

How to submit applications – eAccount

Applications for OPEI aid programmes are submitted in two steps:

1. registration application,
2. full application.

CzechInvest receives registration and full applications via the eAccount internet application (<http://www.czechinvest.org/eaccount>).

Via eAccount, applicants can:

- submit required documents
- monitor the status of project evaluation
- communicate with project managers via bulletin boards

When submitting an application, it is first necessary to create a Master Account, in which all of the applicant's projects are administered. It is possible to set up only one Master Account for each company. However, the applicant can set up access for several users to whom projects and authorisation are subsequently assigned. Signing some documents with the applicant's digital signature is a necessary condition for communication via eAccount.

More information is available

- on the websites at www.czechinvest.org and www.mpo.cz
- at CzechInvest's regional offices
- on the toll-free telephone line at 800 800 777 (weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)
- by e-mail at programy@czechinvest.org

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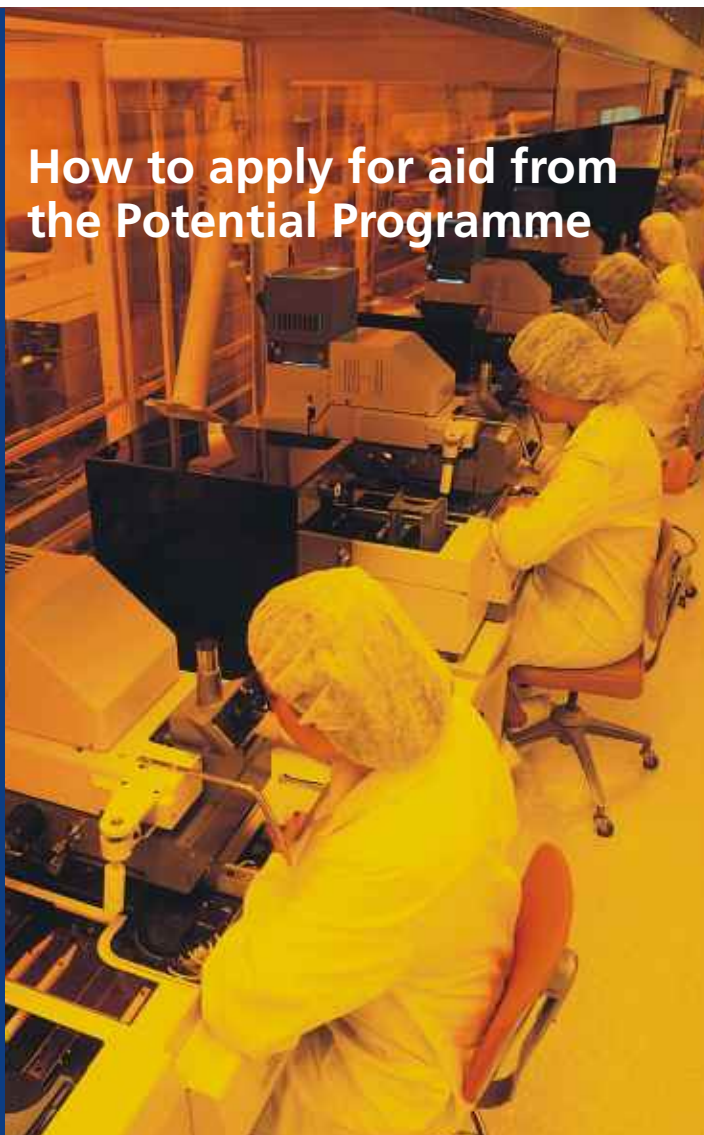
www.czechinvest.org

All CzechInvest's services are free of charge.

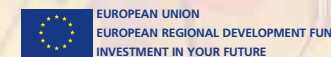
European Regional Development Fund and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic support investment in your future.



CzechInvest, the Investment and Business Development Agency, is a state contributory organization of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic.



How to apply for aid from the Potential Programme



What is OPEI?

The Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation is the basic document of the Ministry of Industry and Trade for drawing financial resources from European Union structural funds in the 2007-2013 period. Fifteen programmes financed from the EU (85%) and the state budget (15%) have been prepared for enterprises that have decided to invest in business activities within the manufacturing industry and related services. Funding is disbursed in the form of non-returnable subsidies, favourable loans and guarantees. All projects implemented in the Czech Republic outside of Prague are eligible to receive aid¹.

CzechInvest's role

CzechInvest, the Investment and Business Development Agency, is the implementation organisation for OPEI. Via the eAccount electronic application, CzechInvest receives aid applications and provides consulting services to applicants.

About the Potential Programme

The Potential Programme helps companies to set up and increase capacities necessary for the implementation of research, development and innovation activities. It is possible to obtain support for investments in the establishment or expansion of development centers (departments) aimed at research, development and innovation of products and technologies, including specific software and applications that form a part thereof. Such a centre should contribute to the introduction

(implementation) of technologically new or innovative products, product lines, production processes and technologies. However, there must be the real expectation that the results of the centre's work will actually be used in production.

Who can apply (aid recipients)

- newly established or expanding entities
- selected legal forms according to the specifications of the current call

How much can be obtained for one project (form and amount of aid)

- support is provided in the form of subsidy of CZK 1–100 million
- subsidy for investment eligible costs is provided in maximum amount set by the Regional Map of State Aid Intensity for the period 2007-2013
- subsidy for non-investment costs is provided above the ceiling set by the Regional Map, subsidy for selected operating costs is provided as de minimis aid only to SME

For what aid can be obtained

- establishment or expansion of industrial research, development and innovation centre consisting in the acquisition of land, buildings, facilities and other equipment that is necessary and used for ensuring the activities of such centre.
- support shall be channelled to projects whose results will appear in manufacturing industry (C 13-33; E 38.32; J 62; M 71.2; S 95.1 CZ-NACE)

Costs which can be supported (eligible costs)

Eligible investment costs

- acquisition of tangible assets:
 - purchase of machinery and other equipment, buildings and land
- acquisition of intangible assets:
 - purchase of licenses and know-how

Selected operating costs for small and medium-sized enterprises

- services of experts and consultants, expert studies
- personal costs, social and health insurance payments during the project realisation

Costs for publicity related to the project

Eligible costs as well as limits for each type of eligible costs are defined in the annex of the given call.

Specifics and restrictions

- minimum amount of investment in long term assets used for the purpose of ensuring the activities of the project amounts to CZK 5 million, in case of large enterprises to CZK 10 million; however, the investment amount may change in individual calls
- only assets used for supported activities may be included in eligible costs (a proportionate part may be included)
- each applicant can submit only one project (i.e. one approved registration application) for one region; the restriction on the maximum number of projects may change in individual calls
- the project must be implemented in the Czech Republic, outside of Prague

¹ Prague's GDP is higher than 75% of the average for European Union countries