



Headline News

Czech innovation: Stimulator improves heart function and sleep

A unique method for treating patients with both sleep disorders and heart disease has been developed in the Czech Republic. Czech doctors were the first to come up with a way to reduce the risk of acute cardiac arrest in such people. The doctors found that implanting a special CRT cardiostimulator in the patients improves their circulation and heart rate, while aiding uninterrupted sleep and improving respiration. Research was conducted at the First Cardioangiology Clinic at St. Anne's University Hospital in Brno, in cooperation with the prestigious Mayo Clinic of the United States. Sleep apnoea, i.e. interruption of breathing during sleep, affects roughly 50% of patients with serious heart problems.

Business

Foreign firms take over more drugs producers

Tamda, an Olomouc-based drugs producer and distributor has been acquired by Arseus, a Belgian manufacturer of healthcare products and provider of related service, and the Japanese healthcare giant Otsuka has taken over Interpharma of Prague, which had long been searching for a majority partner. Arseus operates in eleven countries and since its purchase of Tamda promises to enhance its market share and advance further into Eastern Europe. The company's revenues amounted to EUR 5 million last year. Otsuka's revenues total roughly CZK 128.6 billion. The company operates mainly in Asia and America.

Škoda Power to deliver turbine worth CZK 300 million to Finland

Plzeň-based Škoda Power has received an order to deliver a 45 MW steam

turbine to the Finnish firm Kuopion Energia. For CZK 300 million the Finns will obtain equipment for their entire facility, including assembly. Kuopion Energia generates electricity for central Finland. The deadline for delivery of the turbine is at the end of 2011.

Hyundai to begin production in Nošovice three months early

The first "Czech" Hyundai i30 cars intended for customers will leave the assembly line at the company's new plant in the Silesian town of Nošovice as early as November this year, which is three months earlier than originally planned. The i30 hatchback is the first Hyundai model to be produced in the Czech Republic; a station wagon version will follow. The third model will be a multipurpose vehicle with the provisional name YN. The factory itself has been completed and production lines are currently being tested. Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Czech has already produced several

dozen i30s in the course of training-related operation. All but nine of these cars will be used for training firefighters in the Moravia-Silesia region and will thus be destroyed.

Linet to deliver beds worth CZK 32 million to Spain

Linet, a manufacturer of healthcare equipment, has obtained an order in Spain for nearly 1,500 electrically adjustable beds worth CZK 32 million. This is the company's biggest contract since it entered the Spanish market four years ago. Last year Linet took third place in the manufacturing-industry category of the Investor of the Year competition.

R&D

Unique photographic imaging technique developed in Brno

Specialists from the Technical University in Brno have developed a mathematical method by which a visualisation of the sun's corona can be completely isolated from photographs of a solar eclipse, which will help astrophysicists in their research of the outermost layer of the sun's atmosphere.

American FAA wants to test Czech air-traffic control system

The American Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which is responsible for air-traffic safety, is preparing to test a special system from the Czech Republic. The system was developed by Czech

specialists of the Faculty of Cybernetics at the Czech Technical University, which will evidently conclude an agreement with the FAA in the near future. The Americans want to test and further develop the AGENTFLY system, which was originally developed to control unmanned helicopters. If the system proves worthy, it could be used in the United States to increase air-traffic capacity.

Solarwinds expands its development centre in Brno

Solarwinds, an American software company that develops network-administration programs, is expanding its development centre in Brno. Within the Investor of the Year competition the company recently received the title of Most Significant Investor in Business Support Services thanks to its development centre and for creating new high-skilled jobs and for investment in training new employees.

Energy produced from mine methane

Green Gas DPB has opened its Rychvald 2 plant for producing heat and electricity from methane extracted from a disused mine. The two-megawatt power plant will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases while increasing safety in the vicinity of the closed mine.

ČKD Blansko has a new laboratory

ČKD Blansko Engineering has opened its own hydraulics laboratory for

testing hydraulic-machine models. The testing facility cost CZK 80 million, and the company plans to expand it at a cost of an additional CZK 40 million. The possibility to conduct its own research could help the company to gain more orders for its hydroturbines, for example.

Miscellaneous

The Czech Republic ranks 36th in technical advancement

According to a study by the World Economic Forum, the Czech Republic ranks 36th out of 127 countries in terms of utilisation of information and communication technologies. The World Economic Forum surveyed individual countries particularly from two perspective: development of ICT infrastructure including, for example, the number of computers per capita, quality of telecommunications networks and skill level of the workforce; and the overall ICT environment including, for example, the level and quality of regulation on the part of state bodies, business conditions, intensity of competition and innovation ability. The Czech IT industry excels in some areas, particularly in availability of scientists and engineers, where the country placed fifth, access to education (8th place) and mobile-telephone penetration (9th place).

Half-crown coins phased out in September

From September the Czech Republic's lowest

denomination coin, the 50-heller piece, will be taken out of circulation. According to the Czech National Bank, the coins do not fulfil their task as currency. The actual value of the 50-heller coin long ago ceased to correspond to its nominal value due to inflation. In spite of this, the last of the coins will be produced next month for the purposes of collectors.

Exchange Rates
Averages for August 2008
EUR 1 = 24,286 CZK
GBP 1 = 30,631 CZK
USD 1 = 16,226 CZK
Source: Czech National Bank

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

www.czechinvest.org
fdi@czechinvest.org