

CzechInvest Newsletter

November 2014

Headline News

Karel Kucera has been named the new **CEO of CzechInvest**. Minister of Industry and Trade Jan Mladek appointed him to the position on Tuesday, 21 October 2014. Kucera thus replaced Ondrej Votruba, who had served as the agency's acting CEO since February this year. Kucera stated that as CEO of CzechInvest he primarily wants to build up and effectively use the potential of the agency's network of foreign offices and to enhance their focus on direct communication with investors, while also increasing CzechInvest's activities in foreign markets and improving the management and coordination of those activities.

Source: *CzechInvest*, October 22

Business & Investment

A delegation of **82 Chinese businesspeople and public-sector representatives visited the Vysocina region** on Thursday, 30 October 2014. The day's programme included a business forum, in which thirty Czech firms participated, and visits to local companies. During the event, CzechInvest was represented by the head of its Vysocina regional office, Eva Dvorakova. In connection with the business forum, three memoranda were signed, two of which involved cooperation between Chinese businesses and **Jihlavan Airplanes**, manufacturer of Skyleader light sport aircraft. The third agreement established cooperation between the regional chamber of commerce and a business chamber in the Hubei province of China.

Source: *CzechInvest*, October 31

Spanish firm **Gonvarri**, which manufactures components for the automotive industry, intends to expand to the Triangle industrial zone in Zatec district. This stems from the reservation memorandum signed by Usti nad Labem Region governor Oldrich Bubenicek and Spanish firm Gonvarri Corporacion Financiera's management. The company plans to launch the test operation of the plant in fall 2015. The company will employ 125 persons before the end of 2017. The plant will produce laser cut metal components from steel bands. The initial investment is estimated at ca. CZK 247 mln.

Source: *CIA*, October 31

RONAL CR, a producer of aluminium wheels for cars and utility vehicles, prepares an extension of its production in Stare Cvice, Pardubice district. The extension could bring up to 120 new jobs. The company currently employs 500 people in the region. The company manufactures 4.5 million wheels a year in its plants located in Jicin and Pardubice. The Pardubice-based plant will likely be extended within three years to raise the production volume by up to one million units.

Source: *CIA*, October 15

CBRE has participated on an analysis of the real estate and labour market in North Bohemia. Within the project, CBRE has arranged the rental of a production hall in Lovosice to the firm **FUKOKU Rubber**. The company plans to produce rubber components for automobiles and supply them to Japanese automotive component manufacturers doing business in the Czech Republic. The new plant will offer up to 50 jobs.

Source: *CIA*, October 24

The company **SKODA AUTO** will likely invest billions of CZK in the development of its factory in Kvasiny, CIANEWS was told by automaker spokesman David Sikula. According to his words, the company will also create hundreds of new jobs. SKODA AUTO currently manufactures models SKODA Superb, Yeti, and Roomster in Kvasiny.

Source: *CIA*, October 16

Infrastructure

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the completion of construction of the **Nove Sedlo Industrial Zone** took place on 1 October 2014 in the Sokolov district of the Karlovy Vary region. Thanks to cooperation with CzechInvest, the investors entering the industrial zone will help to significantly reduce the unemployment rate in the region. The grand opening was attended by representatives of the city of Nove Sedlo and the Karlovy Vary region, as well as officials from local firms and CzechInvest. The complex is divided into six parcels, which will be used for wholesale warehouses, industrial production, services and the construction industry. Besides its ten-hectare area, the zone also offers excellent connections to the R6 expressway and the nearby railway.

Source: *CzechInvest*, October 2

Supporting Programmes

During the **International Engineering Fair** in Brno on 30 September 2014, CzechInvest held a seminar titled **Changes in the State-Aid System after 2014**. The agency presented new aspects that are being incorporated into the system due to the adoption of new European Commission rules, as well as the latest draft amendment of the Investment Incentives Act. The seminar also provided information on the state of preparation of the Operational Programme Enterprise and Industry for Competitiveness 2014-2020.

Source: CzechInvest, October 2

Events

The 2014 edition of **Hatch Match**, which brings together entrepreneurs and investors while offering the possibility to gain valuable contacts, took place at the Bohemian National Hall in New York on 21 October. Hatch Match facilitates networking among investors and entrepreneurs and gives companies space for building business relationships. All forty investors at the event were arranged individually and registered participants had the possibility to take part in five-minute meetings with them. Following the meetings with investors, another networking opportunity featuring advisors was offered.

Source: CzechInvest, October 8

The fourth annual **Profesia Days international trade fair** took place at the exhibition grounds in Prague's Letnany district on 22-23 October 2014. The trade fair, of which CzechInvest was a partner, offered available jobs in manufacturing companies, specifically automotive suppliers, food and engineering firms, and companies offering solutions in the areas of optical media and air transport. Shared-services centres and multinational companies had strong interest in applicants possessing language skills. Banks and financial institutions, logistics companies and IT firms were also among the exhibitors.

Source: CzechInvest, October 24

Prague will host the **Cafe Neu Romance international exhibit of robots**, which will take place from 26 to 29 November 2014. CzechInvest is a partner of the organisers. Forty participants from 15 countries will appear at the event. The organisers have invited manufacturers, designers and theoreticians, as well as artists and filmmakers. The event's programme will also include an open house in selected robotics laboratories at the Czech Technical University with lectures and demonstrations.

Source: CzechInvest, October 20

A **conference of entrepreneurs in the area of private aviation** will be held at Prague Castle on 19-20 November 2013. CzechInvest is a partner of the event. The Central Europe Private Aviation (CEPA) organization, which is organizing the conference, expects 150 to 200 participants, for whom it is planning talks on the topics of safety, current changes in regulations, the latest technologies and differences in insurance between western and eastern countries.

Source: CzechInvest, November 3

The University of South Bohemia recently opened its first purely technical field of study. The new **Department of Mechatronics** offers students education combining electronics, electrical engineering, computer technology, informatics and mechanical engineering. The grand opening on 13 October 2014 was attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Jan Mladek.

Source: CzechInvest, October 20

The **Energo Summit** will be held on the first day of the **FOR ENERGO trade fair** in Prague on Tuesday, 18 November 2014. The conference will focus on the use of renewable energy sources, projects involving energy savings, efficient use of conventional energy sources (coal and natural gas), electromobility and global energy-management trends and policies and their implications for the energy market. CzechInvest is a partner of the conference, which will be held under the auspices of the current EU Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Günther Oettinger of Germany.

Source: CzechInvest, November 3

CzechInvest

Düsseldorf hosted a **German-Czech forum on electromobility** on Monday, 20 October 2014. Attended by sixty representatives of mainly German firms and of the research sector and state administration, the forum featured a discussion on the topic of the electric-vehicle market for the strong Czech and German automobile industry. The forum, which was organised by the Czech consulate in Düsseldorf, CzechInvest's German office and the chamber of commerce of North Rhine-Westphalia, raised the issue of how to develop a network of charging stations, support other supplier sectors and sell electric vehicles.

Source: CzechInvest, October 20

A **Czech nanotechnology roadshow** toured the east coast of the United States in the first week of October. CzechInvest and the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in New York conducted a series of presentations, meetings and visits connected with the nanotechnology sector in New York, Boston and Albany. Six Czech firms and research institutes operating in this innovative field – JTJ s.r.o., NANO IRON, s.r.o. SYNPO, a.s., CEITEC and two institutes of the Technical University of Liberec – participated in the roadshow, which had the purpose of presenting the Czech Republic's capability in the sector and establishing closer cooperation with the participants' American counterparts. The participants also had the opportunity to visit research centres, meet with patent specialists and gain contacts through networking.

Source: CzechInvest, October 22

Exchange Rates

Averages for October 2014

EUR 1 = CZK 27,580

GBP 1 = CZK 34,973

USD 1 = CZK 21,769



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

www.cianews.cz