

EU2022.CZ, ECONOMY, POLICY AND STRATEGY

For your notes

MF: CZK 14.2m for international dispute representationMonday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The costs of the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic (MF) for legal representation in international arbitration disputes that are conducted against the Czech Republic in 1H 2022 reached CZK 14.16 million. Of this, CZK 13.10 million went to the law firm Arnold & Porter LLP for legal services in solar disputes. CZK 1.08 million was then paid for consulting or lawyer services. This is according to MF data. ■

Gymnich to discuss Russian aggression, Africa relationsMonday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

At their informal meeting (the so-called Gymnich) on August 30 and 31, 2022 in Prague, EU foreign ministers will discuss the global consequences of Russian aggression as well as other sanctions against Russia. They will discuss the European prospects of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia and the future of the Eastern Partnership. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic (MZV) further informed that they will also talk about relations between the EU and Africa, where the EU provides immediate and long-term assistance in response to Russian aggression. ■

Prices in industry grow by 27%, in agriculture by 40%Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Agricultural producer prices in the Czech Republic increased by 39.8% y/y in July 2022. Industrial producers have increased by 26.8%. Industrial producer prices excluding energy rose by 18.0%. Construction work was 13.0% more expensive and market services for businesses 6.3% more expensive. Czech Statistical Office data also showed that month-on-month prices in agriculture fell by 3.6% and in services by 0.8%. In contrast, prices rose in industry (+0.3%) and construction (+1.0%). According to Eurostat data, industrial producer prices were 36.1% higher y/y in EU countries in June. ■

Analysts: Industrial producers will raise prices by 27%

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS

Industrial producer prices increased further in July, but the pace of price increases in domestic industry slowed down thanks to the cheapening of oil and its derivatives. CREDITAS chief economist Petr Dufek said this in response to the statistical data, adding that expensive energy was increasingly counteracting the price decline. BH Securities' chief economist Štěpán Křeček added that he considers the slowdown in the pace of price increases as positive news, which portends that the fight against inflation is becoming effective. Raiffeisenbank economist David Vagenknecht, however, still considers the price development uncertain. On average, he forecasts industrial producer price growth of around 27% this year and close to 9% next year. ■

Number of exits of firms in field of sustainability growsTuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

There were 104 exits of climate technology firms in the transport, energy and agriculture sectors in 2021, four times more than in 2017. The EIP Climate Tech Index of sustainable companies also saw significant growth, rising roughly 200% from 2017 to the end of April 2022, according to investment accelerator Soulmates Ventures, based on data from Silicon Valley Bank. In 2021, venture investors invested a total of USD 31.4bn in 605 sustainable companies, having invested USD 18.6bn in 510 companies in 2020. Hynek Sochor, founder and chairman of Soulmates Ventures, said one of the most important factors for investors is generating ROI, which climate technologies are doing well when market conditions are good. ■

W&C: Offices crowded, work from home above EU averageWednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Offices in office buildings are becoming increasingly crowded. However, Jiří Hrbáček, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the real estate fund WOOD & Company (W&C), does not expect a situation like before the pandemic in the near future, as most companies prefer a hybrid model of work. Thus, a return to offices does not necessarily mean abandoning established online tools. According to Eurostat data, the proportion of employees who have exchanged the office for working from home was 14.5%. In 2019, 10% of Czechs used a work-from-home office. Within the EU, the Czech Republic is one of the countries with the lowest share of people working from home. At the other end of the ranking are Luxembourg, Sweden and the Netherlands with a share of 45% to 54%. ■

BIOCEV: Czech leukaemia treatment wants testing in EuropeThursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Based on a five-year-long clinical trial, a team of scientists and physicians from the BIOCEV Centre, Charles University's First Faculty of Medicine, and General University Hospital in Prague has published a new approach to treating acute leukaemia. Their innovative method combines two drugs that have significantly prolonged patient survival when administered simultaneously. Because of anaemia, these patients are less resilient to bacterial and viral infections, for instance, pneumonia. The treatment can be immediately applied in practice. The team is now discussing expanding the trial to the European level. ■

GP: CR is in European average in number of terminals

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Republic ranks among the European average in the availability of payment terminals, with approximately 27 devices per 1,000 inhabitants. Greece and Spain are the leading tourist destinations. Germany is the worst performer. This is based on data from Global Payments (GP) and Mastercard. While previously Czechs preferred to pay in cash, today 99% of payments are already contactless. GP economist Ondřej Stříbrský said that a quarter of these payments are made via mobile or watch. Around 60% of contactless payments are made via Apple Pay, 35% via Google, and the remaining 5% via Garmin. ■

C&W: Prague hotels' revenue per room increased fivefold

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Revenues per available room (RevPAR) in Prague hotels increased fivefold year-on-year to EUR 73.5 in June 2022. This is the highest increase in Europe and a value 19% lower compared to the pre-crisis year of 2019. STR data was analyzed by Cushman & Wakefield (C&W). Occupancy exceeded 69%, compared to 19% last year. Compared to 86% occupancy in June 2019, it is still almost 17 percentage points less. The average achieved price per room was EUR 106, which is EUR 45 more y/y, and at the same time the same as before the crisis. ■

AURES: Prices of used cars fall in August

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The used car market in August 2022 saw a decline in prices. Sedans have become the cheapest so far, with the median price down by an average of CZK 30,000 m/m (-7.5%) to CZK 369,900. This results from the market analysis Barometer of AURES Holdings. The price of SUVs also fell by CZK 9,000 (-2.1%) to CZK 411,000. Hatchbacks and MPVs have become cheaper by 1.6% and estate cars by 0.3%. Karolína Topolová, CEO and chairwoman of the board of directors, added that only with the arrival of autumn will it be seen whether this is just a fluctuation associated with summer or a long-term trend. The market saw the first significant pause in price growth in July. ■

LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

CR will not sue Brussels due to audit

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Republic will not sue the European Commission due to its audit of agricultural subsidies, which, according to Czech Minister of Agriculture Zdeněk Nekula (KDU-ČSL), confirmed the conflict of interest of former PM Andrej Babiš (ANO). This was decided by the government. The State Agriculture Intervention Fund will now exact money paid to the company Schrom Farms of the group AGROFERT. It will also terminate contracts and projects related to the group, which had been preventively postponed. ■

Pirates will support withdrawal of lawsuit filed by Babiš

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Pirates will support the withdrawal of the lawsuit filed by former Prime Minister and ANO chairman Andrej Babiš against the European Commission (EC) over the Agrofert holding and the subsequent recovery of unjustified subsidies. Jakub Michálek (Pirates), the chairman of the supervisory board of the State Agricultural and Intervention Fund, has concluded that the lawsuit has little chance of success based on the available evidence. Because of the conflict of interest, the state could demand that Agrofert repay up to CZK 4.5bn from Babiš's trust funds. ■

Government registers bill establishing Digital Agency

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic has included in the register a bill amending certain acts in connection with changes in the scope of competence in the field of information and communication technologies. It was submitted by Deputy Prime Minister for Digitalisation and Minister for Regional Development Ivan Bartoš (Pirates). The law transforms the Administration of Basic Registers and some departments of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic into an independent institution - the Digital and Information Agency (DIA). Of this, CZK 140m will be financed from the National Recovery Plan. The number of positions at the CRC and within the DIA departments will increase by 168. Given the expected savings, Bartoš expects a full return on investment within 18-24 months. ■

Government supports ban on terrorist content online

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The government has approved a draft law against the dissemination of terrorist content online, which transposes an EU regulation into Czech law. According to the law, hosting service providers must remove specific publicly accessible terrorist content on the basis of a police order. The platforms and their users will be able to defend themselves in court. Interior Minister Vít Rakušan (STAN) said the law respects freedom of expression, so the withdrawal cannot apply to, for example, classic news or scientific studies. ■

For your notes

SUBSIDIES, INVESTMENTS, EU MARKET

For your notes

Zeitgeist refinances real estate worth EUR 220m with ČS

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Zeitgeist Asset Management has obtained a loan from Česká spořitelna (CS) for the largest ever refinancing of its portfolio in the amount of EUR 113m. In total, it concerns 23 properties worth EUR 220m, located in various locations in Prague. These are mainly residential properties with apartments for rent and private campuses for student accommodation. It also includes Palác Dunaj on Národní třída and the office building Táborská 31 in Prague 4. Expert advice was provided by bnt attorneys and Dentons. Managing Director Michal Nečas said that the contract will ensure the stability of the portfolio for 10 years and will allow, among other things, further expansion. He added that the company wants to more than double the current value of its portfolio in the Czech Republic to almost EUR 500m in the next three years. In addition to the Czech Republic, the company also operates in Poland, Hungary, Germany and Italy and manages assets worth a total of EUR 800m. ■

MZe and EU will help farmers in crisis

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic (MZe) has approved the rates for exceptional support in selected sectors. A total of CZK 831m is intended to help farmers in a crisis situation and to strengthen the self-sufficiency of sensitive sectors. These include mainly pig, poultry, and dairy cattle farming, as well as apple and potato growing. Of the total amount, CZK 554 m will come from national sources and CZK 277m from EU funds. The subsidies will help farmers to mitigate the damage caused by rising input prices, such as rising energy, feed, and fuel prices. ■

VIG's prescribed premium in CR over EUR 1.1bn in H1

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the first half of 2022, the Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) posted a 17.0% year-on-year increase in total prescribed premium to EUR 1.106bn. Its pre-tax profit dropped 3.1% to EUR 93.9m. In expanded CEE, including Slovakia, the Group posted a total prescribed premium at EUR 1.722bn (up 20.3%). The VIG Group increased the premium sum by 11.6% to EUR 6.44bn. Pre-tax profit grew 10.3% to EUR 277.3m. The combined-ratio indicator improved by 0.9 pp to 94.3%. ■

Wienerberger: Market to cool, reconstruction in Europe up

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops and its consequences are lowering the predictability of the construction materials market in the second half of 2022. This statement was made by Wienerberger general director Kamil Jeřábek, adding that he expected the market to cool off, especially in the segment of family-house construction, during autumn. The volatility of realisation prices will deepen more; however, their significant decrease cannot be expected because of high energy costs. He added that the situation in the case of reconstruction projects was more positive. Their number has been increasing all over Europe. In the coming years, Wienerberger expects accelerated construction of apartment houses which the new building act could aid. ■

Campiri targets Spain, interest in caravans doubles

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Campiri, an operator of a digital platform for caravan rental in the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Greece and soon in Spain, registered more than twice the interest in the sale of caravans in the first half of 2022. At the end of June, the value of reservations exceeded CZK 50m. In this country alone, the company rented 2.3 times more vehicles. In terms of the number of rental days, the increase is threefold. In addition, Campiri can add 1,000 rent days in Poland, Slovakia and Greece. As a result, the number of vehicles offered on the platform grew from 250 to 650. ■

ČD Cargo transports train from Plzeň to Poland

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On August 14, 2022, ČD Cargo transported another metro train from the Plzeň plant of Škoda Transportation to a Polish customer in Warsaw. The transport was arranged by a subsidiary of ČD Cargo Poland. The carrier transported the first train from Plzeň in February for testing at the ŽZO in Velim. The second one headed to Poland in April. As ČIANEWS reported, Škoda Transportation will deliver up to 45 six-wing trainsets to Metro Warszawskie for almost CZK 8bn. ■

ŠKODA registers 12,879 alternative cars in Germany

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The number of registrations of new ŠKODA passenger cars with alternative drive in Germany for January to July 2022 fell year-on-year from 18,767 to 12,879. This was reported by the German Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA), adding that they accounted for 15.6% of total ŠKODA new car registrations. The Czech carmaker's total registrations in Germany fell from 97,575 to 82,484 vehicles in the seven months. ■

ČEZ targets 800 charging points, grows due to CEF

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the first half of 2022, e-car drivers charged 46,894 kWh of electricity (up 12% year on year) at ČEZ points in the South Bohemian Region. Currently, ČEZ operates 16 public charging points in the region. Since the beginning of the year, ČEZ has commissioned over 50 charging points. In the first half, drivers charged 2.1m kWh of electricity at 448 points in the Czech Republic, up almost 0.5m kWh year on year. The total installed output of the charging points within the ČEZ network has exceeded 27,000 kW. The network has been growing thanks to a European grant from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and funds awarded by the Operational Programme Transport. Within the Čistá Energie Zítřka vision, the ČEZ objective is to operate 800 charging points by 2025. ■

Toyota TE's turnover grows to CZK 12bn

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Toyota Tsusho Europe SA Czech Republic Branch (Toyota TE) has had to halt vehicle production in the financial year ending March 31, 2022, due to a chip shortage caused by the pandemic. The carmaker also said in its annual report, among other things, that it increased its net sales from CZK 9.30bn to CZK 12.02bn. Profit after tax reached CZK 54.03m. The company was unable to assess the impact of the war in Ukraine as of the date of the financial statements. In the fiscal year 2022/2023, Toyota plans to participate in projects of other Japanese companies in the Czech Republic and abroad and increase cooperation with major partners. ■

IMI increased its turnover to CZK 4.3 billion

Monday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

IMI International, as part of the multinational group IMI Overseas Investments (IMI OI), continues to expand and is the recipient of the group's permanent investments, which are directed to the most suitable regional areas, among which the Czech Republic has an important place. In 2021, the manufacturer's sales of machinery and equipment for the use of mechanical energy to sister companies reached CZK 3.29 billion. This follows from the annual report for 2021 published in the commercial register. The company increased its net turnover year-on-year to CZK 4.29 billion from CZK 3.14 billion. Profit after tax increased to CZK 140.99 million from CZK 88.81 million. Research and development expenses amounted to CZK 2.41 million. ■

ICOM had turnover of CZK 3.67bn and buys cars with E6 standard

Thursday, August 11 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ICOM transport reported a net turnover of CZK 3.67bn in 2021. In 2020, it was CZK 3.31bn. The profit before taxation increased to CZK 215.49m from CZK 206.03m. The truck and bus operator further stated in the annual report that the war in Ukraine had a significant impact on the company due to the high number of employees from that country. This is also related to sharp increases in fuel and energy prices. The goals for 2022 include the renewal of the vehicle fleet with an emphasis on the ecology of traffic thanks to vehicles that meet the E6 emission standards. It will also focus on the further development of software and hardware infrastructure for bus traffic management. It also plans to participate in tenders for the provision of basic transport services and the operation of freight transport. ■

DIAMO strives for protection of mines

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Territorial Specialist Unit of the National Heritage Institute in Ostrava has prepared an assessment of the coal mines in the Moravian-Silesian Region from the point of view of heritage protection. On the basis of this, representatives of the National Institute and DIAMO, in cooperation with the regional organisation Moravian-Silesian Investment and Development (MSID), have started negotiations on which shaft buildings could be protected and preserved for future generations as industrial heritage. DIAMO reported that the ČSA Mine, for example, is valuable. At the first meeting, the conservationists also recalled the consideration of the possibility of inscribing some mining objects or sites on the UNESCO list. ■

ZAT won record volume of orders at CZK 1.12bn

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The supplier of smart control systems for energy and industry ZAT won a record volume of new orders in 2021 in the total amount of CZK 1.12bn. The volume of sales reached CZK 491m and the total performance also increased to CZK 616m. The company is currently working on deliveries to nuclear power plants in France, Finland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Armenia. Board member and executive director for trade and implementation Ivo Tichý said that the company believes that despite the events related to the changing relations between the Russian Federation, Europe, and the world, these projects will continue in order to ensure energy stability in Europe and the world. The general meeting also decided to expand the board of directors by a new member, who became Jaroslav Scharf Jr. ■

HB Reavis leased 160,000m²; portfolio reached EUR 3.6bn

Monday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

HB Reavis, which builds offices supporting wellbeing and productivity in Europe, reported an operating profit of EUR 442m for 2021. The company informed about this, saying that although the closing of deals cooled down for a certain period during the coronavirus crisis, interest in offices that put people and their needs in the foreground grew. HB Reavis leased roughly 160,000 m² of area last year, which was the second most successful result in the company's history. The value of the group's portfolio reached EUR 3.6bn at the end of last year. A smaller portion remains in land and projects under construction, and approximately EUR 2bn is in ready, income-generating real estate. In Slovakia, the group plans to start residential construction, but this will be a marginal activity and rather an exception to the portfolio. The net asset value for 2021 reached EUR 1,896.9m. The return for the company's shareholders was 27.1%. ■

For your notes

Penta sold majority stake in Polish group Empik

Monday, August 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Penta Investments has sold a 51% controlling stake in the Polish Empik Group to the current chairwoman of the group's board of directors, Ewa Szmít-Belcarz. Both sides of the transaction declare the continuation of close and partnership cooperation in the field of investment and business development. Retail group Empik achieved a turnover of PLN 2.4bn last year, half of which came from the digital and e-commerce segments. Both parties have agreed not to disclose the value of the transaction, the completion of which is subject to regulatory approval. Penta will retain a 49% stake in the group, in which it has been present since 2012. Empik plans to invest PLN 300-350 million by 2026 mainly in organic growth, but not excluding selected acquisitions. ■

MVV Energie AG sells Czech activities to Cube IM

Thursday, August 18 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

MVV Energie AG, a German utility company, has signed a contract to sell 100% of its activities in the Czech Republic (MVV Energie CZ) to Cube Infrastructure Managers (IM). This European investment firm focused on medium-size infrastructure projects is realising the purchase via its investment fund Cube Infrastructure Fund III. The investment is in accordance with its commitment to providing sustainable infrastructure for towns and municipalities. MVV Energie CZ, providing services in 15 Czech towns, sold 690 GWh of heat and 170 GWh of electricity in 2021. Its turnover in the 2020-2021 financial year totalled CZK 2.1bn. The transaction process should be finalised in the fourth quarter of 2022. ■

Pilulka Lékárny leases 4,479 m2 in VGP Park Olomouc

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

VGP concluded a lease agreement with Pilulka Lékárny for 4479 m2 of warehouse space in the newly completed Hall I in VGP Park Olomouc. The company is one of the largest pharmaceutical and pharmacy groups in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. It will use the warehouses in Olomouc to supply customers in the Brno, Ostrava, Olomouc and Prostějov regions. The new premises are BREEAM Very Good certified. VGP Park Olomouc covers nearly 48 hectares and comprises 213,800 m2 of lettable space suitable for logistics or light manufacturing. ■

MŽP will spend CZK 1bn to support circular economy

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (MŽP) has allocated CZK 1bn to support circular economy projects. New re-use centres, collection yards, sorting systems or sorting lines will be built. The current package of calls announced under the Operational Programme Environment 2021-2027 focuses on projects in the circular economy sector as well as on support for activities in the area of improving air quality. Around CZK 3.5bn is available for applicants in the four new calls. Municipalities or 100% publicly owned companies and cooperatives can apply for subsidies for these measures. ■

EFG will provide power balance services

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Energy financial group (EFG) will launch a pilot project to provide power balance services. The company announced that it will be implemented at the MOSTEK energo biomass power plant. It should then be followed up by the provision of support services at EFG's biogas plants in Rapotín and Vyškov. Within the framework of the project, the company intends to use surplus electricity in the grid to heat the adjacent area. The biogas plants can then address energy storage or stabilisation of the energy system, where they can cover both the fluctuating production of other renewable sources and the change in consumption within the season. Seasonal regulation has so far been provided almost exclusively by coal-fired power plants. ■

AŽD to secure Croatian Hrvatski Leskovac – Karlovac track

Monday, August 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

AŽD succeeded in the competition for the supply of security and telecommunication equipment on the 44 km Hrvatski Leskovac - Karlovac railway line. It concluded a contract for the work with HŽ Infrastruktura (Croatian Railway). AŽD will be the main contractor. The value of the contract, which will take the company 30 months, is EUR 34.9m. In Croatia AŽD will install an electronic station security device ESA 44, which will control traffic at Hrvatski Leskovac, Jastrebarsko and Karlovac stations, as well as at six stops. It also includes an integrated track security device, security of 62 switches, installation of an axle computer system and over 200 LED signals. AŽD also ensures the supply of eight railway crossings, a system for heating switches, telecommunication equipment and modifications of existing buildings under architectural protection. AŽD will also equip the entire line with the ETCS system. ■

Investika managed assets worth more than CZK 13.5bn

Monday, August 15 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The volume of assets under the management of investment company Investika in 2Q 2022 exceeded CZK 13.5bn. The largest was a real estate fund that manages capital worth CZK 12.1bn in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. This represents an increase of 47 % y/y. The appreciation of the fund over the last 12 months reached 7.56 %. The number of investors was 56,300. The portfolio of the real estate fund includes 33 properties. In 2Q Investika completed two acquisitions in Poland and Croatia. The fund, in cooperation with the developer Realactiva, completed the first phase of the Molo Lipno Resort project with 90 flats, a promenade and a 150-meter-long pier with a restaurant. ■

For your notes

Investika will build 30 villas for EUR 100m in Istria

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Investika real estate fund has expanded its portfolio by 4 ha of land on the Croatian peninsula of Istria. Up to 30 multi-storey luxury villas will be built in the future on the plots in the municipality of Fažana near the Brijuni National Park near the town of Pula. The total expected value of the project exceeds EUR 100m. The plan will now be approved by the local authorities. Once the permits have been obtained, the fund plans to prepare the land for construction. The value of the fund's portfolio currently stands at almost EUR 500m. Investika aims to manage real estate assets across Europe totalling EUR 1bn. ■

VYS reduced energy consumption in Třebíč Hospital

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Vysočina Region has completed the reduction of the energy requirements of the catering and administration facilities in the Třebíč Hospital. Deputy governor for regional development Hana Hajnová (Pirates) said that by insulating buildings, replacing hole fillings and subsequent regulation of the heating system, energy consumption for heating should be reduced by 43% on average and greenhouse gas emissions by 40%. The building modifications were co-financed by the European Union in the amount of CZK 7.25m. ■

S&W brokers lease of 1,500 m2 for three IT firms

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Svoboda & Williams' (S&W) commercial leasing team has brokered office leases for three technology companies in recent months. DataVision, which deals with the digitalisation of industry, has leased 637 m2 in the Mayhouse building in Pankrác. The last vacant office unit in the Parkview office building, with an area of 580 m2, was leased to Cint. The Czech software company E LINKX was looking for representative business premises for its HPmarket division for the first ever brick-and-mortar HP store in Central Europe. It found a suitable 320 m2 area in the City Green Court building, which was the first office building in the Czech Republic to be LEED Platinum Pre-Certified. ■

Photon Energy commences construction of FTE in Romania

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Photon Energy has started construction of its sixth Romanian photovoltaic power plant, which will have a generating capacity of 4.8 MWp. The double-sided modules mounted and single-axis trackers will supply approximately 7.1 GWh of renewable energy annually to Distribuție Energie Electrică România's grid. The group plans to commission the plant in Teius in 4Q 2022. Photon Energy CEO Georg Hotar said this is another milestone in its efforts to bring a total capacity of approximately 32 MWp into operation in Romania by the end of this year. ■

CZ LOKO to supply ETCS locomotive to Hrochostroj

Monday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

CZ LOKO signed a contract with the company Hrochostroj from the enteria group for the supply of the EffiShunter 1000 locomotive. This should add to the construction company's fleet of machines for the renewal and maintenance of tracks in mid-2024. Commercial director Jan Kutálek stated that CZ LOKO registers an increased interest among major players in domestic railway construction for locomotives equipped with the European ETCS safety system and added that only these vehicles and trains will be able to enter the busiest Czech railway corridors from January 2025. Hrochostroj's goal is to take the position of a strong partner in the field of heavy rail mechanization. ■

PAK: Builders will finish last floor of ER in September

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The rough construction of the Central Emergency Department in the Pardubice Hospital is nearing completion. The builders will build the last floor in about mid-September 2022. They want to close the building as much as possible before the arrival of winter so that they can then work inside. The Pardubice Region (PAK) informed about it, stating that the investment amounts to CZK 1.65bn, of which CZK 0.5bn is to be covered by the European subsidy. Deputy Governor Roman Linek (KDU-ČSL) said that approximately CZK 325m including VAT has already been spent on the construction. ■

Leo Express will secure transport Bratislava-Komárno

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Leo Express will provide rail transport on the line Bratislava - Dunajská Streda - Komárno from December 10, 2023 to December 9, 2032. The Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic informed about this, adding that the carrier submitted the most advantageous offer in the tender. Seven carriers expressed interest in participating in the tender. In addition to Leo Express, Železničná spoločnosť Slovensko and Yosaria Trains submitted a bid. ■

Olma exchanges pumps; turnover exceeds CZK 3.7bn

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 2021, Olma started the repair of part of the drinking water intake, which it plans to complete in 2022. In production, the gradual replacement of the chemical dosing pumps in the process equipment cleaning processes has started. The dairy products maker also disclosed in its annual report that its net sales for last year rose from CZK3.67bn to CZK3.76bn y/y. Profit after tax was CZK 206.58m. Sales of cottage cheese desserts, sour products and butter, both in the Czech Republic and in neighbouring countries, contributed to the higher sales. ■

For your notes

Hamé had turnover of CZK 3.3bn

Monday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 2021, Hamé increased production at the Babice plant by 10 % y/y. One of the reasons was the transfer of production of ready meals from the sister company Felix Austria. Hamé CEO Petr Novák said in the annual report that the total investment reached CZK 140m, and in addition to the costs related to new production, they were also aimed at the reconstruction of the water treatment plant. The food company increased its net turnover year-on-year from CZK 3.27 to 3.31 billion. Profit after taxation amounted to CZK 429.33m. The Orka Foods Czech and Slovak group, to which Hamé belongs, will focus on investments in production equipment and increasing efficiency in 2022. ■

Rossmann introduces self-service checkouts

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Rossmann reported a year-on-year increase in net sales from CZK 3.77bn to CZK 4.22bn for 2021. Sales growth was supported by the digital loyalty programme, modernisation and expansion of stores and the introduction of new ranges. Profit after tax exceeded CZK 107m. The drugstore chain also reported in its annual report that it implemented self-service checkouts with cashless payment options in selected stores. It has launched an e-shop app offering, among other things, pickup of goods at selected stores within 2 hours. Rossmann has a total of 155 stores in the Czech Republic and abroad, serving 15 million customers a year. It is modernising the existing ones and at the same time looking for additional premises in new locations. ■

PlanRadar increased revenue and doubled its workforce

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

With its comprehensive platform for digitizing processes during construction and property management, Austria's PlanRadar has seen a 300% y/y increase in revenue over the past six months. At the same time, it doubled the number of employees to 400. Currently, 120,000 real estate professionals across markets and construction-related professions use its solution. Together, these are customers in more than 65 countries of the world, including the Czech Republic. In the country, the platform is used, for example, by BAK, Metrostav, Imos Brno, Unitrex Management, Awigo, or Trade Center Praha. ■

STAREZ modernises cooling system in Rondo arena

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

STAREZ - SPORT commissioned the new cooling plant of the Rondo hall in August 2022. It has lower electricity and water consumption and unattended operation. The heat from the cooling process can be used. The costs of the modernization of CZK 32.25m including VAT will be covered by a subsidy from the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic and a loan from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The City of Brno supported the project with CZK 11.2m. The modernisation of the hall will continue with the preparation of a project to repair the cooling of the ice surface. It is planned to add heat pumps that will use the heat from the waste pit of the roller rink. ■

In addition to development, HB Reavis builds rentals

Monday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

HB Reavis is planning a residential development in Slovakia. The developer focused on the construction of well-being offices in Europe has currently changed the structure of the company: a branch has been added to the development section, which will cover the care of completed projects and their management. In this way, it will move its buildings after completion into a newly created portfolio intended for rent, not for sale. In 2021, the developer leased approximately 160,000 m2 of area. It achieved a profit of almost 320 million euros. The value of the group's portfolio at the end of 2021 was EUR 3.6 billion. Of this, roughly 2 billion euros were income-generating real estate, the rest land and projects under construction. ■

TRENDS, DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

MPO to spend over CZK 5bn from OP TAC on innovations

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade (MPO) has announced the first calls for proposals in research, development and innovations within the Operational Programme Technologies and Applications for Competitiveness (OP TAC). A total of CZK 5.25bn of EU funding has been prepared for small and medium-sized enterprises and, to some extent, for large companies. Applications for the Applications, Innovations, and Proof of Concept calls for proposals can be submitted from September 1 to November 30, 2022. As for the Innovation Vouchers – Intellectual Property Rights Protection call for proposals, the deadline is December 31, 2023. Industry and Trade Minister Jozef Sikela (for STAN) added that the calls for proposals would also advance companies in their digital transformation. ■

SANDVIK increased and expanded production

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

SANDVIK CHOMUTOV PRECISION TUBES put technologies into operation in 2021 to increase production capacities by 40% and to expand the production portfolio with another type of tubular products. The company informed about this in its annual report, stating that, as in previous years, it invested in the modernization of machines and lines, which it wants to continue in the following period. Last year, SANDVIK reported a turnover of CZK 2.66bn and an operating profit of CZK 14.09m. ■

For your notes

Lactalis posts CZK 4.57bn turnover

Thursday, August 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 2021, Lactalis CZ posted a net turnover of CZK 4.57bn. Its profit after tax totalled CZK 14.06m, according to the annual report published in the Commercial Register on August 17, 2022. The Lactalis international group, similarly to the Czech company, focuses on supporting growth in the areas of yoghurts and blue cheeses through all marketing tools. A new segment is represented by products that impact a healthy lifestyle. Concerning the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the company stated that there was an unpredictable increase in the prices of raw materials and energy and increased volatility of exchange rates. ■

ÚPV: Total of 9067 trademarks filed in CR last year

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 2021, 9067 trademark applications were filed in the Czech Republic, of which 7669 were national and 1398 international. The Industrial Property Office (ÚPV) reported that the situation in the Czech Republic is comparable to the EU, but we are lagging behind Western Europe. The three most active applicants in the Czech Republic last year were SAZKA (33), Palírna U Zeleného stromu (25) and HC Dynamo Pardubice (24). ■

ŠKODA AUTO updating software for ENYAQ iV vehicles

Monday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ŠKODA AUTO is currently installing a new version of the ME3 software in ENYAQ iV cars that have already been delivered to customers. The update brings improvements in the area of battery management and thus allows you to achieve a longer real travel range. The new software also offers improvements to the virtual cockpit, head-up display, infotainment system and ŠKODA Connect online services. It takes approximately five hours to install the new software in the workshop. Most all future updates will then be done remotely. ■

ZSSK: 190,000 people traveled with Europa Express tickets

Friday, August 12 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

One-way tickets from the Europa Express offer were purchased by almost 190,000 people in Slovakia from January to June 2022. The Slovak Railway Company (ZSSK) informed about this, saying that the sale of travel documents from Europa Express from Slovakia to Germany in 1H 2022 alone increased from 1,400 to 6,500 compared to the same period in 2018. The number of tickets to Switzerland increased from 800 to 7,400. It is possible to buy the ticket, among other things, for trips from Slovakia to the Czech Republic, Austria, Croatia, Hungary, and Poland. ■

ZOOT launched shop-in-shop for Orsay brand

Tuesday, August 16 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The online retailer ZOOT has started selling fashion from the German brand Orsay for Czech and Slovak customers. A separate shop-in-shop was created especially for it. Milan Polák, director of the Digital People company operating the ZOOT.cz e-shop, said that a major expansion of the brand shop offer is planned in the coming days. In the spring of 2022, ZOOT similarly took over the complete sales, including logistics, of the French brand Camaieu. ■

NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

RÚ: EUR 120m needed to complete regional optical networks

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Office for the Regulation of Electronic Communications and Postal Services (RÚ) reported that at the end of 2021, a regional optical network was not present in 970 out of 2,890 municipalities in Slovakia. A third of it is located in the Prešov region. On the contrary, the Bratislava region has a 92% presence of backhaul (a network connecting individual municipalities with the district or regional capital). RÚ stated that to complete the construction of regional optical networks in all remaining municipalities, approximately EUR 120m would be needed, half of which should come from telecommunications companies and half would be paid by the state in the form of a subsidy from European funds. ■

MPRV will support land improvements to retain water

Wednesday, August 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Agricultural Payments Agency (PPA) announced a call from the Rural Development Program of the Slovak Republic 2014 – 2022, in which a total of EUR 55.48m is allocated. The aim is to support water-retaining measures in agricultural land through land management, thereby enhancing ecosystem services and maintaining soil quality parameters. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (MPRV SR) informed about this, stating that the deadline for submitting applications for a non-refundable financial contribution is from October 1 to November 30, 2022. ■

DRG to equalize Slovak hospitals' insurance income

Monday, August 15 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The current system of flat-rate payments from health insurance companies in Slovakia covers on average 78% of the total costs of hospitals and does not take into account their actual amount. As a result, there is a group of hospitals before collapse. The Office for Health Care Supervision (ÚDZS) informed that the systemic solution to the situation is to launch the DRG reimbursement mechanism as soon as possible. Currently, Slovakia is the only country in the EU that does not use the DRG system and does not regulate prices. The report on the area of pricing and procurement of health care prepared by the office is to be discussed by the SR government in September 2022. ■

For your notes

