

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2009



Headline News

Medis International opens a new pharma packaging plant

Medis International has opened a generic drug packaging plant at Bolatice near Opava, having spent CZK 200 million on this greenfield investment. The plant is equipped with state-of-the-art technology. The owners of the company plan that certain drugs will be produced there in the future. There are 15 people working for the company at present but this number is to increase to 55 in the years to come.

Business

Twin City Fan Companies acquires a HVAC maker

Twin City Fan Companies, a global leader in heat, ventilation and air conditioning equipment manufacturing, has completed the acquisition of the Czech HVAC maker, Vzduchotechnika Prachatice. The Czech firm wants to expand production, planning to spend tens of millions of crowns. The new plant at Prachatice (West Bohemia) is to start operating in

summer this year, creating more than ten new jobs.

Spak set to expand production

Austrian-based Spak is planning expansion. It wants to invest CZK 100 million in expanding its plant at Susice (South Bohemia) and to spend additional tens of millions on new technologies. This food manufacturer has already commissioned new storage facilities and plans to open a new manufacturing plant by the end of 2010. The production capacity at Susice will thus be increased by a third and the number of employees will increase by 20 percent.

Siempelkamp reinforcing its position

The German company, Siempelkamp, continues building a modern engineering factory at Blatnice (South Moravia). At the end of 2009 the company opened a new office building and it plans to build and open a second manufacturing plant within the next two years. The number of its employees at Blatnice will have grown to 120 by 2011.

KEMA acquires a Czech heavy current lab

KEMA, an energy adviser and provider of testing and certification services, has acquired the Prague-based energy equipment testing company, Zkusebnictvi. With its 31 employees, Zkusebnictvi focuses on short-circuit testing of medium-voltage equipment for electricity transmission and distribution. KEMA, with its headquarters in the Netherlands, employs more than 1500 specialists worldwide and is among the global leaders in its field.

Siko to build a large sales outlet

A new sales outlet will soon be built in the Zlicin shopping zone in Prague. The Siko Koupelny company plans to build premises there, with a showroom and salesrooms for both retail and wholesale customers. The construction of the premises, including a three-storey building on a plot of almost a hectare, will begin this year, to open for customers in 2011. Baumax, which operates a hobby market chain in the Czech Republic, also wants to build premises on the site.

R&D

Elmarco and the National University of Singapore set to cooperate

Elmarco, which makes machines for the industrial production of nanofibre materials, and the National University of Singapore will cooperate on development projects. Since March 2009, they have been conducting joint research on new nanomaterials for industrial use. The outcomes of their joint efforts include, for example, a water filtering facility using nanofibre membranes. Co-operation will also focus on projects in the areas of regenerative medicine, solar energy generation and waste water treatment. Elmarco is the only company in the world to make machines for industrial production of nanofibre materials.

Tourism

Laser-based tourist counting to protect national parks

Special measurement of the number of tourists and cyclists on individual paths is expected to help make cycle path planning more effective and contribute to environmental protection, particularly in national parks and protected areas. Contactless sensors, installed on the cycle paths, are used to collect the data on the numbers of visitors. Information on the numbers and movements of visitors, especially along watercourses, serves for marketing purposes and as input for developing safety measures on the paths.

Other

TPCA employee health centre

TPCA (Toyota Peugeot Citroën Automobile), which operates a small-car manufacturing plant at Kolin, has opened a Preventive Health Care Centre for its employees. The purpose of the Centre, which is worth CZK 11.5 million, is to ensure early detection of any health problems among TPCA employees and to enhance therapy and convalescence processes. The Centre employs eleven doctors.

Exchange Rates
Averages for December 2009
EUR 1 = CZK 26.076
GBP 1 = CZK 28.987
USD 1 = CZK 17.839

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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