

Business and Investment Development Agency CzechInvest

Main objective:

- Advising and supporting entrepreneurs and foreign investors

Activities

Up until recently, the primary task of CzechInvest was to promote the Czech Republic as the ideal target location for foreign investment and to support the inflow of foreign direct investment into the country. On January 2, 2004, a merger with ARP, the Agency for Business Development, and CzechIndustry, the Agency for Industrial Development, brought into existence the 'new' CzechInvest as the Business and Investment Development Agency. Its primary task is now to support and advise entrepreneurs in the Czech Republic. Given the fact, though, that CzechInvest is exclusively authorized to file applications for investment incentives at the competent governing bodies, it will continue to play its crucial role in the field of attracting direct foreign investment. CzechInvest will also continue to provide current data and information on the business and investment environment in the Czech Republic. As a new responsibility, CzechInvest will now act as agency for the implementation of Phare 2003 and selected development programmes funded by the EU.

The merger of the three agencies run by the Ministry for Industry and Trade was ultimately brought about by the amendment of act no. 47/2002 Coll., on the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises. However, given the enormous workload in connection with the upcoming EU accession of the Czech Republic, the three agencies had been working closely together since mid-year 2003 already.

In December 2003, the European Commission approved the Operational Programme, Industry and Enterprise 2004 – 2006' of the Ministry for Industry and Trade, based upon which entrepreneurs will become eligible for financial aid both from Czech funds and from the EU's structural funds. The Ministry prepared this Operational Programme in cooperation with other concerned bodies (other ministries, the Economic Chamber, the Czech Association of Industry and Transport, the Czech-Moravian federation of trade unions, NGOs), drawing upon, and pursuing further, the expressed strategies and objectives of the Czech Republic's industrial policy.

Services provided free of charge

- Business consulting
- Information for small and medium-sized enterprises on how to obtain aids
- Operation of a database of industrial properties
- Supplier support – operation of a database of Czech suppliers
- Implementation of Phare 2003
- Implementation of EU business support programmes
- Assistance in the implementation of investment projects
- Procurement of investment incentives from the state
- AfterCare – services for foreign investors who are already doing business in the Czech Republic
- Reinvestment support

Representatives

Martin Jahn – CEO

Radomil Novák – Deputy CEO for Operational Management

Hana Chlebná – Deputy CEO for Strategic Development

Jana Víšková – Public Relations Officer

Robert Hejzák – Director International and Domestic Marketing

Jan Hanzl – Division Director Investment Support

Zdenek Jana – Division Director Industrial Properties and Regions

Ladislav Pírko – Division Director Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Monika Pospíšilová – Division Director Coordination of Development Programmes

Ludek Nechleba – Division Director Enterprise Development

Additional Information

In March 2004, CzechInvest is going to open 13 regional offices in the individual region capitals; the Central Bohemian region and Prague will be in the competency of a joint office at the headquarters of CzechInvest. The main tasks of the regional office representatives will include providing information on the various existing incentive and support programmes and basic advice, assisting in basic ways with the implementation and administration of European development programmes, and in general facilitating the improvement of the regional business environment.

References

Foreign companies with entrepreneurial activities in the Czech Republic, such as DHL, Honeywell, TPCA, Bosch Diesel, Hartmann-Rico, OSRAM Bruntál, FOXCONN, Symbol Technologies, Panasonic.

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