

MZe: Sales of pesticides fell by 38%, the most in EU

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of Agriculture (MZe) plans to manage a quarter of all agricultural land in ecological mode by 2030. It is aimed at this through, among other things, subsidies for gentle management and investments in technology or limiting the use of active substances. According to Eurostat statistics, the sale of pesticides in the Czech Republic fell the most in the European Union in 2011-2020, by 38%. According to the International Food and Agriculture Organization, Czech farmers currently use an average of 1.39 kg of active substance per hectare. The Ministry informed that currently in the Czech Republic there are approximately 5,000 ecological farms on a total area of almost 600,000 ha. With this share, the Czech Republic ranks 6th among EU countries. ■

ACEA: BEV registrations increased 57% in CR and 39% in SR

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In Q1-3 2022, the number of battery electric vehicle (BEV) registrations in the Czech Republic increased by 56.5% y/y to 2,906. In Q3 alone, there were 962 vehicles (+65.6%), according to the European Association of Automobile Manufacturers (ACEA). In the Slovak Republic, BEV registrations rose by 38.7% to 992 vehicles from January to September. In the last monitored quarter, they were higher by 16.0% and reached 327 units. In the EU, EFTA and UK markets, the number of BEV registrations increased by 25.8% to 1.0m vehicles in the three quarters of 2022. In Q3, they showed growth of 16.3% to 355,340 cars. ■

ACEA: PHEV registrations in CR fell by 21.2%; increased in SR

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In Q1-3 2022, registrations of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) in the Czech Republic fell by 21.2% y/y to 2,346 vehicles. In Q3 alone, there were 771 vehicles (-1.5%). Data from the European Association of Automobile Manufacturers (ACEA) also show that in Slovakia, the number of PHEV registrations increased by 26.6% to 1,051 vehicles from January to September. In the last monitored quarter, it was by 22.5% to 332. In the EU, EFTA and UK markets, PHEV registrations decreased by 11.3% to 687,890 units in the three quarters of 2022. In Q3, they showed a decrease of 9.5% to 238,670 cars. ■

Unemployment drops to 2.2% in October

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In October 2022, the employment rate of persons aged between 15 and 64 in the Czech Republic grew by 0.9 pp month on month to 75.7%. The share of the unemployed totalled 2.2%, down by 0.5% year on year. The unemployment rate was 1.9% for men and 2.6% for women. Czech Statistical Office Labour Market Statistics and Equal Opportunities department director Dalibor Holý said that the adjusted unemployment rate had been below 3% since June 2021. There was still high demand for labour. According to Eurostat data, the unemployment rate in the Czech Republic for persons aged between 15 and 74 years was at 2.2% in September. ■

Aures: Used cars are cheaper; the median in CR is CZK 189,000

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The median price of used cars in the Czech Republic fell by CZK 1,000 to CZK 189,000 on a month-on-month basis in October 2022. Markets in Poland, where the median price fell by PLN 300, and in Hungary (HUF -152,000) also recorded a decrease. At the same time, there was an increase in the number of advertised cars in all monitored markets, with the exception of Hungary. Data from Aures Holdings shows this. The price of used cars in the Czech Republic is around CZK 190,000 from April 2022. The most used cars were on offer in Prague (29,154), the Central Bohemia (9703), and South Moravian (8356) regions. The most frequently offered brand was SKODA Octavia with a median price of CZK 179,900, aged 9.9 years. ■

BCPP does not expect more IPOs; firms raise CZK 1.1bn

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS

The Prague Stock Exchange (BCCP) does not expect any new IPOs or SPOs on the START market this year. The exchange announced that it had recorded six subscriptions in 2022, including five new companies (one of which was the first Slovak) and one secondary subscription. Companies on the START market raised new capital worth CZK 1.1bn from investors this year. Market capitalisation on the START market exceeded CZK 10bn. ■

State budget ended with a deficit of CZK 286.7bn in Oct

Tuesday, November 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The state budget had a deficit of CZK 286.7bn ended at the end of October 2022. After adjusting for revenues from the EU and financial mechanisms, as well as for expenditures on these projects, the deficit amounted to CZK 259.2bn. Finance Minister Zbyněk Stanjura (ODS) stated that the deficit corresponds to the expected fulfillment in the context of payments of extraordinary pensions, one-off child allowances and other benefits, including the prepayment of the entire allocation for the savings tariff. In October, the collection of VAT from quarterly payers had a positive impact on the budget, on the other hand, the Czech Republic paid an extra CZK 6bn year-on-year in repayments of the state debt. ■

For your notes

Analysts: Industry has a problem with lack of new orders

Tuesday, November 1 | ČIANEWS

The updated October PMI report does not offer an optimistic outlook for the beginning of the last quarter of this year. Raiffeisenbank analyst David Vagenknecht said that the published result of the survey means a provisional confirmation of the outlook that the quarter-on-quarter decline in the economy will continue at the end of the year. Komerční banka's economist Jana Steckerová added that shortly after the problems with subcontracts almost disappeared, the Czech industry is increasingly struggling with a lack of new orders. Customers are gradually losing the ability to absorb the high prices that companies have been able to pass on to them until now. The chief economist of Creditas Bank, Petr Dufek, stated that part of the industry is still riding on the wave of older orders, but from the point of view of the further development of the economy, the new ones, for which relevant data have yet to arrive, are now decisive. ■

PMI: Industry outlook for 2023 pessimistic

Tuesday, November 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The October Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data from S&P Global showed a significant decline in operating conditions in the Czech manufacturing sector. The slowdown resulted from weaker customer demand and a sharp drop in output due to worsening economic conditions on the domestic and world markets and a further decline in customer purchasing power. Production and new orders fell, and the pace of decline accelerated as demand was further burdened by rapidly rising prices. Firms subsequently reduced the number of employees and purchases of inputs in an attempt to limit expenses. However, the growth of energy still drove prices higher, which will have a hard impact especially on energy-intensive industries. There were few signs of a decline in inflation on the domestic and foreign markets, and at the beginning of the last quarter, Czech manufacturers still registered pessimism regarding the prospects for production in the next year. Sentiment fell to the lowest level since the start of the pandemic in April 2020. S&P's current forecast for industrial production growth in 2022 is only 1.5%. ■

Analysts: Recession and recovery will be moderate

Tuesday, November 1 | ČIANEWS

The decline in the economy is likely to continue in the last quarter of 2022, and it is largely unknown when it will end. In response to the statistical data on the development of GDP, the chief economist of Banka Creditas Petr Dufek said that companies in the industrial sector still have a stock of old orders. However, more and more businesses will face high energy prices and consumer caution. Jakub Seidler, chief economist of the Czech Banking Association, added that for the time being he expects a relatively mild recession and a decline in the economy in the next two quarters. For the whole of this year, thanks to the low comparative base, the domestic economy will record year-on-year growth of around 2.5% but next year it will probably stagnate. Patria Finance chief economist Jan Bureš stated that although the recession will be mild, it will certainly not be followed by such a significant recovery as after the pandemic. First, because the impact on real household incomes and savings will be permanent, and domestic demand will respond to supply-side problems with a more permanent contraction. At the same time, because not only in the Czech Republic, but in the entire developed world, there is currently no room to adopt such significant stimulus packages, and the recession will therefore also lead to an increase in unemployment. ■

ČNB: Annual growth rate of aggregate M3 increased to 7.0%

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The annual growth rate of the M3 monetary aggregate reached 7.0% in September 2022. It represents a month-month acceleration of the pace by 1 pp. The Czech National Bank (ČNB) informed that, due to financial transactions, M3 increased by CZK 81.5bn (year-on-year increase by CZK 397.6bn) and reached a value of CZK 6,073.6bn. ■

ČNB: Banks' total assets fell by CZK 55bn to CZK 9.48tn

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The balance sheet total of the banking sector of the Czech Republic at the end of September 2022 reached CZK 9.48tn and decreased by CZK 55bn m/m. The statistics were published by the Czech National Bank (ČNB). The dominant item on the asset side of the balance sheet is loans to residents, which amounted to CZK 6.388tn. Deposits of residents, which constitute the most significant item of liabilities, amounted to CZK 6.326tn. Loans granted to resident non-financial corporations amounted to CZK 1.278tn (CZK -16bn). The volume of non-performing loans rose slightly to CZK 43bn. ■

LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

Zeman vetoes budget amendment due to low income tax

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On November 2, 2022, President Miloš Zeman vetoed the act on the state budget of the Czech Republic for 2022. He substantiated his decision by saying that the budget's income side was lower than it could be if the submitted amendment to the act on the state budget for 2022 had been preceded by an amendment to the act on income tax. According to the president, the budget is thus based on a lower tax rate for incomes incurred by natural persons, which creates a budget deficit of CZK 90bn. Miloš Zeman added that when the super-gross wage was abolished, it was assumed that the tax rate in question would return to its original level. The submitter included this public commitment in the substantiation of the draft bill. ■

For your notes

SOCR wants Senate to reject Market Power Act amendment

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Confederation of Commerce and Tourism of the Czech Republic (SOCR) called on senators to prevent the approval of the amendment to the Significant Market Power Act, which has been changed in a way that goes against the original intention of the new European regulation. This is to protect small and weaker companies from the market power of larger and stronger companies throughout the agri-food and trade chain. In an open letter to the Senate, the Union stated that the amendments adopted had not been subject to any substantive discussion. In addition to the advantages for the Agrofert holding at the expense of small food producers, the SOCR believes that the proposals also contain economically completely nonsensical adjustments. ■

SFDI will show budget of CZK 150.9bn in 2023

Monday, October 31 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Budget of the State Fund for Transport Infrastructure (SFTI) for 2023 and the medium-term outlook for 2024 and 2025 were submitted to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic. The standard was prepared by the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic. The SFDI should manage CZK 150.9bn in 2023. Of this, CZK 46.6bn is to be allocated for non-investment expenditure and CZK 104.3bn for investment expenditure. The budget also includes the involvement of European funds in the total amount of CZK 27.6bn. ■

SUBSIDIES, INVESTMENTS, EU MARKET

Immofinanz sells EUR 60m office buildings in Vienna

Thursday, November 3 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Immofinanz has sold two office buildings in Vienna to the Austrian Winegg Group. The transaction value totalled EUR 60m. Their total area is 7,000 m². Both are occupied by long-term tenants. Immofinanz board member Radka Doebling said that the group advanced in the implementation of its portfolio strategy focused on retail real estate and myhive office solutions and that it planned revenue of approximately EUR 1bn. Since publishing the strategy in the summer of 2022, real estate sales have totalled roughly EUR 150m and included offices in Prague. ■

KŠB assists VGP with park expansion in Slovakia, Hungary

Thursday, November 3 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The law firm Kocián Šolc Balaščík (AK KŠB) is assisting the VGP Group in its expansion of warehouse premises in Slovakia and Hungary. The developer and owner of logistics real estate has expanded the VGP Park Bratislava with 140,000 m² of warehouse premises and is building a new site, VGP Park Zvolen, with an area of 52,000 m², with Packeta being the first tenant. In Hungary, the first phase of VGP Park Budapest Aerozone has been completed with a warehouse building on an area of 10,000 m² for the tenant Boxy Logistics. The entire site with an area of 50,000 m² will be completed in three stages. ■

Metrostav Ankara İnşaat completes funicular in Istanbul

Thursday, November 3 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech-Turkish company Metrostav Ankara İnşaat has completed the construction of the Aşıyan – Hisarüstü underground funicular line in Istanbul. The line is 900 m long with a 13% gradient and was commissioned on October 28, 2022. Metrostav's subsidiary realised the project for the City of Istanbul's Directorate for Rail Traffic in the European Section. Metrostav performed not only the boring work on line and station tunnels but also supplied underground vestibules of the upper and lower stations, including construction and architectonic structures and complete technologies; those included funicular vehicles by the Swiss manufacturer Garaventa, drive and span stations, the electrical part, automation and safety systems. ■

MŽP: Firms can get CZK 13bn for greening

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (MŽP) will release CZK 13bn from the Modernisation Fund, which industrial enterprises can obtain for greening. Applicants can apply for subsidies of up to 75% of the money spent in two calls for proposals, depending on the type of project, the size of the company, and the region where the company is located. The subsidy will be awarded to companies operating facilities covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). The funding will help large CO₂ emitters with energy savings, switching to renewable energy sources and greener production methods. These include producers of steel and iron, glass, cement and lime, pulp and paper, representatives of the chemical or food industry, as well as large hospital facilities. ■

Eurowag buying Polish Grupa Inelo for EUR 306m

Tuesday, November 1 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Provider of payment and technology services for haulage contractors, W.A.G. payment solutions (Eurowag), is buying the Polish company Grupa Inelo for EUR 306m. It provides software for drivers' time management and control, and is also active in Slovenia outside of Poland. The acquisition expands Eurowag's scope and product capabilities and supports the development of its digital platform. After regulatory approval, it should be completed in 1Q 2023. ■

For your notes

Mattoni 1873 expands in Serbia and Montenegro with Pepsi

Tuesday, November 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Mattoni 1873, through its Serbian company Knjaz Miloš, became the official producer and distributor of non-alcoholic carbonated beverages of the Pepsi brand for the markets of Serbia and Montenegro. The manufacturer and distributor of soft drinks expects Knjaz Miloš to sell almost 500 million beverage units, employ more than 1,000 people and achieve an annual turnover of more than EUR 150m. It became part of Mattoni 1873 in 2019. As the exclusive producer and distributor of PepsiCo soft drinks (Pepsi, Pepsi Max, 7Up, Mirinda, Evervess and Ivi), the group also operates in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, and Bulgaria. ■

CEITEC VUT to launch testbed for Industry 4.0

Tuesday, November 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

CEITEC VUT will open a so-called testbed for Industry 4.0 at the turn of November and December 2022 in Brno. It received CZK 450m for its construction. In addition to research, the smart test factory will also help small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) test new technologies. It is created as part of the RICAIP project implemented on the Czech side by the CIIRC Institute of the Czech Technical University and CEITEC BUT, on the German side by the organizations DFKI and ZeMA from Saarbrücken. The operating costs of the project are covered by the European Union (roughly EUR 15m), the financing for the equipment comes from national budgets (CZK 800m). The project offers a testbed in Brno and Prague. CEITEC BUT also won the EDIH (European Digital Innovation Hub) project, which aims at the production technologies of small and medium-sized companies. It is scheduled to launch on January 1, 2023. ■

ŠKODA raises income to EUR 15.18bn; war reduces profit

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ŠKODA AUTO sold 646,000 vehicles in the period from January 1 to September 30, 2022 (includes ŠKODA AUTO Group sales to dealerships, including other Group brands such as SEAT, VW, AUDI, PORSCHE, and LAMBORGHINI). In the same period in 2021, the figure was 596,000. This is according to the VW Group's interim report for 1-3Q 2022, with the Czech carmaker's revenue increasing year-on-year from EUR 13.33bn to EUR 15.18bn. Operating profit, which was significantly affected by the conflict in Ukraine, fell to EUR 856m from EUR 900m last year. Christian Schenk, ŠKODA AUTO board member for finance and IT, said that despite the difficult economic situation, rising raw material and energy prices, and fragile supply chains, the company achieved a return on sales of 5.6%. The carmaker is aiming for a significantly positive operating result by the end of the year. ■

CTP builds 2 CTBox buildings

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

CTP has expanded the portfolio of CTBoxes, which enable to lease multi-purpose premises starting from 400 m², at CTPark in Hradec Králové. It offers seven such units there. Two CTBox-type buildings, each with an area of 3,500 m², were built at the revitalised CTPark Brno Líšeň and are now being leased by the developer. Currently, 50% of the units are occupied. At the Ponávka site in Brno, all 50 units have been long-term leased. The developer, which has more than 600 clients in its portfolio, estimates the interest in premises of up to 2,000 m² to increase by 10%-15% in 2022. It expects that by the end of 2022, it will expand its European portfolio to 10m m² of GLA. The whole portfolio has a certification according to BREEAM sustainability standards. ■

Unilink Group acquires 80% in INSIA from Marsh

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

INSIA, a network of insurance and mortgage brokers in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, has a new majority shareholder. Unilink Group has acquired 80% of the network from Marsh and, together with the recent acquisitions of Safety Broker in Romania and Moldova and I&G Brokers in Bulgaria, has created an insurance distribution platform in six CEE countries. The volume of premiums brokered amounts to EUR 1bn. Unilink's chairman Igor Rusinowski said the company has ambitions to expand into Western Europe from 2023. INSIA's founding shareholder and CEO Ivan Špirakus believes that with Unilink's support, the company will kick-start rapid growth both organically and through acquisitions and attract new partners to its network. ■

Lemonero expanded to the Netherlands, has eye on France

Tuesday, November 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Fintech Lemonero is entering the Netherlands after a recent investment from Komerční banka (KB) in the amount of CZK 100m. In the market there, the startup will introduce its smart digital financing for e-shops, which can be done online by e-shop owners. Lemoner CEO Jan Laštůvka stated that the company currently cooperates with thousands of small and medium-sized e-shops in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. He is confident the fintech will do just as well or better in the Netherlands. France is the next planned expansion in 2023. The startup is planning to expand to German-speaking countries and Eastern European countries. ■

Allwyn talks on takeover of Camelot's British operations

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

KKCG's Allwyn Entertainment is in talks to buy the UK operations of Camelot, owned by Canada's Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. The acquisition would give Allwyn control of the company, which it will replace as operator of the National Lottery in February 2024. The eventual transaction would be subject to regulatory approval. ■

For your notes

DHL opens distribution centre for Sage Appliances

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

DHL Supply Chain has opened a distribution centre for Sage Appliances in Nýřany in September 2022. The company also provides customs services, receiving of sea containers, palletizing of cartons, warehousing, order picking, picking, value-added services, and distribution to twelve European countries. For this purpose, it also uses a leased logistics centre of 30,000 m². The companies signed a five-year contract. DHL provides logistics services in the Plzeň region in three locations and uses almost 140,000 m² of warehouse space there. ■

Daktela acquires majority in Coworkers.ai

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Technology company Daktela, which provides custom communications software for businesses, acquires a majority stake in Coworkers.ai. The company offers its own smart chatbots and voicebots on the Czech market, and its customers include Komerční banka, Kooperativa, Generali Česká pojišťovna, DEK and online supermarket Košík.cz. Coworkers.ai was formed in 2019 through a spin-off from Artin. For Daktel, this is the first of planned acquisitions that, in addition to organic growth and global expansion, are expected to place the company among the world's top 10 CCaaS service providers over the next five years. ■

Tanemo remains largest MMB shareholder with almost 30%

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Tanemo (owned by PPF Group) remains the largest shareholder of MONETA Money Bank (MMB) with 29.94%. It is followed by Manecomte Limited with 10.39%, Mythessa Holdings Limited with 4.97%, CREDITAS Bank with 4.31% and Chase Nominees Limited with 3.39%. Brown Brothers Harriman Co. also holds 2.49% and State Street Bank and Trust Company has 2.45%. The shareholder structure valid as of October 31, 2022 was published by MMB. ■

MV: EC okays CZK 780m to strengthen EU border protection

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Commission (EC) has approved the Czech Republic's Operational Programme Tools for Financial Support of Border Management and Visas. Through this programme administered by the Czech Ministry of the Interior (MV), the Czech Republic will receive approximately CZK 780m for investing in strengthening the EU's external border. The funding will go to IT systems, such as the Visa Information System, the purchase of equipment used for checks at the external border of the Schengen Area, i.e., at international airports, and to increase the competency of police officers protecting the external border. ■

New SOR Libchavy buses are deployed in Bratislava

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Bratislava Transit Authority (DPB) has deployed the first out of 63 new SOR buses. The low-floor air-conditioned 12-metre-long vehicles will replace 12 to 14 years old buses. The total volume of the framework agreement for purchasing up to 80 buses from SOR Libchavy amounts to EUR 19m. All vehicles comply with the Euro 6e emission standard. Bratislava mayor Matúš Vallo said that since 2020, there have been 150 new buses with cameras, air conditioning and information systems in the Slovak capital. In the future, they will be complemented by new trams and trolleybuses. ■

LEGO opens first store in CR at Westfield Chodov

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On November 3, 2022, the LEGO Group opened its first LEGO store in the Czech Republic at the Westfield Chodov shopping centre in Prague. The store's area is 190 m². LEGO general director for the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Adriana Jahňáková, said that the store offered the biggest assortment of LEGO products and the opportunity for creative playing with the bricks for fans of all ages. ■

MMR will announce calls for better equipment for primary schools

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic (MMR) will once again announce calls 23 and 24, intended for better equipment of primary schools. The reason is that the extreme rush of applicants significantly slowed down the information system, and it is therefore not possible to fairly determine the order of submitted projects. Calls for support from IROP will be opened again until around the end of November 2022. ■

MPO will provide CZK 30bn for prices of energy in firms

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic (MPO) has published a call from the aid programme for large companies to help with increased gas and electricity costs under the so-called Temporary Crisis Framework of the European Commission. Minister Jozef Síkela (STAN) said that the expected allocation of the programme is up to CZK 30bn. Entrepreneurs who are not subject to energy price caps can apply. The companies must have at least one point of consumption and transmission, and their unit prices for gas and electricity have more than doubled in the period from February 1 to October 31, 2022, compared to 2021. Applications can be submitted from November 15, 2022, to January 31, 2023. ■

For your notes

Mastercard launches Strive Czechia to support small firms

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On November 3, 2022, Mastercard launched the Strive Czechia programme. This three-year initiative should enable 250,000 Czech micro and small companies to prosper in the digital economy. Strive Czechia will help these entrepreneurs to get advice and information about modern technologies that best fit their business and financial needs. In addition, the programme targets the development of small business funding, the support of using digital tools and the development of mentoring and training programmes for businessmen who thus get free-of-charge access to consulting tailored to their needs. This is part of the global Strive programme, realised with the support of Mastercard's Centre for Inclusive Growth. ■

ÚP: Over 8,000 firms get subsidies from POVEZ II

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

A total of 8,258 companies in the Czech Republic have already received subsidies under the project Support for Vocational Training of Employees II (POVEZ II), co-financed by the European Social Fund through OP Employment. The Czech Labour Office (ÚP ČR) reported that the amount of funds for the payment of training and contributions to wage costs during the training period reached almost CZK 2.1bn. The ÚP ČR has so far received 43,626 applications for the provision of training activities and has subsequently concluded 22,976 agreements. This supported 83 253 employees, of whom 9 613 were over 54 years of age. ■

Adastra is ready to help with digital transformation

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Adastra presented the possibilities of helping the industry with digital transformation at the German-Czech Economic Forum. The company demonstrated the possibilities of digitalisation with a case study from its own practice, specifically a contract for ŠKODA AUTO, for which it worked on optimising container loading. The carmaker saved EUR 840,000 in the first year of use and avoided 160 tonnes of CO2 from being emitted into the air. The second example was the optimisation of inter-warehouse transport at Continental, which significantly reduced transport costs, reduced transit between warehouses to a minimum and allowed more orders to be shipped directly from one warehouse. Adastra also addressed the topic of the Future of Manufacturing at the forum, which is currently dominated by digitalisation as a tool for increasing production efficiency. According to the company, a look into the near future opens up topics such as robotization, the use of digital twins or artificial intelligence in predictive maintenance, the industrial Internet of Things, the metaverse and more. ■

Coface deteriorates ratings in Europe

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Coface Barometer rated the Czech Republic A4 (adequate risk) in 3Q 2022, down from A3 (fair risk) in 2Q22. Rising inflation and the weight of the vulnerable automotive industry are to blame. Coface's CEO for the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Ján Čarný, also said that the domestic agriculture, paper, and retail sectors, with the exception of the energy sector, deteriorated. Coface downwardly revised the ratings of eight countries in 3Q, including Italy, Denmark, Switzerland, Egypt, and Chile. Only Norway, which is a natural gas producer, continues to have the best risk rating. The downgrade of 49 sector ratings indicates deteriorating conditions in sectors sensitive to the business cycle. ■

Energy suppliers start to reflect price cap in deposits

Tuesday, November 1 | ČIANEWS

A portion of ČEZ Prodej's customers will receive a new breakdown of deposits in November 2022, which will already take into account the government's capping of energy prices. Although this will not apply until January 1, 2023, the supplier already includes the price ceiling in November and December payments, so that customers do not needlessly pay too high amounts until the end of this year. The measure will affect several hundred thousand people. Moravské naftové doly (MND) reacted similarly, offering price lists with a government ceiling for both new and existing customers from November 1. In addition, MND has structured the offer in such a way that in the event of a future drop in gas and electricity prices, they are able to quickly reduce prices for customers. ■

S.V. Holding AG renamed ERGO pojišťovna to SV pojišťovna

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ERGO pojišťovna changed its business name to SV pojišťovna on October 28, 2022. The adjustment is related to the change of owner, which from November 2021 is the German financial group S.V. Holding AG. All contractual contents and conditions for clients and business partners remain completely unchanged. The insurance company manages a portfolio of approximately 800,000 clients, annually reports approximately CZK 600m in written premiums. ■

ŠKODA Group establishes subsidiary in Italy

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The ŠKODA Group has opened the offices of a new subsidiary in Florence. The manufacturer of public transport equipment is thus strengthening its position on the international market. Olesea Lachi, who has long been responsible for sales of rolling stock in the Group, has become the managing director of the subsidiary. In Italy, ŠKODA will focus its attention on train transport and urban rolling stock. The company will offer its partners a comprehensive solution - from the production of individual components to the delivery of complete vehicles and their subsequent maintenance. ■

For your notes

MONETA might beat profit forecast of CZK 4.6bn

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS

MONETA Money Bank management expects to beat this year's net profit forecast of CZK 4.4bn by at least 10%. This is according to the information in the conference call following the 3Q 2022 results, adding that in the following year, on the contrary, it perceives a risk of net profit falling short of the CZK 4.6bn outlook due to the potential introduction of an extraordinary tax. At the same time, there should be a temporary reduction in the dividend payout ratio next year due to the need to meet the increased MREL regulatory requirement. In addition to a possible temporary adjustment to the dividend policy, management is also considering a CZK 6bn capital increase. ■

ŠKODA AUTO's deliveries fall to 544,500 in 1-3Q

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ŠKODA AUTO's global deliveries in the three quarters of 2022 reached 544,500 vehicles. This is a year-on-year decline of 22.3%. Most of them, 281,100 (-13.9%), went to Western Europe, of which 100,700 vehicles (104,600; -3.8%) went to Germany. Sales in the Czech market fell by 18.7% to 51,200 vehicles. ŠKODA AUTO recorded the highest growth in India (+186.9%), where it sold 38,300 vehicles. ■

ŘLP: Smartwings operated most flights

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS

In September 2022, SmartWings operated the most flights from/to Prague (29.23%) at Prague Airport. Ryanair took second place with 11.52%, easyJet third with 5.03%. Eurowings (4.92%), Wizz Air 3.61% and Lufthansa (3.44%) were in other places in the TOP 10 according to the Czech Air Traffic Control (ŘLP). Also LOT with 2.42%, Turkish Airlines with 2.26%, Air France with 2.24% and KLM with 2.11%. ■

PAK prepares projects worth CZK 4.7bn for EU subsidies

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Pardubice Region (PAK) currently has more than 60 projects in various stages of development for drawing European subsidies within the 2021+ programming period for approximately CZK 4.7bn. Governor Martin Netolický (ČSSD) specified that the largest number of projects in the portfolio is in the field of education - 22. Within the large projects, the region plans to succeed with the construction of studios in the school of arts and crafts in Ústí nad Orlicí and a technical museum in Vysoké Mýto. It has also prepared projects on rainwater management within the region's facilities or energy-saving measures. ■

MARI platform to contribute to lower electricity prices in EU

Thursday, October 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The common European platform for balancing energy exchange, MARI, was launched on October 5, 2022. The first auctions were organised for the Czech system operator ČEPS and the German operators 50Hertz, Amprion, TenneT DE and TransnetBW. The cross-border exchange of minute reserves will increase the liquidity of balancing markets and significantly reduce regulatory costs for Czech and other European market participants. The platform was developed by Unicorn Systems in cooperation with Artelys and Amprion. It is built on the state-of-the-art Unicorn Application Framework (UAF) architecture. All EU countries and four other transmission systems outside the EU will be involved in the project over time. ■

TRENDS, DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

ČDT equips ČD Cargo's locomotives with ETCS

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ČD - Telematika (ČDT) has retrofitted the last of 78 locomotives of the 163 and 363 series of the ČD Cargo carrier with an on-board European Train Control System (ETCS) unit and has thus successfully completed a major order. The entire project was carried out by the consortium of contractors ČD - Telematika (the leading consortium) and AŽD. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of ČD Cargo, Tomáš Tóth, believes that the contractor will succeed in completing the approval procedures for the operation of 13 Class 163 locomotives with active ETCS in Poland. The Czech Republic plans to introduce exclusive operation under ETCS on selected backbone corridors from January 1, 2025. The information was published by ČD Cargo. ■

MND joins H2EU+Store, targets green hydrogen in CEE

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

MND becomes a member of an international consortium to produce, transport, store, and distribute green hydrogen in Europe. The project, called H2EU+Store, brings together energy companies from Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and Ukraine, and now also the Czech Republic. The consortium plans to produce hydrogen from renewable sources in prospective countries (e.g. Ukraine), transport it using existing gas pipelines to Central Europe and then store and distribute it to customers. This was announced by KKEG, to which MND belongs. ■

VŠCHT's MarbleMat develops technology for drug production

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

MarbleMat will launch liquid oil bead encapsulation technology for use in pharmaceutical and food production. Development into commercial form is expected to take three to four years. MarbleMat is a spin-off of the University of Chemical Technology in Prague (VŠCHT), where the technology originated. The principle is to increase the solubility of active ingredients approved for pharmaceutical use, leading to better bioavailability. ■

For your notes

Alliance Laundry CE invests in quality, technology and energy savings

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Alliance Laundry CE will focus on innovation and quality in 2022. While last year was significantly affected by the pandemic, Q1 2022 showed a significant improvement. However, the war in Ukraine and high inflation caused further difficulties in the European market. Nevertheless, the manufacturer and marketer of commercial laundry solutions sees 2022 as a promising year. It wants to focus further investments on production technologies and energy saving. The company stated this in its annual report for 2021. It reported a turnover of CZK 3.96bn and an operating profit of CZK 289.55m. ■

HK organized conference on future of digitization in Europe

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Digitalization will play an increasingly important role in business in the coming years. The EU must catch this trend and support new technologies and investments in them and not bind them with excessive regulations. It is also important to encourage investments in cyber security. The participants of the Prague Digital Council conference, which was organized in Prague by the Chamber of Commerce of the Czech Republic (HK ČR) in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic and the Atlantic Council think tank, on the occasion of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, agreed on this. ■

VMware: Multicloud is path to innovation for 47% of firms

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

A total of 95% of Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) businesses will view their data as a source of profit by 2024. VMware's Multi-Cloud Maturity Index survey showed this. Almost half of respondents (47%) strongly agree that using multiple clouds will allow them to maximize the use of data for innovation. Efforts to extract economic benefit from data bring with it additional challenges such as security (35%) and sufficient skills (35%). ■

Deloitte: Czech banks among the most digitally advanced

Tuesday, November 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In a global comparison of the maturity of retail digital banking, most Czech banks ranked in the upper half of the ranking. However, not a single one made it into the top 10% of the so-called digital champions. Spanish banks continue to lead the way, closely followed by Canadian and Polish financial institutions. This is according to the study Deloitte Digital Banking Maturity 2022. Investments in the development of functions in mobile applications are growing globally. Compared to 2020, there was also a percentage increase in the availability of functionalities in the application for almost all domestic banks. ■

Google will provide CZK 81m to Czech digital projects

Wednesday, November 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Google will provide CZK 81m over three years to Czech projects to support digital inclusion and digital skills training. At the same time, it will offer them experts from among its employees. They can work pro bono for up to six months on a full-time basis for the selected organisation. Google introduced the news during the Digital Week of the Czech EU Presidency in Prague. ■

NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

MF SR: State budget showed EUR 1.73bn deficit in Oct

Thursday, November 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

At the end of October 2022, the Slovak state budget reached a deficit of EUR 1.73bn. Compared to the same period last year, state budget revenues were higher by EUR 2.13bn (+16.4%). Budget expenditures fell by EUR 840.1m (-4.7%). The Slovak Ministry of Finance stated that the management of the state budget thus improved year on year by EUR 2.97bn (-63.2%). Year-on-year growth in tax revenues amounted to EUR 1.95bn (+18.0%). Expenditures for servicing the state debt recorded a year-on-year increase of EUR 443.7m (+89.6%), and the utilization of other state budget expenditures decreased by EUR 981.9m y/y (-6.9%). ■

MDV SR again launched support for tourism sector

Monday, October 31 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of Transport and Construction (MDV) of the SR reopens the de minimis support regime for the tourism sector. The grant will provide pandemic aid for the months of January and February 2022 to entrepreneurs whose application was rejected due to an error or who did not manage to submit it in time. Applications will be accepted November 1-11, 2022. ■

For your notes