

CzechInvest Newsletter

September 2014

Headline News

Representatives of Central and Eastern European carmakers will meet in Prague during the **Central & Eastern European Automotive Forum 2014**, which will take place on 21-22 October. More than 45 experts, including representatives of CzechInvest, will speak at the event. Space will be provided for face-to-face meetings between representatives of carmakers and suppliers, and representatives of automotive-industry associations will also appear at the forum. CzechInvest is planning to offer its services to the participating representatives of automotive companies, and has also prepared a stand and the possibility of one-to-one meetings with representatives of the agency's Investment Division. The forum will feature the involvement of companies from Germany, the Visegrad Four and the Balkans, as well as participants from Turkey.

Source: [CzechInvest](#), August 21

Business & Investment

Software giant **Red Hat** operates its biggest branch worldwide in Brno, in the Czech Republic's South Moravia region. It is now expanding its Czech branch and hiring an additional 350 developers. On 13 August 2014 the company ceremoniously opened its new facility, which should be fully occupied within three years. Dramatically developing cloud technologies and demand for them compelled Red Hat to again expand its Brno branch. The newly constructed building is the company's biggest property investment in Brno to date. In South Moravia Red Hat particularly values the local skilled workers and possibility of collaboration with nearby Czech and Slovak universities.

Source: [CzechInvest](#), August 14

The company **GZ Media** has announced the establishment of a new factory in Sobeslav located in the production plant owned by JITONA. The company will create 200 new jobs. According to GZ Media CEO Michal Sterba, the production will likely gradually begin in November 2014.

Source: [CIA](#), August 15

The firm **Accolade** has announced that German automotive component manufacturer **Ideal Automotive** has decided to expand its production in the Panattoni Park Stribro industrial zone. Ideal Automotive will hire further 400 workers, Accolade has informed. **Panattoni Czech Republic Development's** general director Pavel Sovicka has stated that the building work took almost six months. In the last four to five weeks, Ideal Automotive was installing new technologies into the completed hall.

Source: [CIA](#), August 13

Central venous and urological catheter producer **Teleflex Medical** wants to start expanding its existing facility in Hradec Kralove in two or three years. The investment is estimated at tens of millions of CZK. Teleflex Medical's executive director Petr Bret has confirmed to CIA that the project is expected to yield tens of new jobs.

Source: [CIA](#), August 15

Porobeton Ostrava has started production in its modernised plant in Ostrava-Trebovice. Company director Richard Berny said that in the new plant, the company would achieve lower product volume weights and higher precision and hardness of prefabricated walling. A new technology will enable the company to increase its production capacity by roughly one-third. Thanks to the refurbishment, the company will improve the quality of its fly-ash grey pervious concrete. Its new product is white pervious concrete on the basis of siliceous sand. At CIA's enquiry, business director Zdenek Dolihal said that the investments in the plant refurbishment totalled between CZK 40 mln and 50 mln.

Source: [CIA](#), August 26

The council of Usti Region has approved the investment intention of Spanish **GONVARRI CORPORACION FINANCIERA** to build a plant focused on the procession of components made of metal for the automotive industry in the north-western part of the industrial area Triangle, Zatec district. The initial investment will likely reach CZK 247 mln. The company plans to create up to 125 direct jobs by the end of 2017. The construction will likely begin in the first quarter of 2015.

Source: [CIA](#), August 21

R&D

- The priorities for the Hradec Kralove region are the automotive industry, mechanical engineering, development of new textile materials, ICT and electronics, pharmacy and research and development in the area of advanced agriculture and forestry. On 25 August 2014, Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Belobradek met with members of the Hradec Kralove **Regional Council for Research, Development and Innovation**, on which sits the director of CzechInvest's regional office, who highlighted the ongoing support for research and development in the region, where more than 100 projects have been supported with aid from the Innovation Programme – Innovation Project. The total amount of provided aid has reached CZK 2.3 bn to date. The Potential Programme (focused on company-based research and development) has assisted 24 projects with aid in the amount of CZK 350 mln.

Source: CzechInvest, August 27

- Palacky University in Olomouc has chosen the winner of a public tender for the construction of the application centre BALUO in the area of FTK UP Olomouc. The tender was won by **GEMO Olomouc**. The final value of the contract is CZK 137.5 mln. The contract covers the construction of the area with two main buildings including a test hall, a pool, a fitness studio, a gymnasium, test laboratories, and workshops for the development of new sports and rehabilitation material and accessories.

Source: CIA, August 15

- The **Rez Research Centre** has awarded the public contract for **SUSEN – PFW Technology** to Trebic-based **ENVINET**. Kamila Kroblova of the Rez Research Centre confirmed to CIA that the final value of the contract was CZK 162.99 mln. The original estimated value was CZK 116 mln. SUSEN project manager Jiri Richter added for CIA that the public contract was a part of the sustainable energy (SUSEN) project which is part of the Research and Development for Innovation programme financed from the EU structural funds. The equipment will be installed in the Plzen Experimental Hall built within the same project. It will be delivered in the years 2014 and 2015. It will be used to perform research tests within the development of the ITER fusion reactor.

Source: CIA, August 2

Supporting Programmes

- Thanks to European aid, a dilapidated joinery facility in Roudnice nad Labem has been converted into a development centre for technologically advanced diving equipment. **Divesoft, s.r.o.** received aid in the amount of CZK 3.6 mln from the Potential Programme of the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation. The costs of the development centre reached CZK 6 mln. Thanks to new equipment, the company has developed, among other things, an advanced closed-circuit breathing apparatus, an emergency kit for divers in open water and a dive computer. The company is currently working on the development of special equipment intended for use in cave diving, which is currently lacking on the world market.

Source: CzechInvest, August 18

Events

- The **Investment and Business Forum Ostrava 2014**, which will take place in Ostrava on 8 October 2014, will focus on the future of business in the Moravia-Silesia region and opportunities available to businesspeople there. The forum will be attended by businesspeople from not only Europe, but also from Asia. Featured topics will include technical education, trends in various industrial sectors and the availability of human resources. Investment opportunities in the region will also be presented during the event, which will be attended by Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka and Minister of Industry and Trade Jan Mladek. CzechInvest is a partner of the forum. The agency's representatives will also appear in order to familiarise those in attendance with the latest changes in the area of investment incentives.

Source: CzechInvest, August 7

CzechInvest

- More than thirty organisations assisting entrepreneurs have become involved in a joint project called **Czech Local Visibility Events**, which has the objective of familiarising firms with the functioning of organisations and with a system that enables entrepreneurs to acquire a suitable product or service and thus enhance their competitiveness. CzechInvest is one of the participating organisations. The project's partners have already met twice this year; the culmination of their cooperation will be a conference on 4 November 2014, at which all of the institutions will present themselves to firms that are interested in support programmes and other services. The bearers of the one-year project are the **Enterprise Europe Network** via the Centre for Regional Development of the Czech Republic and the **Moravia-Silesia Regional Chamber of Commerce**. The project is financed by the European Commission.

Source: CzechInvest, August 18

- In cooperation with CzechInvest, the international consulting firm EY is commencing the fifteenth annual **EY Entrepreneur of the Year competition**, which recognises entrepreneurs from various corners of the Czech Republic in a number of categories. The EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2014 winners will be announced on 3 March 2015. The overall winner for the Czech Republic will take part in the world final, which will be held from 3 to 7 June 2015 in Monte Carlo.

Source: CzechInvest, August 29

Exchange Rates

Averages for August 2014

EUR 1 = CZK 27,816

GBP 1 = CZK 34,887

USD 1 = CZK 20,889



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

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