***Did you know that …***

* *… the word “robot” comes from the Czech language? The first time the word was used to refer to artificial beings similar to man was in the 1921 play R.U.R. (Rossum’s Universal Robots) by the playwright Karel Čapek (1890-1938). It may be the only Czech word now used in the majority of the world’s languages...*
* *… contact lenses were invited in Prague, in 1961, from a hydrogel polymer, by centrifugal casting, by a scientist specializing in organic and macromolecular chemistry, later President of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prof. Otto Wichterle (1913-1998), working on his son´s toy kit, and using a dynamo from his bicycle as a power source and a two-liter pressure bottle originally part of an oxygen kit left behind by the Luftwaffe…*
* *…the sugar cube is a Czech invention? Until the mid-nineteenth century, sugar used to be sold in loaves. Jakub Kryštof Rad (1799-1871), director of the refinery in Dačice in southern Bohemia, devised the sugar cube after his wife inadvertently cut her finger when slicing the sugarloaf. Rad had his sugar cube patented in 1843...*

**The Czech Technical Inventions Exhibition, a snap-shot covering centuries of the technical ability, knowledge, and creativity of some distinguished inventors and scientists in the Czech Lands. They will be exhibited in the Maison du Savoir of the Luxembourg University, on April 30 - May 18, 2018. There will be a Vernissage on 3 May, 19h00, accompanied by exposés by Prof. Dr. Romain Martin, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, University of Luxembourg, H.E. Mr. Petr Kubernát, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, and Mr. Karel Ksandr, Director-General, National Technical Museum, Prague, Czech Republic. There will also be a detailed presentation of the objects and inventions exhibited and a comment on the history of** **Czech science and technology and its wider context provided by Mr. Arnošt Nezmeškal from the National Technical Museum.**

**Anyone interested in a more thorough understanding of science and technology, from physics, chemistry and engineering in the Czech Lands, with respect to European and world developments, is more than welcome to take part, to ask questions, and to refresh their knowledge of the principles behind some inventions of genius.**

**Some of the topics to be illustrated by exhibits from the National Technical Museum collections include the history of contact lenses, of substances effective against some of deadliest viral diseases, including Hepatitis B or AIDS, ships propellers, water turbines, the electric tram line, the first earthed lightning conductor, together with the polarography method, which earned the Nobel Prize in 1959. We all will experience scientific discovery as an exciting journey, sometimes needing only very simple equipment, such as children´s toy kit and a dynamo, and see that doing science and making new inventions could become a passion, exciting, entertaining and always rewarding. Join us on this journey!**