

CzechInvest Newsletter

December 2012



Headline News

- Due to the renovation of **the Czech embassy in Tokyo**, **CzechInvest** has moved its foreign office for Japan to new premises. From 1 December 2012, those interested in the possibilities of doing business in the Czech Republic can receive information at CzechInvest's new office located at **Cerulean Tower** (15th Floor), **26-1, Sakuragaoka-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 150 8512 Japan**.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 26

Business & Investment

- Carmaker **Skoda Auto** has started producing 1.2 TSI and 1.4 TSI petrol engine for various brands from the Volkswagen Group in its Mlada Boleslav plant. The direct injection engines will be assembled primarily into Skoda models, as well as Audi, Seat and Volkswagen cars. The expansion comes within the carmaker's massive investment program in the Czech Republic. The company will invest over EUR 34 mln into the building of 21 new engine and component testing rooms.

Source: **CIA**, Dec 3

- With CzechInvest's assistance, the Italian company **Comdata** has opened its first branch in the Czech Republic, specifically in Ostrava. The company is thus continuing its foreign expansion. Comdata Czech will provide

support for customers in the Czech Republic, particularly in the area of processes for the telecommunications sector. Its main customer will be Vodafone Czech Republic. Comdata anticipates that it will create up to 200 new jobs during the first year of operation.

Source: **CzechInvest**, Nov 16

- Czech automaker **Skoda Auto** has invested hundreds of millions of Czech crowns to the development of its Kvasiny-based factory this year. According to Skoda Auto spokesman Jozef Balaz, the automaker will continue in the investments also next year.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 20

- Panattoni Europe** and **JC Interiors Czechia** have completed the construction of halls in the industrial zone Triangle. Panattoni built premises build-to-own covering the area of 10,250 m². JC Interiors Czechia, a company focused on the production of plastic components for the automotive industry, completed the second stage of its intention. The company plans to build four stages of a gradual extension of its plant with a future employee base of 630, according to information provided by Ustecky Region, the owner of the zone.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 12

- ABB** is to invest CZK 650 mln to production expansion in

Brno in the following period. The company also wants in this recruit approximately 450 new employees. The new plant should launch operation in 2014. Company spokesperson, Lenka Subrtova, confirmed this for CIA. ABB expanded its production capacities in Brno during the last year already.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 20

- The firm **DHL Express** has opened new headquarters in Ostrava. The office is situated in a reconstructed building in the city centre. More than 100 employees moved into the complex in October. The rented area totals 1,666 m². The company says that it continues with its plan for the development of its presence in Ostrava region, which it views as one of the key regions.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 29

- Chrudim Mayor Petr Reznicek has launched talks with **Kayaba Industry**, which manufactures mufflers. The information was confirmed for CIA by Reznicek, who added that talks involved the implementation of the company's investment plans in the local industrial zone.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 8

- Automotive Lighting** will invest CZK 50 mln into production premises and technology at its new Jihlava-based plant. The piece of information was confirmed for

CIA by Automotive Lighting CEO Pavel Zverina. According to his words, tens of millions of Czech crowns will be invested in the equipment of the plant. The construction will likely be tested by first prototype machines in December. The series production will likely begin in March 2013.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 15

- **Bosch** has its own training center in Jihlava. It was introduced at the Economic Discussion of the Czech-German Trade and Industry Chamber by company spokesman Pavel Roman. The school was created in cooperation with the municipality of Jihlava and SST Polenska. Students use real parts, SW and aids.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 27

R&D

- The city of Olomouc is becoming the Czech Republic's centre for biomedicine, biotechnology and related sectors. **The National Biomedical and Biotechnology Park** is being established here and will provide facilities for existing firms and spin-off and start-up companies originating in the environment of university research. The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic and CzechInvest, the city of Olomouc, Palacky University in Olomouc, Olomouc University Hospital, the MedChemBio Cluster and Technologicky park a.s. will contribute to the park's occupancy and creation of conditions for users. Representatives of these organisations have signed a memorandum on cooperation to this effect.

Source: *CzechInvest*, Nov 28

- On November 9, 2012, Charles University will start building **the University Medicinal Centre of the Faculty of Medicine of Charles University Plzen**. The centre will be used by five theoretical institutes at the faculty plus the newly formed Biomedicine Centre. The university has

informed that the expenditures into the first phase will exceed CZK 600 mln. Beside the European Fund for Regional Development, the costs will be covered also from the Czech Republic's state budget and Charles University's own resources.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 1

- On Thursday November 8, **the Research Energy Centre** opened the new Technology Pavilion in Ostrava-Poruba. It will focus on energy research, development and innovations in the field of heat and power generation equipment such as cogeneration units. The costs of the construction totalled CZK 170 mln. The funds were allocated from the Operational Programme Research and Development for Innovation.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 9

- **Regional Centre of Material Research** (CMV) at the Chemical Faculty of the Technical University in Brno started its research activities on Thursday, November 15. The total investment from European and national funds reached over CZK 200 mln. CMV focuses in the applied research in the field of inorganic material, transport systems and sensors based on organic semi-conductors.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 16

Infrastructure

- The Czech Republic wants to introduce **direct flights between Prague and China**. It follows from the negotiations on cooperation in tourism between the Czech delegation led by the Minister for Regional Development, Kamil Jankovsky, and the Chinese officials. The next major goals are for the two parties the acceleration of the process of obtaining visas and an effective promotion of the Czech Republic in China. According to Minister Kamil Jankovsky, the strengthening of the representation of the Czech

Republic in China is important for the development of the Czech economy, not only in the field of tourism.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 20

Economy

- **Czech economy** will drop 0.9% in 2012, **the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development** (OECD) estimates. Next year the Czech economy will grow 0.8% and in 2014 as much as 2.4%, OECD estimates. OECD says that the estimate is motivated by the effects of fiscal consolidation on consumer demand and the influence of fiscal uncertainties related to the euro's unstable position on the currency market.

Source: **CIA**, Nov 27

CzechInvest

- Next year **CzechInvest** will send more innovative Czech firms for residencies of several months in business incubators abroad, where they will gain new experience, contacts and opportunities for their further development. Those interested in participating can register in the fifth call of the project until 14 February 2013. Twenty-four firms have participated in the project so far. Companies operating in the fields of biotechnology, ICT, life sciences, medical technology, clean technology, nanotechnology and precision engineering have a choice of five destinations – the east and west coasts of the United States, Switzerland, Israel and Singapore.

Source: *CzechInvest*, Nov 22

Exchange Rates

Averages for November 2012

EUR 1 = CZK 25.365

GBP 1 = CZK 31.554

USD 1 = CZK 19.775



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