate will extend from the today's 5 to 10 years.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 21

- The year 2017 is the closest real date for the Czech Republic's adoption of the euro, according to the governor of the **Czech National Bank**, Miroslav Singer. The first serious debates about entering the eurozone may be considered in 2014 or 2015 at the earliest; and one also has to add the technical period necessary before the currency introduction.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 12

CzechInvest

- In March **CzechInvest** officially opened its branch of CzechAccelerator 2011-2014 Programme in Singapore. Czech

technology companies in ICT, biotechnology, life sciences and other fields will now have the opportunity to gain experience and obtain partners in the destinations where the world's innovation elite are concentrated. The Singapore branch of CzechInvest will help to build a bridge between the two countries in the area of innovation, investment and business.

Source: **CzechInvest**, Mar 30

- On 31 May 2012 **CzechInvest** in cooperation with the **Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (TC AV)** and **Association of Chemical Industry of the Czech Republic** will held a conference "Nanotechnology Development and Risk Capital in the Czech Republic". The workshop and panel discussion will focus on the financing and commercialization of R&D projects, start-ups and available support for nano SMEs in the Czech Republic. The conference will be held in Prague at TC AV. **Association for Foreign Investment (AFI)** is the main partner of the event.

Source: **CzechInvest**, Mar 30

- Starting companies may get up to CZK 3 mln for their development from the 'Counselling' programme of the **CzechInvest** project CzechEkoSystem. Petr Ocko, director of the department of EU funds, research and development of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, said that there are CZK 205 mln available for the project within the Counselling programme and CZK 150 mln are reserved for the payment of coach and consultant services.

Source: **CIA**, Mar 9

Exchange Rates
Averages for March 2012
EUR 1 = CZK 24.673
GBP 1 = CZK 29.556
USD 1 = CZK 18.701



Source: Česká informační agentura, s.r.o.
www.cianews.cz