



Business

Teva to invest in its Czech Ivax Pharmaceuticals division

The Israeli company Teva Pharmaceutical Industrie, the largest global producer of generic drugs, is planning to invest USD 100 million (CZK 1.63 billion) in its Czech division, Ivax Pharmaceuticals s.r.o. (formerly the Opava-based Galeny). Though generic drugs are less expensive than their brand-name counterparts, they have the same or similar effects and thus their popularity and consumption is growing rapidly. Teva is one of the world's twenty biggest drugs producers.

Faerch Plast investing in Liberec

The new factory of Faerch Plast, a Danish manufacturer of plasticware for the food-production industry, should create up to 350 new jobs in Liberec. The company is investing roughly EUR 26.8 million (approx. CZK 670 million) in the factory's

construction. Though the company chose Liberec particularly because of its strategic location, the presence of the local Technical University also played a role in the decision. In order to meet customers' growing requirements, the factory will cover 13,500 m², more than doubling the 6,000 m² that the company currently has available.

Biomedica to produce drugs in the Nymburk region

The pharmaceutical company Biomedica will soon commence production of drugs in Hořátev, in the Nymburk region. The company recently opened a production facility equipped with state-of-the-art technology in the local Technology Park. Total construction costs amounted to nearly CZK 63 million. The project received a grant of CZK 24 million from the European Union Innovation Programme. The company will produce products according to its own formulas. Most of the products, which comprise

drugs, dietary supplements and cosmetic preparations, contain vegetable extracts, oils or vitamins.

"Foxconn Town" to be built in Kutná Hora

Foxconn, a Taiwanese computer manufacture and one of the largest companies in the Czech Republic, is planning to set up a new residential quarter near the industrial zone in Kutná Hora. The new city district will contain flats, a nursery school, healthcare centre, supermarket, and restaurant, and possibly a sports hall or multiplex cinema. Representatives of the company have already presented a detailed study to the Kutná Hora city hall. Other companies, such as the carmaker Hyundai Nošovice, are also building or preparing residences for their workers. However, Foxconn's project bears comparison with the blue-collar quarter associated with Baťa in Zlín or the Škoda Works' pre-war Karlov district in Pilsen.

Printed-circuits producer to set up operations in the industrial zone in Kadaň

Rexxam Czech, a subsidiary of the Japanese firm RyuSyo Industrial, will purchase land in the Královský vrch industrial zone in Kadaň. In the first phase, the company will create 100 new jobs in the plant for producing printed circuits, which will be used in electronics and electrical engineering applications.

LCD producer interested in land near Most

Taipei Electronic, a Taiwanese producer of LCD screens, is interested in land for a manufacturing facility in the Joseph industrial zone near Havraň, in the Most region. The company's business plan involves the creation of 3,000 new jobs. Taipei has undertaken to begin production within a year of receiving the construction permit, and will employ 400 people in the first phase. The Joseph industrial zone is Most's first green-field development site. Besides Taipei Electronic, six other firms are operating in the zone or have shown interest in land there.

Education

New field of study at the Institute of Chemical Technology

From the next academic year, the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague will offer a new study programme, Automotive Materials Chemistry. The school's administration is thus responding to the

growing demand for specialists educated in both chemistry and materials.

Green Energy

Agricultural trade fair highlights biomass

A trio of international agricultural trade fairs – Techagro, Animal Vetex, Silva Regina – taking place in Brno this year will focus on the use of biomass as a source of energy. An accompanying programme of the trade fairs, which will be held at the Brno fair grounds from 6 to 10 April, will focus primarily on biogas stations and anaerobic fermentation of organic waste. This year's trade fairs, which take place once every two years, will be the biggest ever, with the exhibition space increasing by 15%, to 63,000 m², in comparison with 2006.

Coal-fired power plant beneficial for the environment

ČEZ Obnovitelné zdroje has received a positive land-use ruling regarding the construction of a small hydroelectricity plant in Mělník. Construction should begin around the end of the third quarter. The project is interesting particularly because it will use cooling water from a nearby coal-fired power plant. The hydroelectricity plant will have installed output of approx. 500 kW and annual production of roughly 3.5 million kWh. It will be situated on the site of the coal-fired plant next to the cooling-water outlet.

R&D

Pentagon wants Czech scientists

The United States has expressed interest in 15 Czech specialists engaged mainly in high-tech fields such as nanotechnology, information technology, electronics and cybernetics, as well as, for example, theoretical mathematics. The Americans would also like to collaborate with such specialists in the area of information-transfer security. The scientists will receive funding from Washington on the basis of a special contract on the placement of a radar station in Brdy. The Czech academics have already received initial funding. The American Missile Defence Agency has set up a project at the Czech Technical University in Prague to map everything that the Czechs can offer to the Americans. Another project financed with American funding could involve IT research at Masaryk University in Brno. This project involves a special program to protect internet communication against hackers and criminals who attempt to damage or steal classified data. Other fields in the Americans' sights include linguistics, computer vision, biomedical image processing, robotics and radar technology.

Miscellaneous

Prague is Europe's third most attractive city for retailers

Development of the retail network in Prague is

expected to accelerate in coming years. In a ranking of the most attractive European cities to which international retail chains are planning to expand in the next five years, Prague placed third behind Moscow and St. Petersburg. Bratislava placed fourth. These results are derived from research conducted by Cushman & Wakefield.

Twenty Czech firms participated in CeBIT this year

CeBIT, the largest European computer and consumer-electronics trade fair, which took place in Hannover, focused this year on three basic themes – news from the future, connection of the market and the relationship between ecology and information technologies. Over 5,000 exhibitors participated in the trade fair, including twenty Czech firms. As it does every year, CzechInvest presented the Czech Republic as an advantageous location for investment in information technologies.

Prague is the world's 12th most popular city for tourists

Prague is the world's 12th most popular city for tourists, according to the recently published results of a survey conducted by TripAdvisor.com, a major travel portal. New York, Paris and London topped the survey, followed by six European cities, four in the United States and Sydney, Australia. The Czech Republic was followed by, for example, Florence, Vienna, Budapest and Krakow.

Exchange Rates
Averages for March 2008
EUR 1 = 25,221 CZK
GBP 1 = 32,540 CZK
USD 1 = 16,249 CZK
Source: Czech National Bank

Sources: Czech AM by Czech Information Agency, Prague Daily Monitor, Radio Prague, dailies Hospodarske noviny, Pravo, MF Dnes and Lidove noviny

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