



Headline News

DuPont opens the Centre of Road Technology in Prague

The American company DuPont has opened its Road Technology Centre in Prague. The centre conducts testing and provides technical and legislative advisory services and consulting for asphalt producers and companies engaged in the construction of road surfaces throughout the regions of Central and Eastern Europe.

Business

Synthon completes plant in Blansko

Synthon, a Dutch pharmaceuticals producer, has completed construction of a new production plant and research centre in Blansko. At a cost of approximately CZK 450 million, the company converted a former chemical-production facility into a plant for producing and developing active medicinal substances used in the manufacture of drugs.

Toyota opens new administrative centre in Prague

Toyota Motor Czech, which imports Toyota automobiles to the Czech Republic and Slovakia, has opened a new administrative centre in Prague at a cost of CZK 300 million. The new complex houses the headquarters of both Toyota Motor Czech and Toyota Financial Services Czech. Toyota decided to build an entirely new centre in order to consolidate all sales and after-sale activities, including financial services, under one roof with the possibility of further expansion.

Greiner PURtec CZ opens new production facility

The German firm Greiner PURtec, a supplier of insulation for storage tanks and seat cushions for aircraft, has opened a new production hall in the Nýrsko region of the Czech Republic at a cost of CZK 300 million. The new facility will enable the company to triple production of insulation for warm-water tanks. The

company wants to be prepared for growing demand for heat pumps, solar panels, biomass furnaces and other ecological heating equipment.

Glenmark expands its activities

The Indian firm Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, whose global turnover reached USD 350 million last year, is preparing to significantly enhance its activities in the Czech Republic in coming years. The firm has even decided to transfer its European headquarters to Prague. Besides expansion of its Czech base, the firm is also making provisions for the construction of a new logistics centre from which it will distribute drugs to the entire European Union.

Sporting-goods chain Decathlon to enter the Czech Republic

Decathlon, a French sporting-goods chain known for its aggressive business policies, is coming to the Czech Republic. The company plans to open its

first large-area sales outlet in the Czech Republic in spring 2010 in Liberec. The facility should cover an area of nearly 24 thousand square meters.

KappAhl to enter the Czech market

Swedish fashion retail chain KappAhl will enter the Czech market this October. It will open its first store in the Czech Republic on an area of 850 square meters in the Olympia Brno retail and entertainment centre.

Politics

EU-USA summit held in the Czech Republic

A summit between the European Union and the United States was held in Prague on 5 April. The meeting, in which American President Barack Obama participated, was attended by politicians and government representatives from all 27 EU member countries.

R&D

Software firm Bohemia Interactive returns to the Czech Republic

Bohemia Interactive, one of the most successful Czech software companies, is relocating its development team responsible for the next generation of Virtual Battlespace, a military training game, from Australia to Prague. At the same time, the company will also open a new development centre in Prague's Dejvice district. Virtual Battlespace is used by military organisations

around the world, including the United States armed forces and NATO.

Olympus to open new technology centre in Přerov

In spite of the currently unfavourable economic situation, Olympus will open a new technology centre focused on development and production of medical instruments this year in Přerov. Following the successful launch and operation of two highly specialised repair centres, Olympus is building a centre that will develop and produce new endoscopic instruments for customers around the world. The centre should employ up to 150 people by the end of 2011.

Travel Industry

Czech Airlines recognised for quality

As in previous years, Czech Airlines has been named the best airline company in Central Europe for 2008 according to an annual survey of millions of passengers conducted by the British organisation Skytrax as part of the World Airline Awards.

Exchange Rates
Averages for April 2009
EUR 1 = CZK 26.760
GBP 1 = CZK 29.815
USD 1 = CZK 20.293

Sources: Czech National Bank, Czech AM by Czech Information Agency, Prague Daily Monitor, Radio Prague, dailies Hospodarske noviny, Pravo, MF Dnes and Lidove noviny

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