

Headline News

- US software company **NetSuite** plans to open a development centre in Brno. The company intends to employ 100 workers in the first phase. It wants to focus on the development of company management software. The company's office will initially be based in the South Moravian Innovation Centre. CEO Zach Nelson has stated that Brno was selected due to the quality of local universities and the fact that many international IT companies have their offices in the city.

Source: **CIA**, Dec 20

Business

- Multinational company **Acision**, the leading provider of SMS sending software, will expand its Brno branch. It will hire 40 new developers. The company will launch a new project in Brno in January that will focus on systems for creating tariffs and charging voice and data operations of telecoms operators and a system for administration of prepaid tariffs. The Czech Republic is thus becoming the entire company's main development centre, as it has repeatedly proven substantially higher efficiency and technical skills than the other centres, located e.g. in India or other European countries.

- The company's management have decided to move the project to the Czech Republic based on

the results generated in Brno and Prague. Acision has 1,600 employees worldwide, of which 500 work in the Czech Republic.

Source: **CIA**, Dec 13

- FVE Solar Group**, which primarily manufactures ground screws and components for solar power plants, has signed a declaration of understanding with the Zlín Region. It can start preparing its investment in strategic industrial zone Holešov. According to company owner Petr Glozyga construction of the new production facility will help improve organization of production and enable the company's further planned machinery investments.

Source: **CIA**, Dec 14

- Panattoni Czech Republic Services** will join the Triangle industrial zone in the Žatec area where it intends to build a pressing plant for plastic dashboard components in the second half of 2011. The company signed the lease at the meeting of the Ústí Regional Council on Wednesday December 22.

- The plant should be the main distributor within its worldwide automotive industry network. In connection with the planned project, according to information from the Ústí Region, up to 150 new jobs could be created.

Source: **CIA**, Dec 27

- The IT department of **Deutsche Börse Services** and

the operation centre Clearstream Operations Prague of the group Deutsche Börse will move to the Futurama Business Park in Prague-Karlín in the second quarter of year 2011. The companies have leased 7,500 square meters in the park. According to Clearstream International spokesman Nicolas Nonnenmacher, the group intends to hire another 250 employees for the two companies by the year 2013.

Source: **CIA**, Dec 1

- Mediolope has applied for an environmental impact assessment for its **Gestamp Czech** production hall in industrial zone Triangle - Žatec. The hall will press metal parts for automobile components. The pressing capacity should reach 51,000 tons per year. The hall will create 250 jobs. Construction should begin in April and be completed in February 2012.

Source: **CIA**, Dec 14

- Donghee Czech** has requested an environmental impact assessment for its new production facility and warehouse for chemicals and paints in Český Těšín. The facility will be used to store dangerous chemicals and chemical preparations and pesticides exceeding 1 ton, liquid fertilizer, pharmaceutical products, paints and varnishes exceeding 100 tons. The built-up area will total 722 square meters.

Source: **CIA**, Dec 10

- The firm **Mobi-1 Czech** plans to open a mobile payments centre in Pardubice. The company plans to employ ca. 120 persons in the centre within two years. The firm's director, Ladislav Brožek, has told ČIA that Mobi-1 Czech plans to activate roughly 4,000 points of sales on the Czech territory within ten months. The firm intends to use automated vending machines in the initial phase.

Source: **ČIA**, Dec 17

Nanotex's investment into the plant for the production of special sterile textile from nano-fibres that the company is building in Litvínov will reach CZK 200 mln. The special textile from nano-fibres has wide usage in medicine, for bed line for allergic people, filters for vacuum cleaners or air conditioning for sterile rooms.

Source: **ČIA**, Dec 29

- A definitive decision has been made in Brussels that European supervision of the **Galileo** system will be located in Prague. Ministers decided about the location of the administrative headquarters at the European Council session. The Galileo system will be the European version of American network GPS. It should start operating in four years. This information was provided by the Czech Transport Ministry.

Source: **ČIA**, Dec 10

- Two current tenants of CTP in Pardubice and Ostrava will extend their capacities by over 26,000 square meters. The extensions will create a total of 110 new jobs. The first tenant is **Damco**, a provider of logistic services, which will lease another 16,000 square meters in the CTPark Pardubice. According to CTP, the second tenant is **Grupo Antolin**, which will extend its area in the CTPark Ostrava by 10,000 square meters.

Source: **ČIA**, Dec 9

R&D

- Minister of Education Josef Dobeš has signed the provision

of more than CZK 1 bln worth subsidy from the operational programme **Research and Development for Innovations** to support two projects in applied scientific research and development. Plzeň-based University of West Bohemia will obtain over CZK 820 mln to implement the research Centre of Excellence. Brno-based Masaryk University will get almost CZK 220 mln for a new regional research centre.

Source: **ČIA**, Dec 3

Economy

- The government led by Petr Nečas will not set a date for the **adoption of the euro**. It will be more advantageous for the Czech Republic to keep its currency rather than adopt the euro in next years, Mr. Nečas said in TV show Otázky Václava Moravce. Mr. Nečas thinks the date should be set after it is clear that costs on keeping the koruna are higher than costs on the adoption of the European currency.

Source: **ČIA**, Dec 5

- According to the study **'Central and Eastern Europe in 2020'** by Roland Berger Strategy Consultants, the CEE region will experience economic growth through 2020, however, lower than it has been thus far. Company managers are expecting the CEE region's fragmentation into sub-regions that will compete with each other. In 2020, Central European economies will be driven by innovation, and Eastern and South-Eastern European countries will remain "factories" that will continue to compete with the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China).

- Managers appreciate the most the region's geographic location, which they consider a bridge for trading with Russian, Turkish and Asian markets. However, they do not consider these markets important enough. The study identifies human capital as a key factor, particularly emphasising employees' soft skills rather than their professional qualifications. Some 320

leading managers of companies in the CEE region participated in the study.

Source: **ČIA**, Dec 6

CzechInvest

- So far, 8,272 business entities have applied for subsidies totalling CZK 80.151 bln from the **Business and Innovations European Operating Programme**.

According to Industry and Trade Minister Martin Kocourek, the support paid out within the subsidy and credit programmes totalled already CZK 15 bln. The highest portion of the payments were provided to entrepreneurs in Moravia.

- According to Mr. Kocourek, the ministry is preparing a set of measures that will accelerate the access to the subsidies from the year 2011. For example, the time required for the arrangement of the subsidies will be reduced by up to 20%, the bureaucracy will be scaled down and the payments of promised subsidies will thus be accelerated. The general director of the **CzechInvest** agency, Miroslav Křížek, has added that the most demanded programmes at the moment are those that help the companies to buy technologies. Subsidies for energy savings are also popular.

Source: **ČIA**, Dec 9

- According to data provided by agency **CzechInvest** entrepreneurs in the Olomouc Region received subsidies from Operating Program Business and Innovation for a total of 328 projects. According to SME Union Chairman David Šeich, the volume of subsidies allocated to date exceeds CZK 1 bln. He says this is the smallest volume of all Moravian regions.

Source: **ČIA**, Dec 14

Exchange Rates
Averages for December 2010
EUR 1 = CZK 25.165
GBP 1 = CZK 29.673
USD 1 = CZK 19.028

Source: Česká informační agentura, s.r.o.

