

Headline News

- The Olomouc Region Office has approved in shortened EIA proceedings the expansion of aviation parts production in Hlubocky near Olomouc. **Honeywell Aerospace** Olomouc will hire 191 new employees thanks to the expansion. The new premises will be used for the production and repair of aircraft turbine engine components. Honeywell currently employs 879 persons in the plant.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 7

Business

- The firm **APB Plzen** plans to build a new logistic complex in Prague-Malesice. Beside warehouses, APB intends to build also offices, a boarding house, garages and washing lines. The firm plans to launch construction in March 2010 and finish it in December 2012.

- The plot for the planned complex is a part of a former large production zone near the intersection crossing the South connection road. There are other industry complexes in the near vicinity. The total fenced area of the new project is 21,833 square meters, while the total gross floor space is planned at 9,156 square meters.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 7

- AGC Automotive Bilina** plans to boost its production of complete side window glass for cars, including PVC frames, within the coming five years. In this period, the company will add four new production lines. The TPA/PVC line will be used for the application of plastic profiles to the side rear glued glass for several types of passenger vehicles.

- When all the lines are launched into operation, about 3.2 million pieces of side window glass will be processed each year. PVC consumption will be 407,112 tonnes. The hall is likely to run in a three-shift operation. There is one framing line in the hall at the moment.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 15

- Benteler Aluminium Systems Czech** has started manufacturing aluminium car bumpers in Ostrov near Tachov. It hired 30 employees for its trial operations. Benteler invested dozens of millions of crowns into the new factory hall.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 8

- Proinject International**, which has a patent for the production of one-off injection needles, plans to transfer production to the industrial zone in Ralsko-Kurivody. The project

could create up to 150 new jobs in a triple-shift operation; production will be launched in phases. Production is scheduled to be launched within two years.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 13

- Kimberly-Clark**, which produces children's diapers and female sanitary pads and tampons, is expanding its facility in Jaromer. The expansion began in September 2009 and should be completed at the end of this summer. The facility currently employs 440 and additional jobs in support services have been created in the near vicinity. Many new job positions will be formed due to the expansion of the operation. Their exact number will depend on the firm's current requirements at the recruitment time, i.e. in mid-2010.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 14

- In December, the **municipality of Kralupy nad Vltavou** approved changes to the building permit previously granted to Prague-based company **Decci**, which plans to build one of the Czech Republic's largest **photovoltaic power plants** north of Kralupy nad Vltavou. The plant shall have a total capacity of 32.5MW.

Source: **CIA**, Jan 6

R&D

- The **Cetocoen** centre for researching toxic materials and their effects on human health will be built on the **Masaryk University** campus in Brno-Bohunice. The centre should employ fifty experts, some of whom are already conducting research in Brno. The university wants to recruit more specialists especially by enabling Czech experts to return from abroad. The university secured CZK 636 mln to implement the project. The building should open its doors in January 2012.

Source: **ČIA**, Jan 8

- **Czech Technical University** (CVUT) is preparing to build the **Czech Institute of Cybernetics and Informatics** in Prague 6 - Dejvice. Costs for the so-called Centrum Excellence Antonina Svobody should not exceed CZK 800 mln. Operations should commence by the end of 2011. CVUT received a subsidy of CZK 104 mln from the Education Ministry and is discussing further contribution from the ministry.

- The aim of Centrum Excellence Antonina Svobody is to integrate Czech research, now scattered around CVUT faculties, in Science Academy institutes, in the Institute of Chemical Technology, Prague, West Bohemian University in Plzen, the Brno University of Technology, VSB-Technical University of Ostrava and the Liberec Technical University.

Source: **ČIA**, Jan 11

Infrastructure

- **Zlin Region** has launched an online map and a database of 114 identified **brownfield** localities exceeding 0.5 hectare on its territory. The map and the database are important outputs of the brownfield Usage Strategy in Zlin Region and they provide

investors with relevant information about unused localities. The region has allocated CZK 4 mln for the preparation of project regenerating brownfields.

Source: **ČIA**, Jan 28

Economy

- According to data provided by the Finance Ministry **last year's state budget deficit** totaled CZK 192.2 bln and was the highest ever posted in the history of the Czech Republic. The original deficit was supposed to total CZK 38.1 bln and was increased to CZK 52.2 bln in November. In 2008 the budget deficit had totaled CZK 20 bln. According to the ministry the deficit will increase by another roughly CZK 0.2 bln due to the final accounting of taxes shared by regional budgets.

Source: **ČIA**, Jan 4

- According to information from the Czech Statistics Office **average inflation** totaled 1 % last year; this is the second lowest value reported since 1989. Inflation was only lower in 2003 when it totaled 0.1 %. In 2008 average inflation totaled 6.3 %.

Source: **ČIA**, Jan 11

Culture

- The main crowd-puller of the 19th year of the **Cesky Krumlov International Music Festival** is the opening opera concert on July 16 that will feature Argentinean tenor star **José Cura**. The programme will include arias and duets from Italian operas by G. Verdi, R. Leoncavallo and G. Puccini, interspersed with own preludes and instrumental interludes.

Source: *WebReporter*, Jan 13

CzechInvest

- On Monday January 4 the **Ministry of Industry and Trade**

published its third call for applications for subsidies from the Potential programme. Agency **CzechInvest** will accept them between February 26 and the end of September 2011.

- Totally CZK 3 bln will be paid out within the Potential programme, focusing on own research, development and innovations. Every entrepreneur may apply for up to CZK 100 mln. If the project is planned for one of the districts hit by the current economic crisis, the maximum subsidy may reach CZK 200 mln.

Source: **ČIA**, Jan 4

- The association of companies, researchers and universities will divide CZK 750 mln among its members. This sum is ready for the support of mutual cooperation among the abovementioned sectors within the second calls of European subsidy programme

Cooperation-Clusters.

- **CzechInvest** will be accepting applications for subsidies from March 1 until May 30. The programme will support new and existing clusters that plan further development. Each project may gain CZK 3-80 mln. The conditions is that each cluster must have at least 15 members and one of these members must be a research institute or tertiary education institution.

Source: **ČIA**, Jan 11

Exchange Rates
Averages for January 2010
EUR 1 = CZK 26.119
GBP 1 = CZK 29.554
USD 1 = CZK 18.280



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