

Czech Trade Focus

News from the Czech Commercial Offices in the United States / Spring 2009

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Readers,

Since January 2009, the Czech Republic has held the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which it will pass on at the end of June. As this is a very significant and prestigious time for our country, we would like to inform you about the intentions of our Presidency, along with news regarding the Czech economy, in this special Spring 2009 edition. Please know that we will resume with our regular quarterly releases this summer. Sincerely, The Commercial Section of the Embassy of the Czech Republic

CZECH EU PRESIDENCY 2009

The priorities of the Czech Presidency are not only national priorities, but the priorities of the entire European Union. The motto of the Czech Presidency, "Europe without Barriers", reflects the four basic freedoms: the free movement of goods, capital, workers, and services. We intend to uphold these freedoms to their fullest. The logo of the Czech Presidency, i.e. the www.EU2009.cz website, adds a symbolic fifth freedom: free movement of information and knowledge. **The main priorities of the Czech Presidency can be summed up as "the 3 E's": Economy, Energy and External Relations.** *In this article, allow us to focus on the Economy and Energy.*

In 2009 the European Union has been confronted with a number of serious challenges and decisions. Due to the financial crisis, it is necessary to prepare for the threat of a significant slowdown in economic growth or even an economic downturn, with all its social, political and international consequences. Although urgent measures have been taken at global, EU and national levels last year, the European Union has given priority attention to a solution to this problem in 2009 as well.

In addition, the development as regards security in the world, especially developments in crisis regions, involve many unknown factors. During the Czech Presidency, the European Union's strategic ally – the USA – will establish a new leadership and priorities. Special attention will also be paid to the attitudes of another major partner – the Russian Federation. These new facts arise against a background of long-term global challenges which shape the contemporary, interconnected world, whether it is the threat of climate change, the new trends in the distribution of economic and political power in the world or the development of the international security situation.

In the highly changeable world of the 21st century, it is becoming clear that the European Union's success depends upon it having the ability to flexibly respond to current problems, and to take full advantage of its economic, cultural and human potential. With this in mind, from the very outset of its preparations, the Czech Republic chose '*Europe without Barriers*' as the symbolic motto of its Presidency: a Europe without internal economic, cultural and value barriers for individuals, entrepreneurs and economic entities; a Europe open to the world, but not defenceless against illegal activities and attacks. In the present efforts to stabilise the EU's economies, excessive regulation and an increased level of protectionism must be avoided, above all. The European Union must not give up its strategic goals in favour of short-term stabilisation measures.

The motto '*Europe without Barriers*' has also a political and historical meaning. The year 2009 is a year of significant anniversaries – above all, the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain, and the fifth anniversary of the most extensive enlargement of the European Union – that will commemorate the successful project of the reunification of Europe.

Only an economically strong and cohesive EU without internal barriers, building on its values and roots, will be able to address complex global issues and establish its position in today's world.

Economy

Urgent measures have already been taken in order to restore the proper functioning of financial systems and the confidence of economic agents. Implementing further steps to enhance transparency and stability of financial markets will be an important goal in the upcoming period. Taking into account that the financial crisis has already had impacts on the real economy, the primary task during the Czech Presidency will be to prevent any further deepening of the crisis and to revive the economic growth of the EU economies. The *European Economic Recovery Plan*, agreed by the European Council in December 2008, is a joint framework for the coordinated effort of the European Union and its Member States. Solutions proposed in this plan must be effective, targeted and time limited. They must reflect the specific conditions of the Member States and respect the principles of the *Stability and Growth Pact* as well as the competition rules.

The European Union will play a significant role in international negotiations about a financial system reform that would prevent the recent crisis from recurring in the future. In the joint dialogue with other countries, the Czech Presidency strives, as particularly at the April G-20 Summit in London, to ensure that the EU makes a coordinated contribution in the search for a solution at European and global level.

Even in this difficult economic situation, the Czech Presidency wants to put emphasis on the development of human capital through supporting education, research and development, and by freeing reserves in the internal market. The issue is, above all, to remove any barriers that still stand in the way of the full utilisation of all internal market freedoms, namely the free movement of workers and services, as well as the extraordinarily promising movement of knowledge. The European Union's competitiveness and economic development are also retarded by a number of regulatory and administrative obstacles whose purposefulness is beginning to appear questionable. Attention needs to be paid to the removal of barriers in the sphere of trans-European transport networks. The European Union will greatly benefit from the implementation of the Galileo Programme too.

The European Union must also strive to dismantle external barriers. It cannot put up with the stalling of the process of world trade liberalisation, with persisting obstacles to access to other markets, unfair competition, or insufficient protection of intellectual and industrial property. The new global economic situation may make protectionist approaches seem seductive. The Czech Presidency will therefore endeavour to ensure that the EU does not diverge from its path of openness, which has led it so far to economic and social prosperity.

Energy

A central theme for the European Union during the Czech Presidency will encompass the set of issues related to the energy sector and an active involvement in international negotiations about climate protection after 2012. This is a pressing topic, significantly concerning the economy and having international policy and security implications. Building upon the commitments of the European Council from March 2007 elaborated further in the adopted Climate-Energy Package, the Presidency will strive to prepare a path for reaching a broad international consensus on how to face climate change, which should be reached at the end of 2009 in Copenhagen. It must be stressed that any solution to the climate issue will imply not only certain economic and political costs, but also opportunities.

Energy security is a basic prerequisite for the functioning of the EU economies. In light of the EU's increasing dependence on energy imports from the surrounding world, it acquires a special urgency. The EU's goal in this regard is to achieve a greater territorial diversification of suppliers, a broader range of utilised sources, an enhancement of the range of renewable resources and the creation of a truly unified internal energy market in the EU which would allow for solidarity in crisis situations. Overall, the path of reducing the economy's energy intensity must be pursued, as well as reducing the economy's impact on the environment at European and global level.

CZECH EU PRESIDENCY STRIKES EU DEAL ON PLAN FOR TUNA RECOVERY

The European Union has taken the lead in the effort to maintain sustainable fisheries of bluefin tuna in the east Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

On Monday, April 6, the EU Member States unanimously adopted a multiannual plan for the rebuilding of bluefin tuna, which is the most endangered tuna species in the world. The deal was reached after difficult negotiations led by the Czech EU Presidency.

The plan is a response of the EU to the recommendation published by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in November 2008. The European Union is the first of the parties to ICCAT to have drawn up its own plan. In doing so it has shown that it approaches the sustainable tuna fisheries with a strong sense of responsibility. All contracting parties to the Commission (besides the EU - e.g. the USA, Canada, Japan and the African countries of the Mediterranean) have to submit their own strategies by November.

The EU deal is all the more significant as it will enter into force even before the fishing season opens in mid-April. This means that the 2009 fishing season will be governed by new, stricter rules. Among other things, the plan:

- introduces significant cuts in bluefin tuna quotas by 2011; - shortens the fishing season by 4 months (i.e. from 15 April to 15 June);
- provides for restrictions on fishing in certain zones;
- imposes a freeze on the EU's fishing capacity on 2007-08 levels and its further reduction;
- regulates sport and recreational fishing which, in some cases, can be as intensive as commercial fishing;
- imposes a ban on the imports and exports of tuna caught outside the quota system;
- provides for the drawing up of national fishing plans and the introduction of individual quotas for vessels over 24 metres;

- reinforces controls and inspections so as to ensure enforceability.

Under the agreement of the parties to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT),

the quotas for bluefin tuna catches should be substantially decreased in the coming years. Last year, the quota for the European Union was set at 16,210 tons, while the actual catch was 14,963 tonnes. For 2009 and 2010 the quota was set at 12,406 tons and 11,237 tons respectively.

DEAL REACHED BY CZECH PRESIDENCY TO HELP EU RESEARCH

The European Union has decided to further promote a scientific discipline that underpins modern technologies in healthcare, energy, security as well as environmental protection, by setting up a joint research programme in metrology. While it might not be one of the best-known science disciplines, metrology, which focuses on exact measurements of physical and technological units, yields results that are vital for the development of new technologies and consequently for Europe's competitiveness.

After short but intensive talks, the Czech Presidency has now brokered agreement between the Member States and the Parliament on a proposal to establish a European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP). Its aim is to boost the efficiency of European research in the field of metrology by coordinating funding as well as capacities in science, development and organisation. "In this discipline, strategic coordination is absolutely essential. Today, European research in metrology is fragmented", said Jana Reinisova, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the EU and head of the team which brokered the deal between the Member States and MEPs.

Metrology is of key importance in a number of sectors, such as the manufacturing of precision medical instruments and

diagnostic technologies. It is also the cornerstone of the development of nanotechnologies, which are already widely used in textiles, cosmetics, packing technologies and detergents. In the energy sector, it contributes to efficient and sustainable use of resources, and in the area of environmental protection, it helps develop cutting-edge monitoring technologies. Last but not least, in the field of security, in addition to other uses, metrology helps detect harmful substances.

The compromise negotiated by the Czech Presidency and the European Parliament, was approved by the Member States at the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper I) on Tuesday 7 April. The EP will now confirm the agreement by a vote in the plenary and the whole procedure will be formally rounded off by ministers of the EU Member States. The proposal is expected to come into force before the end of this year.

The EMRP programme will bring together 22 national metrology programmes of the EU Member States and associated countries to the Framework Programme 7 for research and technology development. Half of its EUR 400 million budget will be provided by the participating countries and the other half will be covered by the EU budget. The funds will be distributed among science projects.

CZECH EU PRESIDENCY STRIKES DEAL ON ECO-DESIGN

The well-known CE mark, labelling household appliances that are eco-friendly thanks to their low electricity consumption, will be extended to a wider range of products.

This is the result of a deal on the Eco-design Directive between the Member States and the European Parliament, brokered by the Czech EU Presidency.

The directive sets out minimum standards for manufacturing certain products with the aim to ensure a low impact on the environment throughout their life cycle. At the same time, it has a positive impact on energy consumption and in this way increases their energy efficiency. Moreover, it simplifies the free movement of goods within the European Union.

"The directive meets the Czech Presidency priorities in several respects – it strengthens the internal market, increases energy efficiency and improves the protection of the environment", says Jana Reinisova, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the EU, adding that "this is because the directive sets out clear criteria for relevant products and these criteria will be valid throughout the EU. In this way it removes

barriers to cross-border trade that are due to different national requirements."

Mrs. Reinisova headed the team that negotiated the agreement between the European Parliament and the EU Member States. The compromise wording was confirmed by the Member State representatives on Wednesday, March 25. It will now be formally approved by the MEPs and EU ministers.

The original Eco-design Directive has been in force since 2005, but it has applied only to products running on electricity, such as household appliances or electronic devices. To ensure their eco-friendliness, the directive provides for the minimum manufacturing and design standards that must be complied with. The products that meet these requirements obtain the CE label, while others cannot be put on the EU market.

The revised version of the directive, submitted last year by the European Commission, extends its applicability to include products that are related to the consumption of energy – i.e. windows, sanitation technology or insulation products. According to the compromise, the Commission will assess the impact of the directive by 2012 and will then decide whether to extend its applicability to all products.

CZECH EU PRESIDENCY LEADS EU TO OZONE PROTECTION DEAL

Brussels, 24 March 2009: The European Union will take another step contributing to the global effort to stop the depletion of the ozone layer.

This will be achieved thanks to an amendment to the Regulation on substances that deplete the Earth's ozone layer. The Czech Presidency has managed to obtain agreement between the Member States and the European Parliament on the text of this proposal. This compromise is expected to be confirmed by the plenary vote of the EP on Wednesday 25 March.

"This amendment will not only improve the standards of protection of the environment and human health but will also simplify an entire bulk of legislation. This will reduce the administrative burden faced by EU businesses", says Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the EU Jana Reinišová, who, together with her team, reached this

compromise between the EU Council and the European Parliament.

The objective of the amendment is to clarify the conditions under which ozone-depleting substances will cease to be used. At the same time, the text reflects the progress already achieved by the EU in this area – it abolishes the outdated conditions which had to be met by EU industry.

Moreover, thanks to the amendment, Community legislation will be more in line with applicable global agreements limiting the use of harmful substances, such as the Montreal Protocol. The aim is above all to ban the usage of "soft CFCs" (hydrochlorofluorocarbons, HCFC), which deplete the ozone layer in a significant way. Their use will be considerably restricted and they will be banned altogether as of 2020 on the basis of the agreement. A ban on methyl bromide will enter into force as soon as 2010.

CZECH EU PRESIDENCY SIMPLIFIES RULES FOR ROAD TRANSPORT

The market for international road transport in the EU will be governed by new and clearer rules. That is the impact of the road package that the Czech Presidency negotiated with the European Parliament on Tuesday, March 24, on behalf of the Member States. It is another piece of legislation that the Czech Presidency has successfully negotiated.

"The package is the next step in the strengthening of the internal market for road transport. It makes it easier for carriers to do business in the EU by simplifying the rules and cutting administrative burden", says Deputy Czech Ambassador to the EU Jana Reinišová, who negotiated the compromise with the European Parliament together with her colleagues.

The compromise on the package consisting of three legislative proposals still has to be approved by the EU Member States on Friday 27 March in the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper I) and then by the European Parliament, whose relevant committee will vote on it on 31 March, while the plenary vote will take place in April. The new

rules will then gradually enter into force over the next two years.

According to Reinišová, particularly the agreement on cabotage, i.e. the possibility for freight carriers to provide services in other EU Member States than where they are registered, is a significant progress. So far, EU rules for cabotage have been unclear and as a result a number of countries have significantly limited the operation of foreign carriers. According to the new rules each carrier will be able to fulfil up to three orders during seven days abroad after finishing an international transport order. Furthermore, this restriction will be reviewed in the future.

The introduction of new rules for international bus transport is another significant success. While the safety of coach transport will not be compromised, coach drivers will now be able to use more flexible rules for rest periods. And, last but not least, cooperation between national authorities and exchange of information will be improved. They will now be able to share up-to-date information about carriers and their offences, which will be registered in new electronic databases.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY DISCUSSED AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE

A conference held by the Prague Global Policy Institute (Glopolis) and the Heinrich Böll Foundation in March tried to answer the question of ensuring global food security.

UN representatives, MEPs, economists, representatives of NGOs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and others discussed the issue in the Goethe Institute.

According to the First Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Ivo Hlavac, the development dimension must be made an integral part of the common trade and agricultural policies of the EU. He believes, however, that rather than speaking of a current global food crisis it is appropriate to talk about the economic crisis impacts. And, as Hlavac added, even those are felt

differently in the various parts of the world.

"Even though the European Union, as other countries and regions, struggles to overcome the consequences of the financial crisis, the volume of EU aid for developing countries remains the largest in the world. This is shown by the amount of money spent, reaching more than 10 billion euros a year", said Deputy Minister Ivo Hlavac. Other funds are provided by individual Member States in the framework of bilateral cooperation. "The Czech Republic contributes the largest sum for development cooperation out of the new Member States. Out of the more than 80 million crowns paid annually from the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture, more than 60% is intended for direct support of agricultural production. The rest goes to forestry and water management", added Hlavac. According to him, developing countries should contribute to

this effort themselves, mainly by trying to raise agricultural production, possibly by achieving self-sufficiency in food.

According to Hlavac, it is necessary to put emphasis on land cultivation and education of the work force that cultivates it. The First Deputy Minister of Agriculture supported the opinion of several participants in the conference that, unless we develop education and infrastructure, remove market barriers and emphasise healthy functioning of local markets, no non-market investments and development cooperation will bring the desired effect from a long-term perspective.

The turn of 2007/2008 brought tension to the food markets in some developing countries, which in effect gave rise to unrest. The cause was the concurrence of several elements, in particular system factors, namely long-term growth of the world population and increase of demand; short term factors, such as fluctuation in the volume of the world production of agricultural commodities, as well as speculative factors. This resulted in a steep rise in prices of basic agricultural commodities that, in some producing countries, caused inadequate reactions by way

of export restrictions, which in turn aggravated the situation on the market. At that moment, we began to talk about a food crisis that naturally affected poor countries which are forced to import the abovementioned commodities the most.

On the contrary, according to the conference participants, we have been witnessing a steep decline in the world prices of agricultural commodities since spring 2008. In the meantime, most of the export restrictions for the producing countries have been revoked; however, we are still talking about a food crisis. In the course of the seminar Deputy Minister Hlavac elaborated on the opinions of the participants regarding the future prevention of such development by stating possible ways in which the common trade and agricultural policies may be of help. 'The underlying principle of common trade and agricultural policies of the European Union should be openness and the development dimension should also be an integral part of these policies. Inadmissibility of protectionist measures was the topic of the extraordinary EU Summit that has just taken place,' concluded Hlavac.

ECONOMIC BRIEFS

The Czech Republic will earn nearly 10 billion CZK (\$495.8 million) from carbon credit sales this year, thanks to an agreement signed by Environment Minister Martin Bursik for the sale of 40 million carbon credits to Japan. The money will go toward thermal insulation in houses and environmentally friendly heating systems through the State Fund for the Environment.

A record twenty shopping centres and smaller retail complexes were opened in the Czech Republic last year, bringing the country's total number of shopping centres to 290. Despite the deepening economic crisis, construction of shopping centres increased in the Czech Republic last year. The newly opened complexes are those whose construction began during the property development boom from 2006 to the first half of 2008.

The Nordic World Ski Championship 2009 took place in the second half of February in the Liberec region in the Czech republic. The total cost of organizing the championship amounted to 2 million CZK (\$98,000).

Prague ranks third among the world's metropolises in terms of the quality-price ration of hotel services, according to hotel.info international hotel portal.

Pragues's Hotel Aria has taken first place in the World's Most Luxurious Hotel category of the prestigious

survey conducted by the independent travel server Tripadvisor. This is the first time that a Czech hotel has topped this category. The stylish, five-star boutique hotel is inspired by beautiful music; each of its four floors is decorated according to a different style of music.

In Q4 2008 gross domestic product adjusted for price, seasonal and calendar effects was up by 0.7% in comparison to Q4 2007 and down by 0.9% in comparison to Q3 2008. **Real GDP for the year 2008 grew by 3.1%.**

Nine out of ten Czechs aged 18 to 59 speak at least one foreign language, and their knowledge is rapidly improving.

The Czech Republic is sinking into recession this year, a decline in growth that many analysts say even began in the fourth quarter of 2008. Recessions are commonly defined as two quarters of zero or negative economic growth, but economists said recessions can begin with other indicators, such as industrial output, unemployment or consumer confidence, all of which worsened in the second half of last year.

Last year investments in research and development or business support services in the Czech Republic outweighed those in manufacturing projects for the first time. This is according to statistics from CzechInvest, which helps

domestic and foreign investors in the Czech Republic to implement their business plans. With CzechInvest's assistance, a total of 213 new investment projects are to be implemented; 76 of these are focused on research and development, 58 on services and 79 on production. These projects will create jobs for 14,606 people, including nearly 4,000 university graduates. The total value of the new investments is CZK 30 billion (\$1.5 billion).

In Q4 2008, the average gross monthly nominal wage was CZK 25,381 (\$1,200) which is by 8.3% more in the year-on-year comparison, the real wage grew by 3.4%. In the business sphere, the average nominal wage rose by 8.7% and the real wage by 3.8%. In the non-business sphere, the average nominal wage increased by 6.8% and the real wage by 2.0%.

Electricity production of Czech wind power plants nearly doubled last year - to 245 gigawatt-hours (GWh) from 125 GWh seen in 2007.

Consumer confidence in March registered its first month-on-month increase in March since February 2008, with the indicator rising 1.7 points over the previous month. The Business Confidence Indicator balance grew 1.2 points, and the Consumer Confidence Indicator went up 3.7 points.

Plans for the Czech Republic's first geothermal power plant, to be built in Liberec, north Bohemia, is a small but necessary step for the country's goal to increase reliance on renewable energy, say those connected with the project. CEZ, the Czech Republic's largest power company, has issued a 250 million CZK (\$11.3 million) tender for an exploratory dig to determine Liberec's geologic suitability for the proposed geothermal power plant, which has a total estimated cost of 1 billion CZK (\$49 million). If conditions prove favorable, the plant would provide heating and electricity for about half the city of Liberec through a relatively clean process that harnesses the earth's heat through pipelines drilled several kilometers underground.

The Czech Republic's first biotechnology cluster, CzechBio, was established on 18 December 2008. The cluster already associates twenty private companies and is preparing the entry of several public research institutions, including institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences. The association's aim is to facilitate and accelerate development while strengthening the commercial activities of biotechnology organisations throughout the Czech Republic.

Projects for e-government in the Czech Republic are achieving greater success - but at a slow speed. Czechs do not seem to be taking advantage of the chance to use the Internet for public

administration tasks as much as they could be.

In 2008, 9.4 million tourists visited the Czech Republic, spending an average of CZK 2,475 (\$122) daily. Including one-day visitors and those only travelling through the country, the total reached 22 million. The main reasons for visiting the Czech Republic were shopping (cited by 32% of the tourists), recreation (25%), transit (14%), and business (14%). Roughly 15% of visitors came to the Czech Republic for at least one week; 17% were first time visitors.

Language schools in Prague are beginning to feel the pinch as the economic crisis translates into fewer clients willing to pay for language lessons. Many language schools nationwide have faced a 25 percent decrease in demand since January. Cutting costs in the wake of the financial crisis, companies are eliminating employee perks, including language lessons, leading some schools to lay off teachers or even close completely. Schools in Prague, which have more access to clients, have fared better than those in the regions, but all schools are dealing with decreasing demand that is likely to continue throughout 2009.

Golf, which has historically been a way for businessmen to network in a semiformal environment, has experienced a boom since the 1990s, with golf courses springing up across

the country, mirroring the quickly developing Czech corporate culture. As the sport's popularity grew, so did the Czech Republic's international reputation as a golf destination, thanks in part to the work of the Czech Golf Travel Association, which works to promote awareness of the quality of Czech golf courses, the most popular of which are in Prague and west Bohemia. Last year's strong crown made the Czech Republic less attractive for foreign tourists, however, and this year's European recession, which has only recently hit the Czech Republic, has now struck Czech golf courses, which have seen business decline up to 40 percent. Thus, the financial crisis is turning into a major sand trap for the Czech golf industry, as both domestic golfers and golf tourists become less willing to pay green fees and club memberships.

Small and medium-sized enterprises form an important part of the Czech Republic's economy. They account for 61.4% of employment, 52.6% of book value added and 44.8% of exports. They boost competitive dynamics in the business sphere.

The recession, characterized as "imported" by Czech analysts, had clearly been expected to hit the Czech manufacturing industry in an economy that is nearly 80 percent reliant on exports. But no one expected the severity of the industrial slowdown.

INVESTMENT BRIEFS

The American military will make use of Czech scientists' work in the coming years. Unmanned aerial vehicles, which the US uses for surveillance of populated areas, could soon be equipped with a special computer program developed by scientists at the Czech Technical University. The university signed an agreement on a research project with the Americans in February. Another Czech-American agreement on research is focused on communications technology. Last year, the Americans supported projects primarily involving information technologies and research of special materials. This year they want to invest mainly in nanomaterials, robotics and medicine.

Microsoft is planning to open its second Microsoft Innovation Centre in the Czech Republic. The centre, which should be established in Hradec Kralove, will have the purpose of assisting start-up computer firms. The first centre was established in Brno one year ago and since that time has organized roughly forty seminars and trainings with approximately nine hundred participants.

Elmarco, a global manufacturer of machines for producing nanofibres, has opened a new centre for research, development and production. The facility covers 3,000 square meters and is the only one of its kind in the world. The costs of constructing and equipping this unique centre of

nanofibre technology amounted to CZK 190 million (\$9.3 million). Domestic and foreign universities and global companies will participate in Elmarco's activities.

The city of Cheb will begin expansion of the local industrial park this year. Despite the current unfavourable situation in the market, the city is planning to invest CZK 65 million (\$3.2 million) in the preparation of land plants. The city's aim is not to sell the plots, but to attract investors that will create high-quality jobs.

The Korean investor Donghee is planning to expand production in its Czech plant, where it manufactures chassis and fuel tanks for the

automotive industry. The expansion will begin in June and should be completed by the end of this year. The company is also planning to increase its staff from 120-300 employees and open a second shift.

The Cretyl group is planning to build a new business and administration centre in Jablonec nad Nisou. Construction is set to begin in the first quarter of 2010; the project should be completed two years later. The new centre will create 473 new jobs.

Kika, an Austrian furniture retailer, is opening a new large-area sales outlet in Olomouc in April. The company, which entered the Czech Republic in 2005, currently operates four shops with furniture and home accessories in Prague, Brno, and Plzen. In the coming years, Kika plans to open approximately ten more large-area shops in regional cities in the Czech Republic and invest more than CZK 5 billion (\$246 million).

Within the next five years, the **new technology centre called Svedskasance** will be built in the vicinity of the Cernovicka teresa industrial zone in Brno. The firm Areal Slatina is planning to build the centre from old assembly halls at a cost of roughly CZK 1.4 billion (\$69million). Up to 2,000 people will be employed in research and development for light industry.

COMPANIES AND BUSINESSES

Magna International of Canada, the third biggest global producer of automotive components, is entering the Czech Republic. The company is purchasing the Liberec-based firm Cadence Innovation with three factories in the Czech Republic and one in Hungary. Cadence is one of the Czech Republic's largest manufacturers of plastic parts for the automotive industry. The firm employs 2,200 workers and its revenues reached CZK 9 billion (\$443 million) last year.

The British retail chain Marks & Spencer is again increasing the number of its shops in the Czech Republic this year. In February the company opened an outlet in Brno, continuing last year's expansion of its network with four shops in the Czech Republic (Jihlava, Usti nad Labem, Liberec, Ostrava). Marks & Spencer now has 15 retail outlets in the Czech Republic.

Polyvanced is planning to relocate and expand its production in Ceska Lipa. The company's production programme involves processing of plastic materials and synthetic rubber, among other things, for the manufacture of hoses for the automotive industry. The company anticipates that 745 people will find work in the new plant, which will be built on a greenfield.

The Australian cafe chain Gloria Jean's Coffees, number two on the world market, is coming to the Czech Republic. The chain's first cafe here will open at the end of autumn this year. The domestic firm Asko Nabytek acquired a license to operate the franchise. The company wants to focus primarily on Czech customers.

McCafe concept of the fast food giant McDonalds will also be a newcomer to the Czech cafe market, entering the market in the second half of this year.

Brewery Budejovicky Budvar supplied 1.312 million hectolitres of beer to the market last year, 4.5 percent more than in 2007, and the growth was pulled mainly by the domestic market where sales grew by almost 10 percent.

The South Korean electronics manufacturer Samsung has opened its first branded shop in Prague. Samsung Centre will be operated by the company Fast. Samsung's competitors Apple, Sony and Nokia already have branded sales outlets in the Czech Republic.

Hooters, an American restaurant chain, will open its first franchise in the Czech Republic this year. The company Na Zdravi Ventures has received a licence to operate a franchise from Hooters of America, which is preparing to open at least four new restaurants in the Czech Republic. The first Hooters restaurant opened in 1983 in Clearwater, Florida.

Agrostroj Pelhrimov has begun production of lawnmowers under the Japanese company Chikusui Canycom brand. The Japanese company Chikusui Canycom selected the Czech Republic due to the country's strategic location, from which it will supply lawnmowers to the entire European market. In 2009 Agrostroj will produce 300 mowers; production will later increase to 1,000 units annually.

A French court granted Czech developer Orco protection from its creditors. Immediately after the company released the news, the Prague Stock Exchange suspended trading on Orco shares. The company currently has more than 200 development projects across Central Europe, but its debts may now equal its assets. Orco raised eyebrows recently by postponing the announcement of its 2008 results. A spokesperson told the Czech News Agency that there is no danger of bankruptcy.

The holding company Less has built in Caslav the largest European plant for processing the most massive parts of trees at a cost of CZK 1.8 billion (\$89 million), making it the biggest investment in this sector to date. The new plant is starting trial operation and will employ up to 300 people. The company's capacity will thus increase to 460,000 cubic metres of cut wood annually.

The Usti Regional Authority has approved the construction of a production hall for the company **Catalytic Solutions**, which will manufacture catalytic converters for the automotive industry here. Construction should begin immediately upon issuance of the necessary permits. Completion is planned for October 2010. The structure will cover a total area of 92,600 square meters.

TV manufacturer Hitachi Home Electronics will end production at its plant near Zatec, north Bohemia. All 800 employees are expected to lose their jobs by the end of April. The company cited poor sales of plasma TVs and the economic crisis as the

reason for closing the plant. Hitachi launched production in October 2007.

A2Z Bio, the Czech subsidiary of the British firm Yorkshire Bioscience, at the CKD Prague Technological Innovation Centre, will produce reagents for biotechnology research. A2Z Bio specialises in the production of reagents necessary for research in the areas of immunology and molecular biology. The company's clients are private and academic laboratories involved in diagnosing genetic disorders, DNA cloning, gene sequencing, etc. A2Z Bio plans to employ five or six researchers this year plus a few administrative workers and is preparing to invest approximately EUR 100,000 in the launch of its Czech operation. The company expects its income in the first year to be two and a half times this investment. Interestingly, the current global economic downturn was one of the reasons for the company's expansion to the Czech Republic.

Despite recent efforts to offer updated services, **Telefonica 02** announced it would decrease the number of

telephone booths in central Prague to cut operating costs. More than 20,000 phone booths are currently operating in the Czech Republic, and the number of payphone users per 100 inhabitants continues to exceed that of neighboring countries Austria and Germany. But usage in the capital, where the company operates more than 3,000 public phones, has been waning for years thanks to the ubiquity of mobile phones.

Anheuser-Busch lost an EU trademark battle against the Czech Republic's Budvar to register the "Budweiser" brand as a European-wide trademark. The legal wrangling was in its 13th year. Anheuser-Busch will not have the license to market the beer throughout the 27 member states, but can maintain the trademark in individual EU markets.

The Czech software company Bohemia Interactive is relocating its development team, which is engaged in creating the next generation of the military training game Virtual Battlespace, back to the Czech Republic. In connection with this, the

company is creating new jobs for top programmers at its new development centre in Prague's Dejvice district. Virtual Battlespace is used for training military units around the world, including those of the American armed forces and NATO.

Elmarco, a Liberec-based manufacturer of equipment for producing nanofibres, organized a summit featuring the participation of top scientists from around the world with the aim of initiating the massive introduction of new nanofibre materials and technologies to the world market. Solar cells using nanofibres can help to resolve, for example, the issue of fuel and drinking-water shortages. Elmarco holds a patent for the unique Nanospider technology, which is the only technology of its kind in the world for industrial-scale production of fibres that are 1,000 thinner than a human hair. The company recently opened a new research and development centre in the Liberec industrial zone at a cost of nearly CZK 200 million (\$9.8 million).

ECONOMIC POLICY BRIEF

Euro adoption date: The announcement of the date when the Czech Republic should adopt the euro will be postponed owing to early elections to be held in October. Early this year, Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek promised the cabinet would announce the date for adopting the single European currency on November 1, 2009. The euro is used in 16 out of 27 states of the European Union.

CZECH METALWORKING INDUSTRY

Metallurgy and metalworking are the cornerstones of Czech industry. With its centuries-long tradition and high quality production, the Czech Republic is a much sought-after supplier of metal sections, a large part of which is exported. For example, plate turned out by our rolling mills is used to build ships all over the world. Czech turbines generate electricity in a number of foreign power stations.

Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic: www.mpo.cz

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic: www.env.cz

Survey of Successful Companies operating in the Metallurgy and Metalworking Sector

ZDB Group, a.s.: The company is a part of the KKCG financial and investment group with a tradition going back more than 120 years. The company supplies a wide range of wires and wire products, such as ropes, steel cords, springs and metal fabrics. It also makes cast iron boilers and central heating bodies, commercial castings, steel shapes and bars and ingots. It exports to the US. Number of employees: 2,898. www.zdb.cz.

Metaz, a.s.: The company is one of the most important aluminum alloy and steel cast product manufacturers in the Czech Republic. Since its establishment in 1931, the company has built a stable position for itself as a supplier of products to customers in Western and Central Europe and overseas. The steel foundry is certified under EN ISO 9001:2000 standards and holds also other certificates, e.g. for the manufacture of railway equipment. It exports to the US. Turnover: EUR 13 million; Number of employees: 380. www.metaz.cz.

Kralovopolska slevarna, a.s.: It is a company with a one hundred year old tradition of making steel castings, centrifugal cast tubes and special shapes. Its main customers are companies in the ship-building and power industries. The foundry supplies large quantities of

materials, including high pressure resistant metals and stress, corrosion and water resistant materials. Turnover: EUR 8 million; Number of employees: 180. www.kpslevarna.cz.

Kovosreal, s.r.o.: It is a leading Czech metal sheet processing company. It supplies a wide range of products made in series or to the customers' individual orders. Its specialization is sheet punching, cutting out and bending, pressing, varnishing and welding. The company has its own tool shop provided with equipment for making and servicing special tools (cutting, bending, drawing, progressive and combined tools). The company is certified in accordance with ISO 9001:2001 and ISO 14001:2005 standards. Turnover: EUR 3.6 million; Number of employees: 85. www.kovosreal.cz.

Exhibitions and trade Fairs concerned with Metallurgy and Metalworking

IEF- International Engineering Fair

51st International Engineering Fair
September 14-18, 2009
Veletrhy Brno, a.s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno, Czech Republic
Email: msv@bvvcz
www.bvv.cz

Fond-EX

13th International Foundry Fair
May 11-14, 2010

Veletrhy Brno, a.s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 000 Brno, Czech Republic
www.bvv.cz

Official participation of the Czech Republic in Foreign Exhibition and Trade Fairs

IMTEX Bangalore

14th Indian Metal-cutting Machine Tool Exhibition
January 21-27, 2010
Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA)
Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC)
10th Mile, Tumkur Road, Bangalore
Email: imtma@imtma.in; www.imtex.in

CZECH COMPANIES LOOKING FOR US PARTNERS

Daniel Malis & Partners

Longin Business Center
Na Rybnicku Street No. 5
120 00 Prague 2
Phone: +420 296 368 350
Fax: +420 296 368 351
Email: law.office@malis.eu
Web: <http://www.malis.eu>
Contact person: Mr. Daniel Malis, Attorney at Law

Daniel Malis & Partners is focused on delivering top quality legal services for Czech and foreign clients, particularly in the following areas of law:

- Business and Civil Law
- Real Estate Law
- Intellectual Property Law/Information Technology Law
- Legal Relations with International Elements
- Debt Recovery and Management of Receivables
- Medical and Pharmaceutical Law
- Labor Law

Daniel Malis & Partners is easy to distinguish from others in its comprehensive and strategic approach to legal challenges. It delivers a high level of legal analysis and provides its services in both English and Czech. International experience also plays a major role. Daniel Malis & Partners forms an alliance with Katz, Barron, Squitero, Faust, Friedberg, Grady, English & Allen, P.A., a Florida law firm.

LEROS, s.r.o.

U Narodni galerie 470
156 00 Praha 5 – Zbraslav
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 257 898 284
Fax: +420 257 922 200
Mobile: +420 724 907 125
E-mail: valickova@leros.cz
Contact person: Jarmila Valickova
Web: www.leros.cz

LEROS, s.r.o is leading producer of herbs and herbal products for pharmacy in the Czech Republic.

Portfolio/our products - medicinal tea blends, herbal teas for children, herbal teas, fruit and rooibos teas, green teas and BIO teas . We combined the latest pharmaceutical and medical knowledge with traditional recipes. The quality of products manufactured by LEROS is proven by their certification and are exported not only to Europe, but to the USA as well.

We are looking for new business partners.

MAGNETON, a.s.

Hulinska 1799/1

767 01 Kromeriz

E-mail: balada@magneton.cz

Web: www.hem.cz

Phone: +420 573922208

Mobil: +420 602781652,
+420 776554556

Contact Person: Lukas Balada

MAGNETON, a factory for electromagnetic ignition, was founded in 1926. Our company, employing approx. 850 employees, is a Central European manufacturer of electrical appliances, devices and tools. In the context of these activities, we are expanding our operations into other commercial commodities as well. The H.E.M. project is part of our diversification program and combines our experience in the field of electro-technology and production of single-purpose machines. Our company does not plan on becoming a manufacturer of ceramics or sanitary technology, but attempts to offer above-average equipment for urinals in the context of the electrical profession.

Hem, the hygienic equipment for men, in short HEM, is the new product which brings comfort and cleanness for all its users. Hem is an extension of common urinals as it offers highly hygienic rinsing of intimate parts for men with warm water jets and subsequent drying with warm air. Hem is based on the system of automatic sensors which eliminate contact with the urinal. By moving your hand to a water symbol, you active rinsing. The dryer symbol activates wiping. After stepping aside from the appliance, the sensor starts total urinal rinsing. This hygienic appliance for men can be installed everywhere in place of normal urinals. Hem helps to satisfy men's hygienic needs.

We are looking for a strong, stable and professional company, which will be able to utilize this modern product.

Prague Solutions s.r.o.

(ReloCare/ExpatCare)

Nad Zameckem 553/31, 152 00 Praha 5 – Kosire, Czech Republic

Phone: 00420 / 251 55 22 11 (ReloCare)

Phone: 00420/ 251 55 22 55 (ExpatCare)

Fax: 00420 / 251 55 33 00

E-mail: care@expatcare.cz
care@relocare.cz

Web: www.relocare.cz
www.expatcare.cz

Prague Solutions s.r.o provides a full range of relocation and settling-in services to expats moving or living in Prague. A competent, experienced and reliable staff is ready to deliver tailored relocation solutions matching all possibly complex requirements as home search, legal documents, insurance, help desk, personal assistance or any other support and care needed.

Prague Solutions

PRAGUE SOLUTIONS, s.r.o LAUNCHES ONE-OF-A-KIND NEW EXPAT SERVICE

ExpatCare is breaking down language barriers with new 24-hour support line designed to help expats!

Prague Solutions, s.r.o is a company that helps foreigners adapt to life in Prague. Their popular ReloCare package of services helps relocating families make the smooth transition to the Czech Republic with minimal hassle. Relocare specialists find homes and schools and cut through the red tape of legalization on their client's behalf making for a smoother, easier moving experience. ReloCare offers corporate relocation services as well.

Unlike most relocation agencies, however, owner Dana Pick recently decided to take things a step further, launching a concept that's entirely new to the Prague market, a full-service, on-demand consulting business called ExpatCare. ExpatCare is a unique telephone service that provides on-going support not only to newcomers but to anyone who needs help navigating the waters of life in a foreign country. Says Pick: "The ExpatCare support line is low-cost, 24-hour assistance that tears down the language barrier and provides a level of comfort and confidence for expatriates or corporate relocates and their families."

You'd be hard pressed to find something the multilingual operators at ExpatCare can't do. ExpatCare services range from the important (legalization, visa, work permission, emergency medical help) to the everyday (personal shopping, dinner reservations) and everything in between. For a minimal fee of 450 CZK per month an ExpatCare operator will field your call anytime of day and offer quick, tailor-made solutions to virtually any issue or problem that a client faces.

Pick says, "We offer tips and recommendations on everything from dentists to plumbers to other service providers or even tourist information, travel arrangements, and childcare." ExpatCare goes beyond just providing information: the company will make all the necessary arrangements and appointments on the client's behalf and do a follow-up.

ExpatCare draws on a vast database of trusted, customer-tested local business owners who have proven reputable and cost efficient time and time again. ExpatCare will select a trustworthy mechanic for you or find someone to help with home repairs, services that Pick, an expatriate herself, knows from experience to be time-consuming and frustrating endeavors when a language barrier is present. "These simple, time- and money- shortcuts mean so much to our clients," says Pick.

When you sign up for the monthly ExpatCare service added bonuses include discounts with participating vendors as well as a monthly newsletter filled with tips on cultural events, new venues openings, and family fun, plus updates on important Czech news and any vital law changes or other critical information to the expat community. Pick invites you to try the first month for free. "Our clients usually continue on with us because of our low-cost and their complete satisfaction."

For more information about Relocare or ExpatCare or to arrange an interview with Dana Pick, please call +420 251 55 22 55 or e-mail dana@expatcare.cz. A complete list of services and pricing is available at www.expatcare.cz or www.relocare.cz.

TESLA Holding s.r.o.

Podebradska 56/186, 180 66 Praha 9 - Hloubetin, CZ

Phone: 00420-266-107517, Fax: 00420-266107552

Mobile: 00420-731-138367, E-mail: slivka.dusan@tesla.cz

Web: www.tesla.cz, www.viwa.cz

Contact person: Dusan Slivka - Sales Manager

TESLA is the successor of one of the first electrotechnical enterprises in the former Czechoslovakia. It was founded exclusively with Czech capital under the name ELEKTRA in 1921. The company has conducted its commercial activities under the TESLA name since 1946 and is also the owner of the TESLA trade mark in more than 100 countries worldwide. The division "Tesla - Water Treatment Solutions" has been successfully operating for several years in waterworks engineering in which it mostly specializes in water and waste treatment plants and filling lines. In this sphere the company offers complex supply involving development, planning, production and putting the units into operation.

WALMARK, a.s.

Oldrichovice 44, 739 61 Trinec

E-mail: Sarka.Kostkova@walmart.cz

Phone: +420 558 301 341

Fax: + 420 558 301 366

Web: <http://www.walmart.cz>

Contact Person: Sarka Kostkova

Walmart, a.s., is a modern pharmaceutical company specializing in the manufacture and sale of nutritional supplements and pharmaceuticals. Thanks to extensive investment into technologies, control systems and employee knowledge, the company has one of the most modern pharmaceutical plants in the Czech Republic complying with the GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) standards and it holds a permit for the production and distribution of pharmaceuticals. Walmart's portfolio includes more than 90 kinds of effective natural food supplements based at latest clinical researches. Today Walmart is one of the biggest producer of food supplements in the European Union, it has subsidiaries in 9 European countries (e. g. France, Poland etc.), export its products to other more than 35 countries of Europe, Asia and Africa and is still looking for distributors of its products worldwide.

Turnover: 2.68 bil. CZK (\$121 million); number of employees: 1012.

TRADESHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC/ SPRING- SUMMER 2009

04. 16. – 04. 17. 2009

WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT

17th international exhibition of entertainment industry

Organizer: INCHEBA Praha

Adress: Areal Vystaviste 67

170 90 Prague 7

Attn.: Radovan Jezovic

Phone: +420 220 103 790

Fax: +420 220 103 505

Mob: + 420 725 592 803

E-mail: R.Jezovic@incheba.cz

Web: www.incheba.cz

04. 21. – 04. 24. 2009

PRAGOMEDICA

31st international medical fair

Organizer: INCHEBA Praha

Adress: Areal Vystaviste 67

170 90 Prague 7

Attn.: Radovan Jezovic

Phone: +420 220 103 790

Fax: +420 220 103 505

Mob: + 420 725 592 803

E-mail: R.Jezovic@incheba.cz

Web: www.incheba.cz

04. 21. – 24. 04. 2009

NON-HANDICAP

13th specialized exhibition for the handicapped people

Organizer: INCHEBA Praha

Adress: Areal Vystaviste 67

170 90 Prague 7

Attn.: Radovan Jezovic

Phone: +420 220 103 790

Fax: +420 220 103 505

Mob: + 420 725 592 803

E-mail: R.Jezovic@incheba.cz

Web: www.incheba.cz

04. 21. – 04. 25. 2009

IBF

International Building Fair

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Adress: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn.: Jana Ostra
Phone: +420 541 152 888
Fax: +420 541 152 889
E-mail: jostra@bv.v.cz
Web: <http://www.bvv.cz/ibf-gb>

04. 21. – 04. 25. 2009

SHK BRNO

International Trade Fair for Sanitation, Heating, Airconditioning and Building Automation

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Adress: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn.: Jana Ostra
Phone: +420 541 152 888
Fax: +420 541 152 889
E-mail: jostra@bv.v.cz
Web: www.bvv.cz/shk-gb

04. 21. – 04. 25. 2009

URBIS INVEST

International Fair for Investments, Finances, Real Estate and Technologies for Towns and Communities

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Adress: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn.: Jana Ostra
Phone: +420 541 152 888
Fax: +420 541 152 889
E-mail: jostra@bv.v.cz
Web: www.bvv.cz/urbisinvest-gb

04. 21. – 04. 25. 2009

Protection against floods Brno

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Adress: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn: Michal Polasek
Phone: +420 541 152 585
Fax: +420 541 152 889
E-mail: mpolasek@bv.v.cz
Web: www.bvv.cz/floodprotection

04. 28. – 04. 30. 2009

WINE & SPIRITS

12th international exhibition of beverages for gastronomy

Organizer: INCHEBA Praha
Adress: Areal Vystaviste 67
170 90 Prague 7
Attn.: Radovan Jezovic
Phone: +420 220 103 790
Fax: +420 220 103 505
Mob: + 420 725 592 803

E-mail: R.Jezovic@incheba.cz

Web: www.incheba.cz

05. 05. – 05. 07. 2009

IDET

International Exhibition of Defence and Security Technologies

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Adress: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn.: Karel Torn
Phone: +420 541 153 272
Fax: +420 541 153 054
E-mail: ktorn@bv.v.cz
Web: www.bvv.cz/idet-gb

05. 05. – 05. 07. 2009

Protection against floods Brno

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Adress: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn.: Michal Polasek
Phone: +420 541 152 585
Fax: +420 541 152 889
E-mail: mpolasek@bv.v.cz
Web: www.bvv.cz/floodprotection

05. 07. – 05. 09. 2009

MARATHON SPORT EXPO

3rd Sport facilities and equipment fair

Organizer: INCHEBA Praha
Adress: Areal Vystaviste 67
170 90 Prague 7
Attn.: Radovan Jezovic
Phone: +420 220 103 790
Fax: +420 220 103 505
Mob: + 420 725 592 803
E-mail: R.Jezovic@incheba.cz
Web: www.incheba.cz

05. 10. – 05. 13. 2009

Annual Congress of the Czech Society of Cardiology

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Adress: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn.: Iva Kraicigerova
Phone: +420 543 213 825
Fax: +420 543 213 830
E-mail: kraicigerova@kardio-cz.cz
Web: <http://www.kardio-cz.cz/>

05. 14. – 05. 17. 2009

BOOKWORLD

15th international book fair

Organizer: INCHEBA Praha
Adress: Areal Vystaviste 67
170 90 Prague 7
Attn.: Radovan Jezovic
Phone: +420 220 103 790
Fax: +420 220 103 505
Mob: + 420 725 592 803
E-mail: R.Jezovic@incheba.cz
Web: www.incheba.cz

05. 19. – 05. 22. 2009

EmbaxPrint

International Trade Fair of Packaging, Printing and Marketing Communication

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Adress: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn: Jan Kubena
Phone: +420 541 152 767
Fax: +420 541 153 068
E-mail: j kubena@bv.v.cz
Web: www.bvv.cz/embaxprint-gb

05. 22. – 05. 24. 2009

BIOSTYL

International trade-fair of healthy nutrition, ecology and healthy lifestyle

Organizer: INCHEBA Praha
Adress: Areal Vystaviste 67
170 90 Prague 7
Attn.: Radovan Jezovic
Phone: +420 220 103 790
Fax: +420 220 103 505
Mob: + 420 725 592 803
E-mail: R.Jezovic@incheba.cz
Web: www.incheba.cz

05. 22. – 05. 24. 2009

ESOTERICA

Trade-fair of esothery, spiritual science, healthy life style, alternative medicine and ecology

Organizer: INCHEBA Praha
Adress: Areal Vystaviste 67
170 90 Prague 7
Attn.: Radovan Jezovic
Phone: +420 220 103 790
Fax: +420 220 103 505
Mob: + 420 725 592 803
E-mail: R.Jezovic@incheba.cz
Web: www.incheba.cz

05. 26. – 05. 28. 2009

VODOVODY - KANALIZACE

International Water Management Exhibition

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Adress: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn.: Jana Ostra
Phone: +420 541 152 888
Fax: +420 541 152 889
E-mail: jostra@bv.v.cz
Web: www.bvv.cz/vodka-gb

05. 26. – 05. 28. 2009

ENVIBRNO

International Environmental Fair

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Adress: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn.: Jana Ostra
Phone: +420 541 152 888

Fax: +420 541 152 889
E-mail: jostra@bvz.cz
Web: www.bvz.cz/envibrno-gb

05. 26. – 05. 28. 2009
Protection against floods Brno

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Address: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn.: Michal Polasek
Phone: +420 541 152 585
Fax: +420 541 152 889
E-mail: mpolasek@bvz.cz
Web: www.bvz.cz/floodprotection

05. 27. – 05. 29. 2009

ROADWARE

15th international road fair

Organizer: INCHEBA Praha
Address: Areal Vystaviste 67
170 90 Prague 7
Attn.: Radovan Jezovic
Phone: +420 220 103 790
Fax: +420 220 103 505
Mob: + 420 725 592 803
E-mail: R.Jezovic@incheba.cz
Web: www.incheba.cz

06. 03. – 06. 06. 2009

EUROKAMERA

**International exhibition of photo,
movie and TV technics**

Organizer: INCHEBA Praha
Address: Areal Vystaviste 67
170 90 Prague 7
Attn.: Radovan Jezovic
Phone: +420 220 103 790
Fax: +420 220 103 505
Mob: + 420 725 592 803
E-mail: R.Jezovic@incheba.cz
Web: www.incheba.cz

06. 07. – 06. 09. 2009

Job Fair

**International Exhibition of Working
Opportunities**

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno

Address: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn: Karel Torn
Phone: +420 541 153 272
Fax: +420 541 153 054
E-mail: pyros-iset@bvz.cz
Web: www.bvz.cz/jobfair-gb

06.06. – 06. 14. 2009

AUTOSALON BRNO

**International Motor Show (June 4 -
Press Day, June 5 – Trade Day)**

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Address: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn: Jiri Cíkl
Phone: +420 541 152 915
Fax: +420 541 153 042
E-mail: autosalon@bvz.cz
Web: www.bvz.cz/autosalon-gb

06. 20. 2009

Modell Brno

**Modellshow and "Championship of
Czech Republic" in Plastic
Modelling**

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Address: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
E-mail: english@modellbrno.cz
Web: www.modellbrno.cz/index_e.htm

06. 25. – 06. 28. 2009

**National show of livestock and
agricultural equipment**

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Address: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn: Jan Kubena
Phone: +420 541 152 767
Fax: +420 541 153 068
E-mail: jkubena@bvz.cz
Web: www.bvz.cz/nvzh-gb

06. 26. – 06. 28. 2009

PROPET

**International Pet Supply and Horse
Equipment Exhibition**

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Address: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn: Jan Kubena
Phone: +420 541 152 767
Fax: +420 541 153 068
E-mail: propet@bvz.cz
Web: www.bvz.cz/propet-gb

06. 27. – 06. 28. 2009

INTERCANIS

International Dog Show

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Address: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn: Jan Kubena
Phone: +420 541 152 767
Fax: +420 541 153 068
E-mail: propet@bvz.cz
Web: www.bvz.cz/propet-gb

06. 27. – 06. 28. 2009

INTERFELIS

International Cat Show

Organizer: Trade Fairs Brno
Address: Veletrhy Brno, a. s.
Vystaviste 1, 647 00 Brno
Attn.: Ing. Bohumir Mahelka, CSc.
Phone: 543 243 729
E-mail: mahelka@kockybrno.cz
Web: www.kockybrno.cz/

CZECH COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES

Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C.: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.
Phone: 202.274.9104, Fax: 202.244.2147
Contact: Mrs. Andrea Krejci, eco_washington@embassy.mzv.cz

Consulate General in Chicago: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota a Wisconsin.
Phone: 312.861.1037, Fax: 312.861.1944
Contact: Mr. Borek Lizec, chicago@embassy.mzv.cz

Consulate General in Los Angeles: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.
Phone: 310.473.0889 x.229, Fax: 310.473.9813
Contact: Ms. Ludmila Kundratova, losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz

Consulate General in New York: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.
Phone: 646.981.4061, Fax: 212.717.5064
Contact: Mr. Tomas Hart, commerce_newyork@mzv.cz
Czech Center New York
Phone: 212.288.0830 x.103, Fax: 212.288.0971
Contact: Ms. Monika Koblerova, koblerova@czechcenter.com

CzechTrade

Chicago Office

Phone: 312.644.1790, Fax: 312.527.5544

Contact: Mr. Pavel Lacina, chicago@czechtrade.cz

The Czech Trade Promotion Agency/CzechTrade was established by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic in May 1997. CzechTrade's main objective is to promote international trade and cooperation between Czech and foreign companies. CzechTrade's professional information, assistance and consulting services accompany Czech exporters to foreign markets. The agency is a contact partner for firms entering the Czech market, seeking interesting and reliable business partners and suppliers.

CzechInvest

Chicago Office

Phone: 312.245.0180, Fax: 312.245.0183

Contact: Mr. Bohuslav Frelich, chicago@czechinvest.org

CzechInvest was established in 1992 by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and is the investment and business development agency of the Czech Republic whose services and development programs contribute to attracting foreign investment and to developing Czech companies. CzechInvest provides the following services free-of-charge: Comprehensive services for investors - full information assistance, handling of investment incentives, business property identification, location of Czech suppliers, aftercare services; Business infrastructure development; Access to structural funds.

BUSINESS AND TRADE WEBSITES

General Information	www.czech.cz	CzechInvest	www.czechinvest.org
Czech Supplier	www.supplier.cz	Tradeshows	www.veletrhyavystavy.cz
CzechTrade	www.czechtrade.cz	Czech Embassy	www.mzv.cz/washington

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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