

CzechInvest Newsletter

December 2014



Headline News

Osaka and **Tokyo** hosted investment seminars organised by the CzechInvest's Japanese office in November. In the course of the seminars, Japanese entrepreneurs discussed the Czech Republic's workforce, investment environment and current changes in the legislation pertaining to investment incentives. They were also familiarised with the CzechLink project, which helps Czech companies to find strategic partners. Both programmes featured the participation of Minister of Industry and Trade Jan Mladek in connection with his official trip to Japan. In the course of his visit, he will sign a memorandum of understanding in the area of nuclear energy, as well a cooperation agreement between CzechInvest and its Japanese counterpart, JETRO.

Source: *CzechInvest*, November 23

Business & Investment

The firm **ZKL**, which manufactures large barrel and special bearings, will invest CZK 184 mln into the production of cylindrical bearings, primarily for railroad transportation, in the ZKL Klasterec nad Ohri plant. The company has stated that it plans to invest ca. CZK 87 mln from its own resources. Another part will be financed from a loan and from approved subsidies from the Innovation and Real Estate programme. According to ZKL Klasterec nad Ohri's production plant's executive director Oldrich Martinek, the railroad industry is a sector with a high potential in the global scale and ZKL register increased demand for its products.

Source: *CIA NEWS*, November 24

TIRAD has submitted its plan to expand production premises to an environmental impact assessment (EIA). The production plant is located in Šasovice in the municipality of Zeleťava. The production includes precision machining and deep drilling of metal parts on CNC machines. The investor wants to increase this production and must therefore expand the existing premises. The new construction project is set to cover an area of 41,384 m². There will be several separate buildings including an operations building, engineering hall and an annex to the engineering hall. The project is expected to start in April 2015 and be completed in June 2018.

Source: *CIA NEWS*, November 20

FOXCONN CZ plans to invest EUR 10 mln into the expansion of the mechanical division of its factory in Pardubice, involved in the production of plastic and metal parts and their coating and surface treatment. The information was provided to CIANEWS by FOXCONN CZ's Social and Environmental Responsibility manager Tomas Kmosek. In 2014 FOXCONN CZ hired 100 new employees. The company predicts that similar numbers will be hired also in the coming years.

Source: *CIA NEWS*, November 6

The cornerstone of **KION Group's** new forklift factory was laid in Ostrov u Stribra on 11 November 2014. Located in the Panattoni Park Stribro industrial zone, the roughly 24,000 m² factory will employ approximately 200 people. KION Group is investing more than CZK 300 mln in the facility's technology and equipment. Production is set to begin in 2015.

Source: *CzechInvest*, November 12

Parker Hannifin's Chomutov-based factory has made public its plan until 2017. It will likely become number one in the concern for the production in the EMEA region. The company runs in Chomutov five divisions producing components for hydraulic and pneumatic systems. The plan for next three years copes with the growth in the number of divisions to at least seven. The turnover of the company will likely more than double. According to Parker Hannifin Executive Tomas Parizek, the company has already invested over CZK 30 mln in the factory extension and indoor adjustments.

Source: *CIA NEWS*, November 12

R&D

The thirteenth annual **Czech Brain** awards for science, research and innovation were presented on 27 November 2014. An expert jury composed of representatives of universities and scientific institutes named a total of six laureates. Together with Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka, significant figures from Czech social and cultural life, institutional officials and representatives of research firms paid tribute to Czech scientists and technicians during the awards ceremony at the National House in Prague's Vinohrady district.

Source: *CzechInvest*, November 28

A Czech biotechnology and biomedicine delegation led by a representative of CzechInvest carried out a technology mission to **Malaysia** and **Singapore** in the first week of November. The purpose of the mission was to gain new partners for research and exchanges of students and young scientists. Among other things, the members of the delegation offered to partners contract research, which will enable their Asian counterparts to use the extensive possibilities of Czech research infrastructure. Participants in the mission included the Biotechnology and Biomedical Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and Charles University in Vestec (BIOCEV), the Institute of Molecular and Translational Medicine of the Medical Faculty of Palacky University in Olomouc (UMTM) and the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Academy of Sciences (UOCHB).

Source: *CzechInvest, November 4*

The **Czech Institute of IT, Robotics and Cybernetics** of the Czech Technical University in Prague will be built in Prague. According to Tomas Bilek, the chairman of the board of directors of general contractor HOCHTIEF CZ, the new premises covering 40,000 m² will serve as a top workstation and education centre. Costs on the construction of the institute will likely reach CZK 1.38 bn. The construction part of the project will require CZK 1.18 bn. The renovation and related work will likely last 14 months. The construction will be conducted by venture HOCHTIEF – VCES, the winner of a public tender.

Source:  NEWS, November 25

The gross structure of multifunctional laser center **ELI Beamlines** (Extreme Light Infrastructure) in Dolni Brezany near Prague has been completed. Almost 39,000 m³ of cement and 7,000 tons of steel were used for the structure. The construction supplier is association Metrostav, OHL ZS and VCES. The project, intended for the Physics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, began 17 months ago.

Source:  NEWS, November 15

Supporting Programmes

CzechInvest and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic recently presented the **Entrepreneurial Project of the Year 2013** awards. Eight winners of this year's competition were recognised for their successful projects supported via EU structural funds and the state budget. The awards ceremony was held under the auspices of Minister of Industry and Trade Jan Mladek on Tuesday, 18 November 2014, in Martinic Palace at Prague Castle.

Source: *CzechInvest, November 19*

Events

At the recent **unBound Digital international technology conference** in Great Britain, the Czech Republic was presented as a favourable destination for software firms. CzechInvest, the Czech ICT Alliance and representatives of Czech start-ups prepared a seminar about Czech digital business for foreign investors. This year's unBound Digital was held at London's Vinopolis on Tuesday, 25 November 2014, and was attended by nearly a thousand entrepreneurs, investors and representatives of start-up firms.

Source: *CzechInvest, November 26*

Czech start-up firms successfully participated in the **TechCrunch Disrupt EU show** in London on 20-21 October 2014. The Czechs comprised the biggest national pavilion and gained a number of contacts and concrete offers. Out of the hundreds of projects presented at TechCrunch, the Czech start-up Levebee was named one of the top fifteen.

Source: *CzechInvest, November 4*

Prague Castle hosted **CEPA EXPO**, a conference of private air carriers, on 19-20 November 2014. The Central Europe Private Aviation (CEPA) organisation invited to Prague all parties interested in the private aviation business in Central and Eastern Europe. Approximately 200 people attended the event. The conference programme included talks on the topics of safety, current changes in regulations, the latest technologies and differences in insurance between western and eastern countries. An important part of the discussions at this year's event was the ongoing unrest in Ukraine and related tensions in Eastern Europe.

Source: *CzechInvest, November 21*

Representatives of twelve Czech nanotechnology firms established the **Association of the Nanotechnology Industry of the Czech Republic** on 27 November 2014. The celebratory signing of the foundation agreement took place at CzechInvest's headquarters in Prague. The new association intends to become a partner in the promotion of the sector in the academic and business spheres. It will enhance the Czech Republic's good reputation in the sector and represent the interests of its members in Czech industry and abroad. The association will also focus on seeking out support and opportunities for cooperation at the commercial and academic levels. Czechs excel especially in the areas of nanofibres and optics.

Source: *CzechInvest, November 27*

CzechInvest

British investors who are considering entering the Czech market met for a working breakfast at the **Czech embassy in London** on 29 October 2014. In cooperation with the embassy, CzechInvest prepared for them a brief seminar with up-to-date information about the Czech Republic and the country's economy and market. The meeting was hosted by Ambassador Michael Zantovsky. Topics of discussion included investment incentives and current investment possibilities in the Czech Republic.

Source: *CzechInvest, November 11*

Exchange Rates

Averages for November 2014

EUR 1 = CZK 27,666

GBP 1 = CZK 35,015

USD 1 = CZK 22,182



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