

## EU2022.CZ, ECONOMY, POLICY AND STRATEGY

 For your notes
 

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### Síkela: No household limits for capped energy prices

Monday, September 26 | ČIANEWS

The government regulation regarding capping energy prices will not limit household consumption. The Minister of Industry and Trade, Josef Síkela (for STAN), stated that the government is able to achieve savings in household energy consumption even without introducing limits. On September 30, 2022, the European ministers responsible for energy will discuss a proposal to introduce a price ceiling for small and medium-sized enterprises up to 80 % of the highest consumption in the last five years. ■

### MZV: Lipavský called for prosecution of aggression

 Friday, September 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In his speech at the UN in New York, Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský (Pirates) stressed the need for the International Criminal Court to investigate and punish Russian war crimes. He stressed the need to defend human rights, ensure peace, protect the environment and support young people. He also called, among other things, for the creation of a special international tribunal to investigate the crime of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. He also expressed support for the conflict-affected country in his address to the UN Security Council. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic also reported that Mr Lipavský had also attended an informal meeting of EU foreign ministers, in particular on military aid to Ukraine and the strengthening of sanctions against Russia. ■

### Analysts: Workers to be let go over growing input prices

Monday, September 26 | ČIANEWS

Households are becoming more concerned about the deterioration of their own financial situation and the growth of unemployment. Concerns about rising prices are growing again, and companies are becoming less optimistic about production and demand in the coming months. In response to the statistical data, the chief economist of the Czech Banking Association, Jakub Seidler, stated that almost a third of households report that they can barely make ends meet with their financial resources. Banka CREDITAS chief economist Petr Dufek added that the only positive of the current statistics is the drop in inflation expectations. Trinity Bank chief economist Lukáš Kovanda expects the situation to worsen further. On the one hand, in the coming months, people will struggle quite intensively with the growth of advance payments for energy, in addition, layoffs must also be expected next year, as employers will have to reduce costs, including personnel, due to the increase in the price of inputs. ■

### ABSL: Czech cos. continue to hire, even from abroad

 Monday, September 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

While companies in Western markets are slowing down their recruitment activities or even starting layoffs, the Czech market is still looking for workers, including qualified applicants from abroad. This was reported by ABSL (Association of Business Service Leaders in the Czech Republic), which brings together companies operating in the segment of shared business services, with the fact that, for example, in business, IT and customer services, experts from abroad already make up 44 % of the total number of employees. By 2025, local centers plan to hire another 50,000 employees, half of whom should come from abroad, mostly from the countries of the European Union. ■

## SUBSIDIES, INVESTMENTS, EU MARKET

### MŽP: NZÚ programme to be helped with CZK 55 from MF

 Thursday, September 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Financial means from the Modernisation Fund (MF) of CZK 55bn will help the New Green Savings (NZÚ) programme. This information was provided by the Czech Ministry of the Environment (MŽP), adding that boosted investments in collaboration with the State Environmental Fund (SFŽP) would enable the continued support of savings measures with regard to apartment buildings. Minister Anna Hubáčková (for KDU-ČSL) said that the support should be expanded as of 2023 with a replacement of gas-powered boilers in households with renewable sources. SFŽP's Modernisation Fund will also support the New Green Savings Light programme that is being prepared. It is focused on easy-to-make adaptations and partial renovations of single family houses with the need for a project which will result in immediate energy savings (heat insulation of the facade, replacement of windows, etc.). A household will receive up to CZK 150,000 towards such renovations in the form of advanced payment. Since August 2022, the fund has also offered funding to municipalities. The funding goes to the construction of photovoltaic community facilities. ■

### MMR will give CZK 10bn from IROP for road construction

 Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic (MMR) will support the construction, modernization and repair of roads of the second class in an amount exceeding CZK 10bn through the Integrated Regional Operational Program (IROP). The ministry will open two calls. The first is intended for projects on the territory of less developed regions and almost CZK 6.5bn is available from the European Regional Development Fund. In the second, over CZK 3.7bn is earmarked for projects in transition regions. Thanks to the money, new bridges or bypasses of municipalities will be built. Applicants can also use subsidies for road reconstruction. ■

## EU to spend EUR 1.64bn on coal region transformation

Monday, September 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Republic will receive EUR 1.64bn euros in EU grants thanks to the Just Transition Fund's (JTF) program. It was adopted by the European Commission on September 26, 2022. It will support efforts to phase out coal power generation by 2033 and ensure a fair transition to climate neutrality. The JTF will especially help the Karlovy Vary, Ústí and Moravian-Silesian regions, where there is a high concentration of carbon-intensive industries with 21,000 jobs associated with the coal and chemical industries. Investments will be aimed at transforming the structure of the economy into an economy based on renewable energy sources and a circular economy. Also on mitigating social impacts. ■

## MMR will call on schools to apply for EU subsidies

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR (MMR) plánuje v říjnu 2022 vyhlásit výzvu pro základní školy prostřednictvím Integrovaných územních investic (ITI) s výší prostředků 2,8 mld. Kč z Evropského fondu pro regionální rozvoj (EFRR). Vypsána bude i výzva prostřednictvím Komunitně vedeného místního rozvoje (CLLD), kde je odhadován zájem až o 2,2 mld. Kč z EFRR na podporu základních a mateřských škol. MMR 30. září 2022 vyhlásí prostřednictvím Integrovaného regionálního operačního programu (IROP) dvě výzvy na podporu základních škol. Pro tzv. méně rozvinuté regiony a přechodové regiony je připraveno celkem 3,2 mld. Kč. Žadatelé nebudou potřebovat v době podání žádosti platné stavební povolení. Další investice mohou školy, jakožto veřejné budovy, čerpat na snížení energetické náročnosti prostřednictvím Operačního programu životní prostředí. ■

## ŽDB Drátovna invests CZK 1.8bn in machinery

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ŽDB Drátovna from the Trinecké železářny - Moravia Steel Group has invested CZK 1.8bn in the last 10 years to develop and increase its competitiveness. Petr Adamek, chairman of the ŽDB board of directors, said that the aim of the modernisation was to strengthen the portfolio, especially in the area of wire production for other manufacturing industries, such as the production of ropes, springs, bearings, and other applications, including applications in the automotive industry. According to him, it was important to supplement and increase production capacities and to strengthen the position especially on the European market. Investments were mainly directed to modernisation of machinery and equipment or to greening. ■

## MMR will support CZK 1.1bn in IROP calls for social services

Friday, September 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the Integrated Regional Operational Program (IROP) 2021–2027, the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic announced two calls to improve the quality and availability of social services. CZK 1.1bn has been allocated to them. They are intended for the acquisition of buildings and equipment, the construction of new buildings, building modifications, and the improvement of the material and technical base of new and existing social services. The IROP calls will be followed by two more for integrated territorial investment (ITI) and community-led local development (CLLD). ■

## CNB approved REDSTONE INVEST bonds for CZK 2bn

Thursday, September 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech National Bank (CNB) has approved REDSTONE INVEST's base prospectus for the bonds issued under the 2022 offering programme. The maximum total nominal value of the outstanding bonds is CZK 2bn and the duration of the programme is 10 years. The approved base prospectus forms an integral part of the regulator's statement as an annex. ■

## ČEB will participate in loan of EUR 565 to Eurowag

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech Export Bank (ČEB) will participate in the further foreign expansion of the Czech Eurowag Group, which offers payment and mobility solutions for commercial road transport. By providing the loan, ČEB will join a club transaction involving Komerční banka, Česká spořitelna, ČSOB, UniCredit Bank, CITIBANK, BNP Paribas, Raiffesbank, and PKO Bank Polski. The total amount of the multi-purpose loan with a maturity of five years, which is intended to refinance existing loans and finance the Eurowag Group's investment and acquisition plans, amounts to EUR 565m. ■

## Panattoni handed over hall near Kojetín to Amazon

Monday, September 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The industrial hall builder Panattoni handed over a logistics center near Kojetín in Přerovsko to the multinational e-commerce company Amazon; it was financed by the Accolade group and its own fund of the same name. The value of the building exceeds CZK 5bn. According to Panattoni, the distribution center has modern technologies and high energy self-sufficiency. The total area of the hall reaches more than 187,000 m<sup>2</sup>, the floor plan of the building occupies 51,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The height of the building exceeds 27 meters in the places where the stairwells lead. The hall was built on the land of the former sedimentation tanks of a sugar factory. ■

## R. Kellnerová is majority shareholder in group PPF

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The agreement on the distribution of the estate of Petr Kellner, who died in March 2021, came into force on September 23, 2022. PPF Group announced that Renáta Kellnerová became the majority shareholder of PPF Group with a 59.358% stake. Each of Mr Kellner's four children owns a 9.893% stake. The current organisational structure of the Group and its management remain unchanged. ■

For your notes

## 4Trans Factoring to focus on Poland

Monday, September 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech fintech 4Trans Factoring, which helps carriers to maintain operating costs through factoring, currently has more than 11,000 customers throughout Europe. It saw a 680% increase in clients from January 2021 to August 2022. The value of the client's average invoice for this period increased by 54 % to almost CZK 22,000. The reason is primarily the increase in fuel prices. For the next period, the startup plans to continue growing, acquire more clients, strengthen financial and insurance services and focus more on foreign markets, especially Poland. As ČIANEWS already reported, 4Trans Factoring received roughly CZK 450m from investment funds for its further development in the summer. ■

## French EDF sells its 50% in power plant Sloe to EPH

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On September 27, 2022, EDF signed an agreement with Daniel Křetínský's Energy and Industrial Holding (EPH) to sell its stake in the Dutch power plant Sloe. EPH will thus acquire 50% of the 870 MW steam power plant. The remaining 50% is owned by Pzem. The French energy company said that the transaction is part of EDF's EUR 3bn asset sale programme and is subject to the usual regulatory approvals. ■

## ORLEN to buy REMAQ, enters mechanical recycling

Thursday, September 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

By acquiring the Central European company REMAQ, ORLEN Unipetrol has entered the segment of mechanical recycling. With recycling activities, the group can get and process plastic waste and bio-waste and make new petrochemicals and biofuels from them. PKN ORLEN board chairman Daniel Obajtek said that the acquisition would bring the group closer to meeting the goal of emissions neutrality by 2050. He added that in accordance with the group's strategy, ORLEN Unipetrol was striving to recycle up to 400,000 tonnes of plastic and organic waste annually in 2030. ■

## Worldee wins EUR 1m from Kaiperi and Prusa Research

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Olomouc startup Worldee has received EUR 1.085m from investors Kaiperi and Prusa Research to expand its team with senior colleagues. These include directors of marketing and business development. In addition, it plans to create an automated ticketing system and expand into other strategic markets. Worldee, which launched a marketplace offering authentic travel and holidays in 2022, has sold around CZK 5m worth of tours this year. Worldee started as a digital travel diary and a means to plan trips with social networking elements. Since its establishment, the startup has raised over CZK 47m from investors. ■

## IMMOFINANZ to sell Hungarian office portfolio under CPI

Thursday, September 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

IMMOFINANZ has signed a letter of intent to sell its Hungarian office properties to S IMMO. According to the company's announcement, this transaction is being carried out through cooperation within the CPI Property Group in order to realise synergies. It is also intended to serve to extend IMMOFINANZ's myhive flexible office solutions to the entire group. The Hungarian portfolio comprises six buildings in Budapest with approximately 124,000 m2 of lettable space. IMMOFINANZ plans to sell a total of EUR 1bn worth of properties from the portfolio. ■

## Allwyn suspends listing on American NYSE due to volatility

Monday, September 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

KKCG Group's Allwyn has suspended its listing on the New York Stock Exchange. The company informed about this, stating that the reason is the current high volatility of the markets. However, the interest of Europe's largest lottery company to enter the NYSE continues and it wants to do so when the conditions are more favorable. ■

## Woltair wins investment of EUR 16.3m, targets Germany

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Woltair, which provides a comprehensive digital platform connecting technicians and consumers to install and maintain energy technologies for buildings, has secured a EUR 16.3m (CZK 400m) investment in a global Series A round led by sustainability-focused fund ArcTern Ventures. It was also participated by Westly Group, Aternus, and existing investors Kaya VC, Inven Capital and Movens Capital. With the investment, Woltair plans to further develop its digital products, strengthen its teams and expand into Italy or Germany, which is expected by the end of 2022. ■

## Skladon provides fulfillment also for Sportisimo

Monday, September 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Skladon plans to expand the distribution center in Mošnov by additional thousands of m2. It is also selecting a suitable market for the planned foreign expansion. The logistics outsourcing provider currently provides the fulfillment of part of the shipments to Sportisimo from September 2022. The latter plans to ship roughly a thousand parcels a day from the distribution center in Mošnov to all its brick-and-mortar stores. In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, deliveries will be made daily, to Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria weekly. The sports equipment retailer uses the entire capacity of the newly built area of the center, completed in the summer of 2022. The cooperation will help it bridge the period of moving the central warehouse from Rudná to the new warehouse in Ostrava. Skladon currently handles fulfillment for more than 70 e-shops to which it ships goods all over the world. ■

For your notes



## Blume: VW Group to focus on ecology, brand development

Thursday, September 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Volkswagen (VW) Group board chairman and Porsche Holding general director Oliver Blume has met ŠKODA AUTO Works Council chairman Jaroslav Povšik in Mladá Boleslav. The Odbory KOVO MB trade union and the carmaker were the first foreign location visited by Blume after assuming his position. At the meeting, he said that he had five basic topics: brand development, product attractiveness, ecology, social topics and, most of all, caring for the employees of the Volkswagen Group. He said that the ŠKODA AUTO brand had a critical position within the Group and that it would continue to have it for decades to come. ■

## Kiwi.com partners with GTS Alive; they will offer discounts to students

Thursday, September 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Kiwi.com has partnered with GTS Alive, the official issuer of ISIC cards in the Europe, Middle East and South Asia region. Together they will support students in their travel plans. Holders of an ISIC card will get access to discounts that they can use to purchase airline tickets. ■

## TRENDS, DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

### ČEZ: LNG pumped from tanker is changing to gas

Saturday, September 24 | ČIANEWS

The pumping of LNG for the Czech Republic from the cargo ship to the Eemshaven terminal has been completed. Daniel Beneš, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of ČEZ Group, added that its conversion back to gaseous state is underway. ■

### O2 starts operating 5G private network in BD Sensors

Thursday, September 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

O2 has started the full operation of its first commercial 5G private network. The network will help BD Sensors to make sensors. The operator added that the closed mobile network, dedicated and tailored to one customer only in an exactly defined area, would provide the customer with speed, capacity, the highest possible degree of security and absolute reliability. BD Sensors focuses on producing sensors and manometers to measure the pressure of gases and liquids, including electronics for space projects. ■

### ČDT and TTC will reconstruct SŽ's technological network

Saturday, September 24 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Railway Administration (SŽ) has the winner of the contract Reconstruction and segmentation of the technological network. The winner is the association of contractors ČD - Telematika (ČDT) and TTC MARCONI. The total value of the contract is CZK 517.91m excluding VAT. The subject of the work is the preparation of project documentation for the notification and implementation of the construction and the construction of a set of buildings. The work also includes providing publicity for the construction co-financed by the European Union under the Regional Development Fund Programme. ■

### App Klarna makes it possible to pay in 3 instalments

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Klarna, an e-commerce payment facilitator, is entering the Czech Republic. Czech customers can use the Pay in 3 service at selected retail partners and through the Klarna online app, which allows them to split their payment into three monthly interest-free instalments. Flexible payments are used by more than 450,000 retail partners worldwide. In the Czech Republic, the first partners include H&M, pharmacies Pilulka and Footshop. Klarna CEO Sebastian Siemiatkowski added that the app allows tracking orders, takes care of returns and controls the budget. ■

### Synthos planned PV plant; revenues were CZK 18.31bn

Thursday, September 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Synthos Kralupy intends to invest CZK 236.4m in new and existing investment projects in 2022. Basic investments in the production relate to securing raw materials and expanding the range of products. The annual report of the manufacturer and seller of styrene-butadiene rubber and polystyrene plastics also shows that total revenues from contracts with customers for 2021 amounted to CZK 18.31bn. The net profit after taxation was CZK 2.02bn. The result was negatively affected by the COVID-19 epidemic and the increase in the price of CO2 allowances. The company was preparing the construction of a photovoltaic power plant and developing the technological possibilities of polystyrene recycling. Exports were directed mainly to Poland, Italy, Germany and Austria. ■

### KSSE shows turnover of CZK 3.45bn

Friday, September 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Kayaku Safety Systems Europe's (KSSE) net sales for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022, reached CZK 3.45bn. Profit after tax amounted to CZK 406.11m. The results were impacted by a pandemic that caused component shortages in the automotive industry and changed consumer behavior in Europe and around the world. The annual report also shows that the company spent CZK 4.04m on technology development. Key research projects for the coming period include the development of integrated solutions with customers, including the preparation of a production line or new types of Gas Generants. ■

For your notes

## EQUANS digitizes contracts; turnover exceeded CZK 1.5bn

Friday, September 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 2021, EQUANS Services worked on contracts in the fields of energy, industry, construction and building technology. Among the most significant projects are the Příbram substation, the Slivenec and Jih substations, projects for ŠKODA AUTO to create a new infrastructure for e-mobility, or orders in Germany in the petrochemical industry. During the year, the company also devoted itself to the digitization of internal processes, in particular the contract approval workflow, for which test operation was launched. EQUANS Services reported on this in its annual report, stating that it reported a consolidated turnover of CZK 1.55bn and a consolidated operating profit of CZK 15.67m. ■

## Škoda Transportation shows hydrogen bus H\CITY

Friday, September 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Škoda Transportation presented a new hydrogen bus at the InnoTrans trade fair in Berlin. According to the company, the H\CITY, which is powered by fuel cells, is the ideal vehicle for quiet and clean urban mobility. ■

## DS Automobiles presented DS 3 E-Tense in electric version

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

DS Automobiles presented the new DS 3 E-Tense in Paris in a fully electric version with a 115 kW engine and a 54 kWh battery. Thanks to it, the car's range in the combined WLTP cycle reaches 402 km. It also offers new design and technology. The car is produced exclusively in Poissy near Paris, in a version with an electric or internal combustion engine (gasoline or diesel). ■

## SAZKA mobil customers can use 5G network

Friday, September 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

SAZKA mobil offers its clients to take advantage of the possibilities of the 5G network. All they need to do is own a 5G-enabled device. The novelty applies automatically to all customers of prepaid cards and flat-rate tariffs without any extra charge or other restrictions. The virtual operator, which operates on Vodafone's network, made the announcement, adding that the prices of data packages are unchanged and the speed of the 5G network is not limited in any way. Thus, its parameters always depend only on the current load at a given location. Until the end of September, SAZKA mobil is providing 2 GB of data free of charge as a reward for activating a new prepaid SIM card. ■

## Packeta tests HYVIA's hydrogen van in Germany

Friday, September 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Packeta Group, which includes the Czech company Zásilkovna, became one of HYVIA's first partners to test the use of hydrogen in the transport of goods. HYVIA is part of the Renault Group. As part of the cooperation between the two companies, Packeta will test the hydrogen-powered Master Van H2-TECH in Germany for three months. The test run will result in a case study, on the basis of which the two companies will plan the next concrete steps in the development of hydrogen technology. Packeta CEO Simona Kijonková added that the group wants to have a large part of its fleet running on alternative fuels by 2025. ■

## Ukrainian Parimatch Tech builds European centre in Prague

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Ukrainian IT firm Parimatch Tech plans to establish a research and development (R&D) centre in Prague to work on the company's growing portfolio of B2B solutions. Five months ago, the company opened its European centre in the Czech capital, where it moved its staff as a result of the war in Ukraine. The new team has already grown to more than 30 members and is still recruiting. In total, it may recruit up to 50. Parimatch Tech develops technology and marketing solutions for the online entertainment industry. ■

## NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

### Slovak government approved amended deficit budget

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Government of the Slovak Republic has approved an amendment to the Act on the State Budget for 2022. The proposal includes an increase in both income and expenditure by EUR 1.5bn. Increased income due to higher tax collections are mainly the result of inflation. New budget revenues should therefore amount to EUR 21.471bn and expenses to EUR 26.945bn. ■

### MD SR updated construction price methodology

Monday, September 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic (MD) has updated the methodological instruction, thanks to which builders can request price increases for buildings under construction. The new version reacts better to what materials are most often used on construction sites and also better reflects the increase in their prices. Builders have a ready-made automated file available on the MD website, which will help them calculate the value of the increase in the prices of individual building materials. The calculation is based on publicly available data from the Slovak Statistical Office on the prices of building materials. ■

For your notes

**MF SR: Potential for savings in healthcare sector at EUR 483m**

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Value for Money Unit and the Institute for Health Analyzes identified the overall potential for savings in an updated review of health spending. The document presents a number of cost-saving and value-added measures that can be incorporated into the public administration budget for the years 2023-2025. The Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic informed about this, stating that the potential for savings amounts to EUR 483m, of which almost EUR 426m are expenses from public health insurance. From these, savings of EUR 127m can be achieved in 2023. The biggest part is savings from more efficient use of medicines. Among other things, the revision showed that the prices for the provision of magnetic resonance imaging in the Slovak Republic are on average higher than in the Czech Republic, and Slovak patients undergo almost a third more of these examinations than in the V3 countries. ■

**MZ SR: Starting doctors' salaries will increase by EUR 279**

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Government of the Slovak Republic has approved salary increases in health care and ambulances of the emergency medical service. The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (MZ SR) informed about this, stating that after approval by the parliament, the salary evaluation of Slovak health professionals will become competitive within the framework of the V4 countries. For a beginning doctor without specialization and experience, the salary will increase by EUR 279 in gross wage. Doctors with a specialization and experience of twenty or more years will reach a salary of over EUR 3,000 without additional fees. ■

**MF SR: Funding from EU exceeded 61%**

Tuesday, September 27 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

As of August 31, 2022, the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (MF SR) records the drawdown of subsidies at the level of 61.22%, i.e. EUR 8.88bn out of EUR 14.50bn, from the total commitment of 10 operational programs in the period 2014 to 2020. Based on the state of declared expenditure, the milestone in the sense of the N+3 rule in the amount of EUR 1.77bn for 2022 was met for six operational programs. ■

For your notes

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