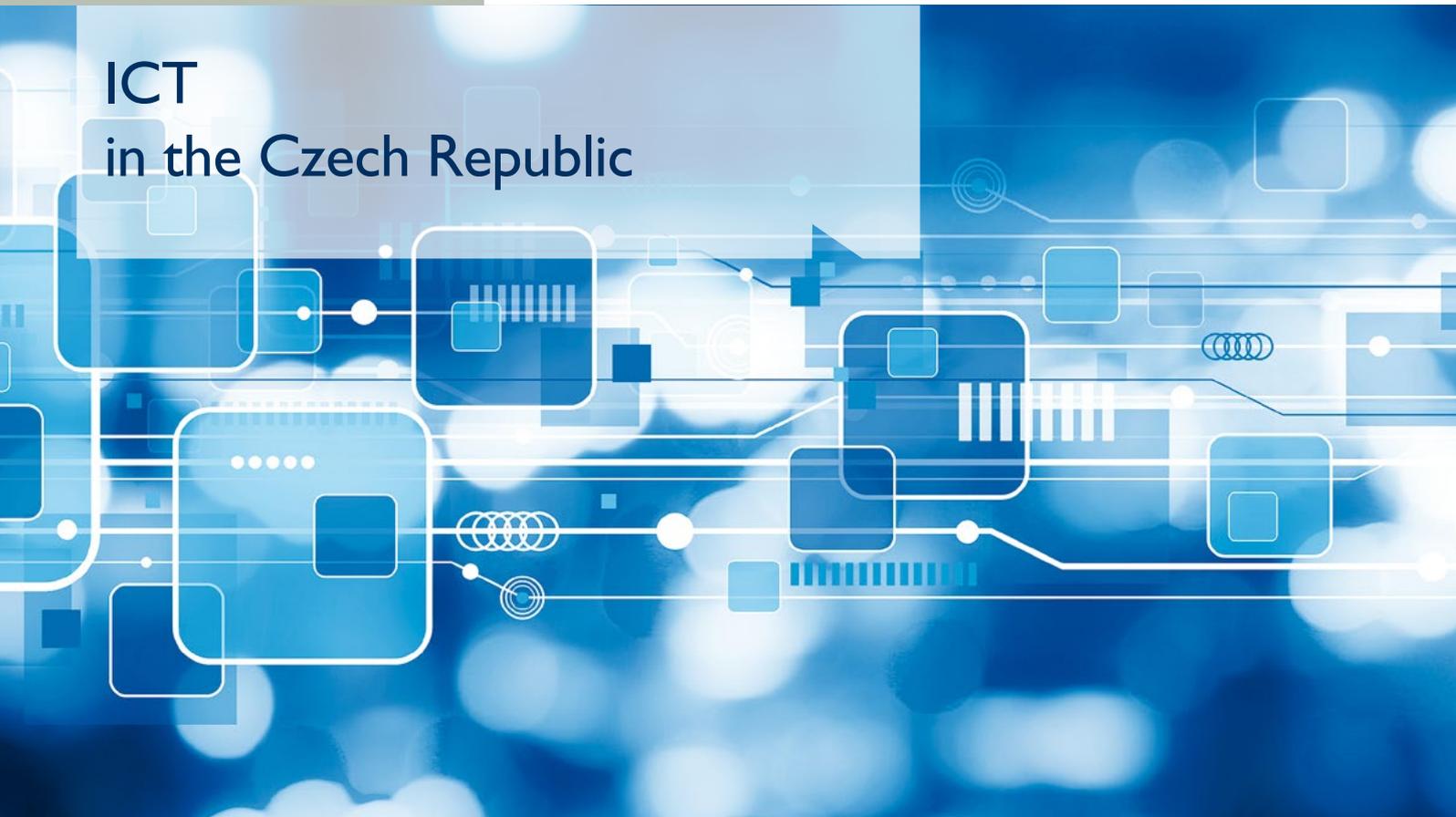


ICT in the Czech Republic



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The Czech ICT at a Glance

The Czech Republic at a Glance



| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Population (million) | 10.5 |
| Labour force (million) | 5.3 |
| Unemployment (% , September 2015) | 6.2 |
| GPD per capita (2014) | EUR 14,720 |
| Annual inflation (% , September 2015) | 0.4 |

Source: Czech Statistical Office 2015

The Czech Republic is one of Europe's top locations for ICT investments. Repeatedly recognised by various researchers, this fact is confirmed by the strong inflow of high-value-added projects of the world's top ICT companies and is fuelled by the country's tradition of excellence in technical fields. The list of successful investors in the country involves Microsoft, Skype, DHL, Tieto, Red Hat, SolarWinds, NetSuite and IBM. Furthermore, ICT companies with Czech origins are renowned worldwide for their products, such as antivirus software from AVG Technologies and AVAST, protecting millions of computers all over the world.

The Czech Republic is the only country using the Latin alphabet where Google is not number one on the Internet as the Czech web search provider Seznam.cz is locally dominant. The Czech Republic is also home to a number of noteworthy research institutes and universities that have achieved many outstanding results and awards in the field of information and communication technologies.

Thanks to investments in infrastructure other Czech regions other than Prague are gaining attractiveness, especially in the ICT sector. Brno, the second largest city in the Czech Republic, is considered to be the Czech IT hub, where companies' needs are fulfilled by qualified professionals, R&D facilities and institutions, and advanced ICT infrastructure. Ostrava has been gaining importance in recent years and is on the path to greater international recognition thanks to projects such as IT4Innovations. It is thus not surprising that companies such as Tieto have decided to establish their centre there.

The Czech Republic's ICT-friendly policies and skilled workforce, good infrastructure and well-developed optical-fibre network make it the most prominent location in the CEE region in terms of the ICT field. In order to maintain the country's competitiveness, massive investments in ICT infrastructure are expected from the Czech government during the 2014 – 2020 programming period, as ICT is one of the government's designated priority sectors.

CzechInvest, the Investment and Business Development Agency of the Czech Republic, is ready to provide potential investors with comprehensive support during the entire investment decision-making and implementation process, in order to reduce the burden on their management resources, especially in matters such as location selection, information support, matchmaking, supplier identification and so on.

“ The Czech Republic is an excellent base for IT firms thanks to its abundance of skilled workers. In Prague and Brno we have several universities that achieve the highest levels of quality on the global scale. At Avast alone, in the past year we have hired more than 200 new employees and we are very pleased that most of them were in the Czech Republic. ”

Ondrej Vlcek
COO, Avast

- Very good education system which serves as a basis for future skills development and produces a very capable workforce.
- The Czech Republic has a long tradition of excellence in technical fields.
- ICT companies with Czech origins are renowned worldwide for their products and services: AVG Technologies, AVAST Software, Bohemia Interactive, Y-SOFT.
- Major IT companies that are successful in the Czech Republic: Microsoft, Skype, NetSuite, SAP, Tieto, SolarWinds, Red Hat and IBM.
- Creative, innovative, experienced and skilled professionals.
- The Czech Republic is one of the very few countries in the world where Google does not have a clearly dominant position on the internet search market. Its local rival is the Czech company Seznam.cz.

ICT Related Education

ICT Students and Graduates in the Regions (2014/2015)

| Region | Number of Students | Number of Graduates |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Total Czech Republic | 35,516 | 7,609 |
| Prague | 11,375 | 2,341 |
| Central Bohemia | 66 | 6 |
| South Bohemia | 1,403 | 241 |
| Pilsen | 2,303 | 499 |
| Karlovy Vary | 31 | 4 |
| Usti | 281 | 30 |
| Liberec | 821 | 183 |
| Hradec Kralove | 1,592 | 358 |
| Pardubice | 1,537 | 222 |
| Vysocina | 267 | 40 |
| South Moravia | 9,370 | 2,370 |
| Olomouc | 547 | 41 |
| Zlin | 1,828 | 414 |
| Moravia-Silesia | 4,136 | 862 |

Source: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, 2015

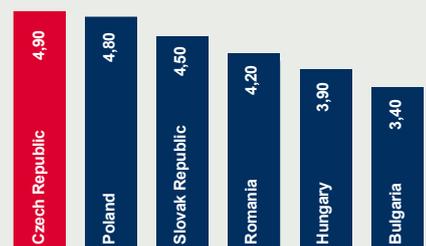
ICT/Electrical Engineering Students, Graduates and Schools in the Regions Academic Year 2014/2015

| Type of Schools | Number of Students | Number of Graduates | Number of Schools |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Vocational training centres* | 6,352 | 1,867 | 132 |
| Secondary specialized schools* | 36,787 | 7,606 | 271 |
| Higher professional schools | 1,763 | 358 | 26 |
| Universities (only ICT) | 35,516 | 7,609 | 27 |

Note: *ICT and Electrical Engineering programmes together

Source: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, 2015

Local Availability of Specialised Research and Training Services



Source: WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2014/15
Note: Rating from 1 to 7

The Czech Republic combines an outstanding level of general education with strong science and engineering disciplines. For generations the Czech education system has generated skill set for solving problems in environments where standard solutions are inadequate.

The Czech education system has a very strong position in upper secondary education which serves as the foundation for advanced learning and training opportunities, as well as preparation for direct entry into the labour market.

There are currently more than 91,000 university students majoring in technical fields, of whom 35,516 are enrolled in ICT related programmes. There were 7,609 university graduates with ICT related degrees in the 2014/2015 academic year.

An abundant supply of university graduates assures continuous enrichment of the country's available labour pool. Universities offer programmes ranging from ICT to life sciences. University education is generally focused on meeting the needs of a competitive economy, and cooperation between universities and the corporate sector has been expanding in recent years.

ICT Students and Graduates on Selected Universities Academic Year 2014/2015

Czech Technical University in Prague

Students: 5,919
Graduates: 1,289
PhD Students: 542



University of Hradec Kralove

Students: 1,592
Graduates: 358
PhD Students: 70



University of Pardubice

Students: 1,537
Graduates: 222
PhD Students: 60



Charles University, Prague

Students: 991
Graduates: 169
PhD Students: 178



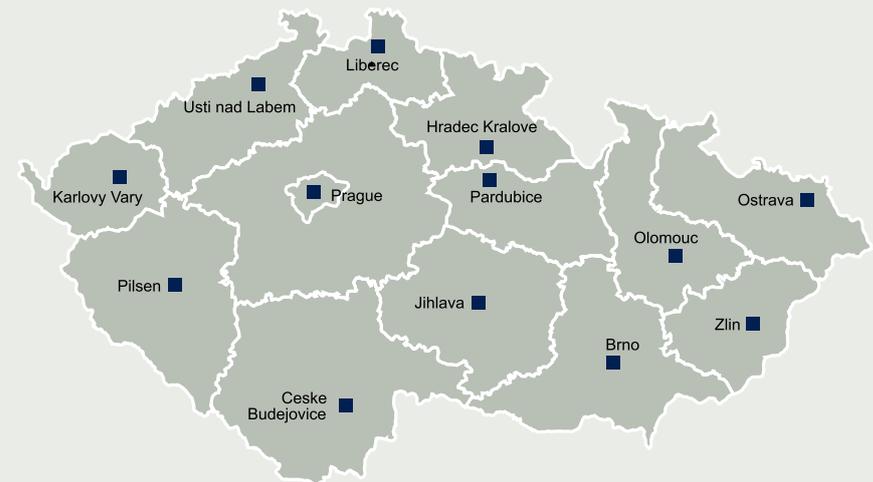
Technical University of Liberec

Students: 821
Graduates: 183
PhD Students: 56



VSB – Technical University of Ostrava

Students: 3,378
Graduates: 714
PhD Students: 244



ICT 2014/2015

Students: 35,516
Graduates: 7,609
PhD Students: 2,430

University of Economics, Prague

Students: 2,082
Graduates: 446
PhD Students: 45



Tomas Bata University in Zlin

Students: 1,742
Graduates: 405
PhD Students: 134



University of West Bohemia, Pilsen

Students: 2,303
Graduates: 499
PhD Students: 334



Masaryk University, Brno

Students: 2,264
Graduates: 556
PhD Students: 111



Brno University of Technology

Students: 6,335
Graduates: 1,674
PhD Students: 561



Source: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, 2015

Labour Availability and Skills

| Average Gross Monthly Wages, in EUR | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| IT positions | Prague EUR/month | | Brno EUR/month | | Ostrava EUR/month | |
| | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High |
| SW Development Manager / Director | 3,636 | 5,454 | 2,909 | 4,363 | 2,545 | 3,091 |
| SW Architect | 2,545 | 3,636 | 2,182 | 3,272 | 1,454 | 2,182 |
| C/C++ Developer (1-3 yrs experience) | 1,091 | 1,636 | 1,091 | 1,636 | 909 | 1,273 |
| C/C++ (3-5 yrs experience) | 1,454 | 2,182 | 1,636 | 2,000 | 1,273 | 1,636 |
| Java Developer (1-3 yrs experience) | 1,273 | 1,818 | 1,200 | 1,636 | 909 | 1,273 |
| Java Developer (3-5 yrs experience) | 1,818 | 2,545 | 1,636 | 2,182 | 1,273 | 1,636 |
| .Net / C# Developer (1-3 yrs experience) | 1,273 | 1,818 | 1,091 | 1,636 | 909 | 1,273 |
| .Net / C# Developer (3-5 yrs experience) | 1,818 | 2,545 | 1,636 | 2,000 | 1,273 | 1,636 |
| Web/PHP Developer | 1,273 | 1,818 | 1,018 | 1,636 | 909 | 1,454 |

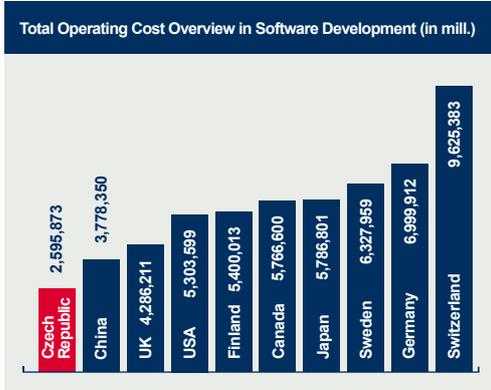
Average Exchange Rate 1 EUR = 27.503 CZK (average for H1 2015, published by Czech National Bank 2015)

Source: Salary Survey, Grafton 2015

The Czech Republic offers a large number of skilled technical workers. The country's well-deployed education system can serve as a basis for future skills development and contributes to the development of the sector.

The continuing growth of the Czech economy and investment by companies and state institutions in information technology has spurred ever increasing demand for experienced IT specialists. The Czech Republic maintains a high quality of life, thanks to which it is not difficult for investors to persuade key employees to relocate to the country, where they will find an extensive and safe public transport network and will not have a problem communicating with the locals in at least one foreign language. This is one of the reasons why companies such as IBM and DHL run their European operations from the Czech Republic.

The wage amount always depends on the level of education, specialisation and level of experience, as well as on the size of the given company. Wages differ by regions. The most advanced regions in the ICT sector are Prague, Brno and Ostrava, not only because these are the three biggest cities in the Czech Republic, but also because they are home to the country's top universities and research institutes.



All cost values shown in EUR - Euro per annum.

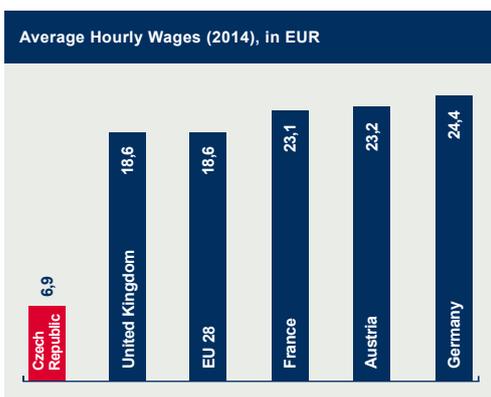
Source: fDi Benchmark, Financial Times Limited, 2014

| Gross Monthly Wages (median) IT Positions in 2014, in EUR | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Job Position | Prague Region | South Moravia Region | Moravia-Silesia Region | Czech Republic average |
| Information and communications technology service managers | 3,042 | 2,297 | 1,869 | 2,491 |
| Systems analysts | 2,057 | 1,605 | NA | 1,816 |
| Software developers | 1,909 | NA | NA | 1,527 |
| Applications programmers | 1,847 | 1,542 | NA | 1,526 |
| Database designers and administrators | 2,007 | 1,647 | 1,341 | 1,696 |
| Systems administrators | 1,705 | 1,511 | 1,213 | 1,508 |
| Information and communications technology operations technicians | 1,459 | NA | NA | 1,344 |
| Computer network and systems technicians | 1,330 | 1,270 | NA | 1,233 |

Note: Total labour costs = gross monthly wage + 34 % employer's contributions

Average Exchange Rate 1 EUR = 27.503 CZK (average for H1 2015, published by Czech National Bank 2015)

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Trexima 2015



Source: Eurostat, 2015

“ We have been tremendously pleased with the calibre of talent and the enthusiasm we have encountered here in Brno. Because we are able to hire smart, dedicated employees with great attitudes and technical skills, we've been able to quickly build a high-performance engineering team that plays a critical role in our business. ”

Doug Hibberd
EVP Engineering, SolarWinds

Top ICT Universities

With its research, development and science achievements, the Czech Republic is a country with long R&D tradition. The Czech Republic is home to a number of noteworthy research institutes and universities that have achieved many outstanding results and awards in the field of information and communication technologies:



Selected Universities

Czech Technical University, Prague

The Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the Czech Technical University is focused on education, high-quality research and cooperation with industry in artificial intelligence, machine perception, robotics, and biomedical engineering with emphasis on multi-agent systems, cybersecurity, machine learning, data mining, pattern recognition, knowledge-based systems, medical data processing and collaborative robotics. The faculty is also involved in the fields of communications, sensors, embedded systems, grids and networks. Further more, its strong and successful activities include computer graphics and human-computer interaction.

Programming languages: Java, C, G, Lisp, Prolog, HTML and others including machine-oriented languages.

The Faculty of Information Technology was established in 2009 as the eighth faculty of the Czech Technical University in Prague. After four years of dynamic development, it succeeded in building modern infrastructure at the university's Dejvice campus. Among Czech informatics faculties, it receives the strongest interest from secondary school applicants. The faculty's research focuses on theoretical computer science, digital design, computer security, high-performance computing, web and software engineering, and data science. Besides a solid theoretical background, students can acquire many practical skills, such as programming in various languages and technologies.

Programming languages: C, C++, C#, Java, Python, Scala, Ruby, PHP, Smalltalk, SQL, Android, iOS, etc.

Charles University, Prague

Charles University in Prague, ranks among the top 2 % of universities worldwide, a fact that has been repeatedly confirmed by international university rankings. Thanks to *the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics*, it performs even better in computer science and mathematics. The subject of the Computer Science Department's research activities comprises methods, algorithms and structures of theoretical computer science and their applications in information technologies and data mining.

Programming languages: C, C++, C#, Java, Fortran, Matlab, Octave, Scilab, LabView, Prolog, Haskell, Lisp/Scheme, SQL, IDL, Groovy, Clojure, Scala, Ruby, Go, Erlang, Ada, JavaScript, PHP, CoffeeScript, Lua, Algol, Simula, Pascal, Smalltalk and Perl.

University of Economics, Prague

The Faculty of Informatics and Statistics offers a particularly demanding course of study combining knowledge of information technologies with knowledge of economics, statistics and mathematical sciences. Subjects taught in this faculty include information technologies, information management, knowledge systems, and quantitative methods.

Programming languages: JAVA, PHP, C#.

Masaryk University, Brno

With 2,200 students, *the Faculty of Informatics* offers a wide range of fields to study. Research is focused on software engineering, database systems and data mining, architectures, bioinformatics, natural language processing, machine learning, IT security and formal modelling of computer systems, as well as computer graphics, image processing, multimedia creation, graphic design and typography, photography and computer modelling.

Programming languages: JAVA, C/C++, C#.NET, Python, Ruby.

Brno University of Technology

The scientific and research activities at *the Faculty of Information Technology* are aimed at current research areas concerning the theory, methods and applications of information technologies such as high-performance embedded systems, bioinformatics, applied evolutionary algorithms, system modelling, database design and cryptographic protocols and security mechanisms.

Programming languages: C, C++, JAVA, C#, .NET, Python, Goedel, Haskell, HTML/XHTML, LISP, PERL, PHP, PROLOG, SQL, TKSL, VHDL.

Technical University of Ostrava

The R&D potential of *the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science* comprises a key component of innovation activities in the Moravia-Silesia region as well as in Czech Republic as a whole and has become an important factor in restructuring the Ostrava region. The faculty's research staff has implemented a number of applied research projects while focusing on solving problems in individual electrical engineering and computer science fields.

Programming languages: C, C++, C#, JAVA, Python, Haskel, Perl, Ruby, etc.

University of Hradec Králové

The Faculty of Informatics and Management was founded in 1993 and since then it has become a sought-after institution due to its dynamic development, attractive offer of study programmes and recognised academic staff. The faculty grooms specialists in the fields of applied informatics and information management.

Programming languages: JAVA, C#, C++, C, PHP, JavaScript, Python, Ruby, Prolog, Lisp, etc.



Research and Development Centres

IT4Innovations
national
supercomputing
center



IT4Innovations

The IT4Innovations National Supercomputing Centre is a research institute at the Technical University of Ostrava. IT4Innovations carries out research mainly in the fields of supercomputing and embedded systems. In addition to research, the centre, as the national HPC e-infrastructure, operates unique state-of-the-art supercomputing resources and makes them available to Czech and foreign research teams from academia and industry. The centre has been part of the prestigious European network of PRACE supercomputing centres since 2011.

The new Salomon supercomputer was put into operation in July 2015 and with its computing power of 1,457 PFLOP/S it is the 40th most powerful supercomputer in the world.

Other than the Technical University of Ostrava, the partners in the IT4Innovations project are the University of Ostrava, Silesian University in Opava, Brno University of Technology and the Institute of Geonics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics, and Cybernetics (CIIRC)

The Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU) founded the new Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics, and Cybernetics (CIIRC) in July 2013. With its modern character, principles for invention, scientific results and transfer thereof into practice, the new institute will become a unique, modern, centre of excellence in the Czech Republic. The aim is to reasonably integrate research in computer science, robotics and cybernetics within CTU, especially research in the fields of intelligent, distributed and complex systems, automatic control, computer-aided manufacturing, bioinformatics, biomedicine and assistive technologies, while also raising the existing cooperation between CTU, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and the most important universities in the Czech Republic to new, higher levels.

The aim is to create a motivating environment for the support of business and innovation activities of students and researchers by employing the latest knowledge and experience of technology transfer in the world's top incubators (Silicon Valley, Cambridge, Oxford, Israel, Singapore), all in cooperation with CzechInvest. CIIRC will also offer suitable facilities for the presence of large companies. It creates the conditions for long-term co-funding of research conducted by major international companies, many of which have already expressed interest in being present in CIIRC (Samsung, Rockwell Automation, Eaton and others).

CERIT Scientific Cloud (CERIT-SC)

The CERIT-SC centre is one of the three essential parts of the national e-Infrastructure, a complex system of mutually interconnected network, computing, and storage resources and corresponding services for the Czech research community. This role of the CERIT-SC is explicitly mentioned in the Roadmap of Large Infrastructures for Research, Development, and Innovations in the Czech Republic. CERIT-SC's offered resources and services and its research targets complement two other parts of the approved national e-Infrastructure – CESNET and the IT4Innovations supercomputing centre.

The centre is the largest node of the National Grid Infrastructure, providing advanced flexible and highly configurable services connecting grid and cloud systems, and with emphasis on joint research with scientific communities.

Czech Education and Scientific Network (CESNET)

CESNET, an association of legal entities, was established in 1996 by all universities of the Czech Republic and the Czech Academy of Sciences. Its main goals are operation and development of the Czech National Research and Education Network (NREN), research and development of advanced network technologies and applications and broadening of the public's knowledge of advanced networking topics.

SIX Research Center

The Centre of Sensor, Information and Communication Systems (SIX) was established by Brno University of Technology to provide comprehensive research and development services in the area of wireless communication. Research is focused on the physical layer, systems, protocols, signal processing and sensors. Therefore, whole systems exploiting wireless communication can be developed. Operation frequencies cover radio frequencies, millimetre waves, terahertz and optical frequencies. Mobile communication, wireless body area networks, satellite communication and free-space optics are included in the research programme. Safety and security of communication are an inherent part of the research.

NTIS

New Technologies for the Information Society (NTIS) is a modern research centre established in 2014 at the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the University of West Bohemia with support from EU operational programmes. It is equipped with state-of-the-art R&D instruments and employs 270 researchers. Its activities are focused on the development of cybernetics, computer science, mechanics, physics, mathematics and geomatics.

NTIS specialises in a broad array of ICT application areas, such as speech technologies for human-machine communication, natural language processing and intelligent web technologies, visualisation and verification of software systems and architectures, neuroinformatics, and tools and methods for collecting, processing and applying spatially defined data.

Company Focus



AVG

Founded in 1991 in the Czech Republic, AVG is an online security company providing leading software and services for the purpose of securing devices, data and people. AVG's award-winning technology is delivered to more than 200 million active monthly users worldwide.

AVG's consumer portfolio includes internet security, performance optimisation, and personal privacy and identity protection for mobile devices and desktop computers. The company's business portfolio – delivered by managed service providers, VARs and resellers – offers IT administration, control and reporting, integrated security, and mobile device management services that simplify and protect businesses. AVG Technologies has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since February 2012.

Despite becoming a global company, AVG still benefits from traditional Czech technological prowess and one of its key R&D centres is located in Brno. AVG also teams up with leading Czech and foreign universities in order to maintain its technological edge.



AVAST

Avast Software, maker of the most trusted mobile and PC security in the world, protects more than 230 million people and businesses with its security applications. In business for over 25 years, Avast is one of the pioneers in the computer security business, with a portfolio that includes free antivirus applications for PC, Mac and Android, as well as premium suites and services for both consumers and business. In addition to being top-ranked by consumers on popular download portals worldwide, Avast is certified by, among others, VB100, AV-Comparatives, AV-Test, OPSWAT, ICSA Labs and West Coast Labs.

Avast's roots go back to 1988, when Czech researchers Eduard Kučera and Pavel Baudiš encountered the Vienna Virus and began their quest to save the world's computers from it and others like it. Today, Avast has over 600 professionals headquartered in Prague, Czech Republic, with additional offices in Germany, the United States and China, as well as distribution partners in all markets and a global community of Avast enthusiasts.



Seznam.cz

Seznam.cz was founded in 1996 by university student Ivo Lukačovič. At the very beginning, Seznam.cz was just a list of web pages among which one could search, using keywords to find the web page one was seeking. Today Seznam.cz reaches approximately 90 % of the Czech internet population. This means that at least once a month almost every one of the six million Czechs who use the internet in the Czech Republic uses some of the services that Seznam.cz offers.

One of the reasons for Seznam.cz's success is definitely its focus on good products and services both for users and for advertisers. Seznam.cz has always applied the strategy of investing surplus revenue back into the company.

The Czech Republic is the only country using the Latin alphabet where Google isn't clearly dominant on the internet. There are only three other countries in the world where Google does not have a monopoly in internet search services – South Korea, China and Russia.



Investment Case Studies



Red Hat

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of open-source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to reliable and high-performance cloud, Linux, middleware, storage and virtualisation technologies. Red Hat also offers award-winning support, training and consulting services.

Red Hat's operation in Brno started in 2004. Eleven years later the company employs 750 people and 130 students are currently getting their initial professional experience with the company. Red Hat Czech has become Red Hat's largest engineering facility in the world and the employer of choice for people who want to work and live the open-source way. The Brno operation has received many internal and external awards including Best Engineering Site and Best Employer in the Czech Republic.

„Seeing strong potential for growth in Brno, Czech Republic, Red Hat established its core engineering facility here. It has become the company's largest global engineering entity, employing more than 700 people in software development, quality engineering, customer support, research, documentation and program management. The number of employees working at Red Hat in Brno is growing; the company's project to hire 150 additional engineers received the ICT Investment of the Year award for 2011 and another expansion project won third place in the Entrepreneur of the Year competition in 2013. For employees, Red Hat offers a unique opportunity to work on global open-source projects and provides education and other benefits which make the company attractive for many applicants in the labour market, including students seeking work experience.“

Radovan Musil
Director of Software Engineering, Red Hat



MSD

MSD is a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. Through its prescription medicines, vaccines, biological therapies and animal health products, MSD works with customers and operates in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions.

The MSD IT Global Innovation Centre was established in Prague to serve the IT needs of MSD's evolving healthcare business, where healthcare and digital innovation continue to converge. It is a multi-disciplinary centre that provides advanced IT capabilities to all MSD business lines and locations globally, complementing onsite IT resources in the delivery and operation of MSD IT solutions. With its start-up atmosphere and friendly and collaborative environment, the MSD IT Global Innovation Centre offers technology professionals incredible opportunities to learn from others around the world and to enjoy a meaningful reward that technology careers don't often bring: the satisfaction of helping to save lives.

“Prague was chosen from several other considered locations for building MSD's global IT centre mainly because of accessibility to human resources from the field of IT and well-functioning education system that trains those specialists. The MSD IT Global Innovation Centre will offer opportunities for prospective employment and career development not just for a wide range of IT experts, data analysts and project managers, but also for many new graduates who could start to work in a global pharmaceutical company that is a leader in the novel application of progressive technology to the field of healthcare.”

John Westby
AVP, IT Global Innovation Centre, Merck

Selected Clusters



Safety & Security Technology Cluster

This cluster focuses primarily on activities in the fields of research, development and innovation, marketing and promotion, while strengthening the links between members and supporting activities leading to effective training and development of the cluster members' staff. The cluster aims to develop safety-technology research in the region through a strong sectoral group comprising industrial companies, universities, scientific and research institutions and other entities, both public and private, to ensure sustainable competitiveness.

www.btklastr.cz

Czech Cloud Cluster

This cluster's mission is to increase the competitiveness and economic growth of entrepreneurs in the fields of big data and ICT services by supporting their innovative activities and utilising the data centre of Technology Center Pisek. The main instruments of support comprise the push towards the R&D knowledge transfer in the member community, strengthening of links with R&D institutions, and cooperation with educational institutions to create an environment for the growth of experts in the interest of the clusters' members.

www.czechcloudcluster.cz

Czech IT Cluster

This cluster comprises mainly small and medium-sized companies in the field of information technology, educational institutions, and a range of partner organisations. The cluster's members share a common vision of cloud computing as the main direction for development of the information technology market. The aim of the CIC is to support the growth of competitiveness of member companies based on a common software-development platform allowing the cluster to effectively develop, test and deliver software as a service. Through shared knowledge and development tools, cluster members gain a strong competitive advantage that will help them to acquire a significant share of the emerging global market for software as a service (SaaS) providers.

www.czech-itc.cz

Hradec IT Cluster

The objective of the HIT Cluster is to provide services for its members to jointly improve the quality of management, increase innovation potential, save costs and to develop business possibilities in the areas of human resources development, marketing, sharing of capacities, technological development and innovations. The applicability of new technologies includes distributed backup environments, automation of information system management, information system security and server housing (server virtualisation, application clustering, geographical backup). The cluster is currently conducting fifteen R&D projects and it employs 48 experts. The cluster's joint projects include establishment of a research and testing ICT centre as a technology base for the cluster's activities.

www.hitklastr.cz

IT Cluster

The IT Cluster's core activities include research projects in the areas of software service quality, IT service management, research and development in wireless and mobile technologies (using the potential of 3G networks and developing Intelligent Traffic Systems). There are also development projects concerning business products with focus on open business intelligence, operation of the IT infrastructure for solutions based on the SOA concept, and a CAPI solution for the cluster. The cluster's goals are to ensure that the outcomes of R&D will be transferred into commercially oriented products and to build a strong IT cluster that will help to establish the Moravia-Silesia region as a centre of advanced technologies where IT plays a key role.

www.itcluster.cz

Network Security Monitoring Cluster

The Network Security Monitoring Cluster is a leading organization in network security in the CEE region. Its mission is to create a centre of excellence in the field of computer network security. The cluster has 30 members, including Masaryk University in Brno.

www.nsmcluster.com

Professional Groups

Czech ICT Alliance

Members of the Czech ICT Alliance are significant multinational companies operating in the Czech Republic (e.g. Ness) and leading Czech firms (e.g. Unicorn, LCS) as well as a range of small and medium-sized Czech companies with extensive international ambitions. The alliance currently has 20 members, but thanks to the scope of its activities, it has helped dozens of Czech IT firms with foreign expansions.

ICT Unie

ICT Unie is an professional association of companies in the ICT sector, other business and educational entities that aims to raise awareness of the importance of innovating and using modern information technology and electronic communication in society, including the creation of optimal conditions for the development of the ICT infrastructure in the Czech Republic, as a prerequisite for the development of the information society.

AFI

The Association for Foreign Investment (AFI) represents a group of service companies with local experience that support the entry of foreign investors into the Czech Republic and offer a wide range of professional services to foreign investors entering the local market.

CzechInvest's Services

Our Objectives

- to advise and support existing and new companies and foreign investors in the Czech Republic
- to support the competitiveness of the Czech economy
- to create a space for communication between foreign investors, the state administration and Czech companies

CzechInvest is exclusively authorized to file applications for investment incentives at the competent governing bodies and prepares draft offers to grant investment incentives. Its task is also to provide potential investors with current data and information on the business climate, investment environment and investment opportunities in the Czech Republic.

Key Services

- Detailed, sector-specific market intelligence and value propositions
- Customized business cases
- Identification of business properties or suitable sites
- Tailor made visits to the Czech Republic
- Access to investment incentives and EU funds
- Information and advice on doing business in the Czech Republic, regulations and taxation
- Identification of potential business partners, suppliers or acquisition targets
- Referrals to professional associations (lawyers, bankers, accountants, etc.)
- Aftercare

All of CzechInvest's services are free of charge.

Awards

- 2012 – 2nd position among the Top 10 Investment Promotion Intermediary World Websites, World Bank
- 2009 – Best Website among All Investment Promotion Agencies, World Bank
- 2009 – Inward Investment Team of the Year, Business Destinations
- Best Practices in Promotion 2004, presented by the steering committee of the World Investment Forum
- WAIPA Awards 2003 – Best Advertisement by an IPA (third place)
- Best Investment Promotion Agency in the EU Accession Countries of 2002
- European Investment Promotion Agency of the Year 2001
- European Investment Promotion Agency of the Year 2000

Selected ICT Projects and Clusters



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