

### Headline News

- US company **Shape Corporation** opens its first European plant for the manufacture of automotive suspension systems and other assembly units in Plzeň. The new plant's capacity will be approximately four million components per year. The firm launched the first production line in January 2011. Full operation should start one year later. Some 125 people are expected to be employed at the plant.
- According to Mark White, Shape Corporation vice president responsible for European markets, Plzeň was selected due to the proximity of the West European markets on which many of the company's customers are active. The company will be looking for employees in production and for suppliers focused on the automotive industry, logistics and packaging technologies in the region of Plzeň.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 10

### Business&Investment

- **Elmarco**, which also processes plastic, has completed the construction of a nanofiber research and development center supported by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Liberec. According to Industry and Trade Minister Martin Kocourek, the company received funds from the Potenciál program which is part of European Operating Program Business and Innovation (OPBI).

According to Kocourek, support totaled CZK 75 mln.

- According to the general manager of agency CzechInvest, Miroslav Křížek, Elmarco was also among the first successful applicants for Potenciál program funding. According to Křížek, the company also received more than CZK 33 mln from the Inovace program as part of the OPBI.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 25

- CTP Invest is applying for an EIA assessment of its plan to build a **Wistron** manufacturing plant for electro-technical production in Brno-Černovice. The production will take place in three separate buildings whose total area should be 91,436 sq m. Implementation is expected to be completed in 2012.

- The production will take place in three separate buildings. There will be a plant for products from the field of IT focusing on game systems, media products and the Internet, as well as a production and assembly facility for the assembly of TV receivers equipped with LCD or plasma screens. There should also be a production and completion facility for the production of fitted printed circuit boards that will be used to complete LCD TVs. Some 735 parking places will be created. The plan is now being assessed by the South Moravia Regional Authority.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 3

- **Pokart**, a company focusing mainly on the production of cardboard packaging, has begun

constructing its plant in the Holešov strategic industrial zone. The company will start its activities on the new premises as early as this year. This information has been provided by Industry Servis ZK, which added that other companies, such as MRB Sazovice, were preparing to begin construction in the spring. Seventy employees will work in the new Pokart plant. The company invested approximately CZK 70 mln into it.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 17

- The firm **Fabionn** has applied for the environmental impact assessment for the project for the construction of a production facility in the Verne industrial park in Klášterec nad Ohří. The facility is designed for a pressing shop for plastic components for dashboards for the automotive industry. The production capacity is projected at 368,000 pieces of plastic components.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 10

- **EvoBus**, a Daimler Buses subsidiary, will invest EUR 5.4 mln into a production hall covering 5,600 sq m and technical equipment for buses in Holýšov in the district of Domažlice. According to Daimler Buses, the new manufacturing facility will implement production procedures with state-of-the-art equipment, also using waste heat. The building is to be completed by the end of 2011.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 24

## Infrastructure

- The Transport Ministry of the Czech Republic has approved the **Superstrategy of the Transportation** until 2025. It is sending the document to the inter-ministerial remark proceeding and it will be submitted to the government of the Czech Republic later. According to the ministry, the development of the transportation will likely be realised based on projects with the highest value added for spent money. The ministry plans to use the document for looking for new firms to finance the realisation of the transport infrastructure constructions.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 20

## R&D

- The **Ministry of Industry and Trade** of the Czech Republic (MPO) wants to establish a new fund, so-called seed fund, to support the development of business. ČIA was told by MPO spokesman Pavel Vlček that it was a tool helping in the development of the business activity after no funds from EU structural funds are available. The fund will likely administer about CZK 2.7 bln.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 4

- The Ministry of Industry and Trade will this year support **192 projects of research and development** in industry. A total of CZK 800 mln will be distributed among researchers within the newly launched projects. According to Minister of Industry and Trade Martin Kocourek, private companies dominate among the beneficiaries, but there are also research institutes or universities.

- The largest portion will go to support of projects in technology and engineering, including machinery and tooling. A significant portion of aid will also be distributed among chemistry or medical projects. The supported projects will be funded within the TIP programme.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 12

- On Monday January 17, Reality Grégr started constructing the **Písek Technology Park**. Total

costs amount to CZK 450.7 mln, with the subsidies from the European Fund for Regional Development and the state budget totalling CZK 252.4 mln. According to information on the project's website, the construction is being realised by the winner of the tender, the Prima consortium.

- The reconstruction of barracks will last until June 30, 2012. The Písek Technology Park follows the long-term efforts of Reality Grégr and the town of Písek to re-vitalise the former Žižka barracks into a scientific and technology workplace, and thus to support the innovation potential of the entire region. The first agreements on cooperation with project partners, such as IBM ČR, Microsoft, Conteg, and Neotech, have already been made.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 17

- The **Environment Research Centre**, which will focus on the use of waste for the production of energy and a study of a possible impact of used technology on the environment, will likely be established in Ostrava in three years. The centre will be built in the area of the VŠB – Technical University of Ostrava. Total costs of the project reach CZK 270 mln and nearly CZK 230 mln will be provided by the European Union from the Operational Programme Research and Development for Innovations. The university will get the remaining CZK 40 mln from the state budget.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 26

## Economy

- This year the Czech Republic has moved up six positions to 28th place in the **economic freedom ranking** of 180 countries. This stems from the assessment by The Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal, which compile the index. Hong Kong remains most free while North Korea is least free. Slovakia has moved down two positions and ended up 37th.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 13

## CzechInvest

- The Czech Technology Days will be organized by **CzechInvest** and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, in

cooperation with the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council in Boston - Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA on March 22 - 24, 2011. The main goal is to introduce major infrastructure projects in the Czech Republic in the area of MedChem, Bio and Pharma, such as CEITEC, BIOMEDREG, the ICRC (International Clinical Research Center Brno), IOCB TTO s.r.o. (Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry Technology Transfer Office) and BIOCEV (Biotechnology and Biomedicine Center of the Academy of Sciences and Charles University).

Source: **CzechInvest**, Jan 31

- CzechInvest** has prepared a series of training courses and seminars for entrepreneurs related to the rules, monitoring and requests for payment within the Operational Programme 'Business and Innovations'. The events will be held in the first quarter of this year in Prague, Karlovy Vary, Ostrava and Jihlava.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 17

- The seminar **CzechInvest - Gate to Success** will be organized for embassies and foreign chambers of commerce in the CR in Prague on 16 Feb, 2011. Presentations of the investment opportunities and available support for foreign companies in the CR will be followed by 1to1 meetings with CzechInvest Specialists.

Source: **CzechInvest**, Jan 31

- Last year, **CzechInvest** administered phone inquiries of 14,270 clients who were interested in EU subsidies. A total of CZK 15 bln had been distributed among those interested by the end of 2010, said Minister of Industry and Trade Martin Kocourek.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 31

Exchange Rates  
Averages for January 2011  
EUR 1 = CZK 24.449  
GBP 1 = CZK 28.863  
USD 1 = CZK 18.308

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

