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Dear Readers,

At the outset, I must sincerely say that both MS Line publishing house and the editorial board of the magazine greatly appreciate the fact that a significant number of Czech defence and security industry companies have chosen the magazine REVIEW and the Security & Defence Technologies Catalogue of the Czech Republic to present their activities in the past year. Out of the approximately 200 companies in the AOBP CR membership base, around 130 companies, equivalent of two-thirds, used the magazine for their presentation. We view this as a reward for our year-round work, and we deeply appreciate it.

On this occasion, I would like to express my gratitude, especially to the Representative Editorial Board, which is truly active, with each member contributing to the high informational value of the content in Review. During the annual meeting in January, almost all branches from the defence and security community were represented: MoFA of the CR, the MoD of the CR, the Mol of the CR, as well as their operational units, including the Army of the Czech Republic, the Czech Police, and the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, along with the Czech Customs Administration, the Czech Prison Service, and the Administration of State Material Reserves of the Czech Republic. Together with top representatives of the industry, they form a unique community, which is in a way unparalleled and original, even outside the Czech Republic.

This is confirmed by our report from the annual meeting and the recognition of the best in the final section of this issue. A big thank you also goes to the Presidium of AOBP CR, the Brno Trade Fairs, the management of FFF, the CIHELNA event, and many others for their excellent collaboration in 2024.

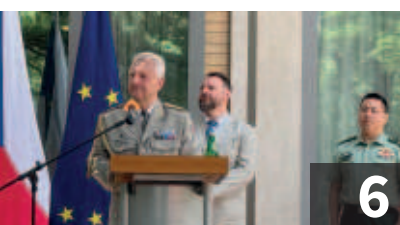
A separate chapter of our publishing house's work is the fresh Security & Defence Technologies Catalogue 2025–2026, the content of which you can learn more about on the pages of this issue. We have also started preparing a specialized publication IDET NEWS, which will be available to all visitors and exhibitors at the IDET, ISET, and PYROS 2025 trade fairs in Brno.

Finally, I must emphasize that the long-standing tradition of Awarding the Best Individuals, Companies, and Products is also maintained, and we return to this topic at the end of this issue.

It is an honour for us that our publishing house and editorial board could, even if in a small way, contribute to the successes of the Czech defence and security industry through nearly thirty years of media support and promotion both domestically and internationally. I believe that our publishing plan for 2025 will fully satisfy everyone who wishes to participate in this communication.



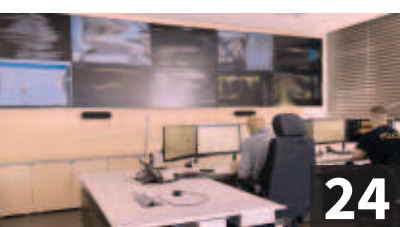
Dipl. Eng. Miloš Soukup
editor-in-chief



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”UNIQUE LIFE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE“

Interview with Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Jaromír Zůna on His Tenure as Defence Attaché in China

At the end of 2024, Lieutenant General (Ret.) Jaromír Zůna concluded his tenure as Defence Attaché to China, Mongolia, and North Korea, marking the culmination of an extraordinary military career spanning several decades. In light of this, we asked him a few questions about China's defence industry.

General, there's probably no better way to start than by asking—how do you reflect on your time in China?

My time in China was a truly unique experience, both personally and professionally. Few members of the Czech Armed Forces have had the opportunity to serve in such a role. Given my military background—both domestically and abroad—the prestigious institutions I was fortunate to attend, and the unusually high rank I held upon my appointment, I was well positioned to gain a deep insight into China's environment.

I didn't step into the role unprepared. After completing my studies in international rela-

tions in 2016, I began seriously studying China—though at the time, I had no idea how relevant it would become. In 2018, I led the last Czech Armed Forces delegation to visit China under the "Good Will Visit" programme. My previous experience with the party-political structures of the former Czechoslovak People's Army also proved invaluable, helping me navigate the official texts published about the People's Liberation Army (PLA), both in China and abroad.

Throughout my time in China, I remained pragmatic. I couldn't afford to be clouded by ideological biases—that would have only led to misinterpretations and, ultimately, failure in my role. This was especially important

given that, diplomatically speaking, relations between our countries remain complex.

Since our conversation focuses on defence and security, I'd like to frame it with three strategic perspectives on China. There is an old saying: Mao Ce-tung unified the country, Deng Xiaoping modernized it, and Xi Jinping made it strong. In international relations, economic power enables military strength, which in turn enhances diplomatic influence—ultimately securing strategic advantages.

From a geopolitical standpoint, Northeast Asia is the only region where the United States could potentially lose its status as a global superpower. Most experts agree that



by the middle of this century, China will have the world's largest economy and, accordingly, military strength to match. As a result, it is systematically building a global strategic framework, ensuring it can leverage all instruments of state power to effectively pursue its interests in a multipolar world.

China's Military Modernisation: The Driving Forces Behind Its Transformation

China's large-scale military modernization has drawn significant attention. What was the main catalyst behind such a decisive push to modernize the People's Liberation Army (PLA)?

The primary driver has been the security shocks of the past three decades. Chinese military strategists have meticulously studied the conduct of operations such as Desert Storm, Allied Force, and Iraqi Freedom. These conflicts served as a wake-up call, demonstrating that future warfare would be dominated by information superiority and cutting-edge technology—both of which enable battlefield initiative and dominance.

In response, China has focused on developing strategies like active defence, doctrines for geographically limited conflicts in the information age, and methods to dismantle an

adversary's operational system. The transformation of the PLA began in 2015, with a roadmap to complete full modernization by 2035 and establish a "world-class" military by 2050.

By 2025, China is expected to have completed the first phase of this transformation, which involved restructuring command-and-control systems, reorganising military structures, and advancing informatization. These changes have laid the organisational groundwork for the next phase—lasting until 2035—which will focus on modernization, optimisation, and operational readiness.

However, understanding China's approach to security requires an appreciation of its strategic thinking. The country's security doctrine is historically rooted in the philosophy of active defence. The military and other security forces primarily serve an internal function, with operations short of war remaining one of their core responsibilities. The evolution of the global security landscape has shifted the military's focus towards informatization and the development of naval and air power.

Chinese military literature also highlights that the country's mobilisation system has now reached a level of preparedness that allows the PLA to maintain its current size while

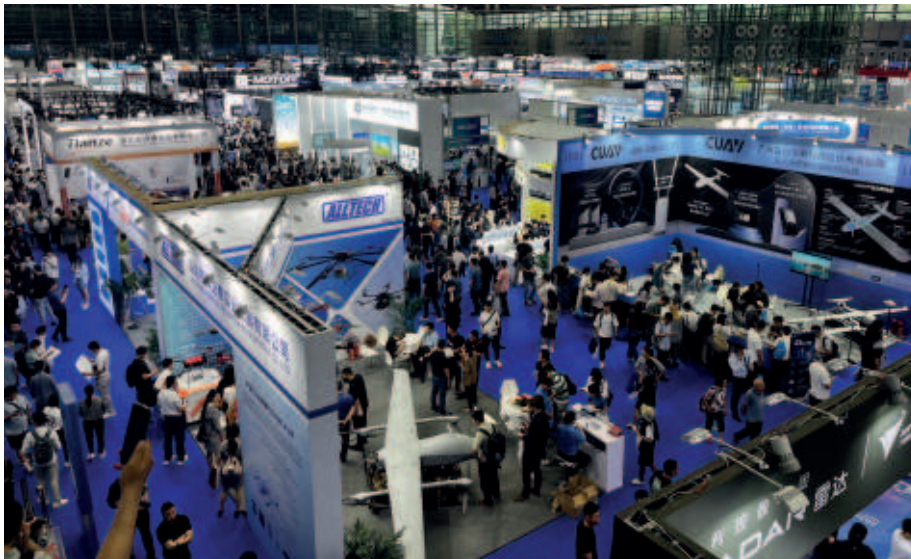
prioritising qualitative improvements in its force structure. This shift reflects China's broader ambition to shape a modern, highly capable military force, ready to assert its interests in an increasingly multipolar world.

The Scale and Structure of China's Defence Industry

The rapid modernization of the PLA at this scale and pace would be impossible without a vast industrial base and a robust defence sector. When we talk about China's arms industry, what exactly are we referring to?

Even the most minimal depiction of China's defence industrial base requires examples to illustrate its scale. Major global powers have dedicated research institutions specialising in various aspects of China's defence industry, examining its economic, legislative, and commercial dimensions, which together form a cohesive system.

To begin with, it is important to note that China does not operate a traditional military-industrial complex in the way the term is often used. While this phrase appears in media and government documents worldwide, it is usually framed ideologically rather than factually. Serious analytical institutions avoid this term, instead referring to China's **defence and**



security industry—a sector designed primarily to support strategic interests while contributing to overall economic stability. This structure provides several advantages for the Chinese state, including the accelerated modernization of the PLA.

The sheer scale of China's defence industry is staggering. Consider **AVIC (Aviation Industry Corporation of China)**—one of ten state-owned industrial conglomerates. In terms of size, production capacity, and output, AVIC is comparable to Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Sikorsky, segments of Boeing and Raytheon, and nearly the entire U.S. aerospace industrial base combined.

Meanwhile, **NORINCO (China North Industries Group Corporation)**, which specialises in ground-force weapon systems, employs over **one million people** and consists of **around 100 companies**, half of which are dedicated research institutes.

When it comes to logistics, **China Xinxing Import & Export Co. Ltd.** is the **largest provider of logistical support equipment and materials in the world**, operating **54 subsidiaries** with **180,000 employees**. Together with **CATIC (China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation)** and **Poly Group Corporation**, these companies are among the dominant players in China's defence and security sector, handling the export of military equipment.

Yet, these are just a few examples. China has **ten** major state-owned conglomerates forming the backbone of its defence industry, surrounded by **thousands of suppliers and service providers**. For instance, the **unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) sector alone** consists of approximately **20,000 companies**, and it continues to expand. China has projected that by **2024, the global UAV market will reach \$60 billion**, with China alone accounting for **\$30 billion**, largely

driven by advancements in low-altitude economy initiatives.

Fundamentally, China faces no significant barriers that could slow the development of its defence and security industry. To summarise, China's **defence sector thrives on a centrally managed, structurally consolidated system**, bolstered by **extraordinary capacities in research, development, and innovation**. It benefits from a highly skilled workforce, with the Chinese state prioritising **steady, methodical progress over erratic bursts of production** aimed at fulfilling short-term demands. This long-term approach ensures sustained technological and industrial growth, further reinforcing China's position as a global defence powerhouse.

Could you provide an example of how the Chinese arms industry impacts the modernization of the military in practical terms?

Given that this is a current topic here, a fitting example might be the synthetic heavy brigade of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Ground Force (PLAGF). It can be considered equivalent to a heavy brigade combat team found in allied armies. The synthetic brigade is made up of a permanent organisational structure, including four heavy mixed battalions (three tank companies, two mechanised companies; one artillery battery, one combat support company, one logistics company), one artillery regiment, one reconnaissance battalion, one combat support battalion, one logistics battalion, one air defence regiment, along with additional combat support and combat service support units. In total, this amounts to about 6,000 soldiers.

However, what truly matters here is the combat capability of the brigade. This is where the focus lies on how one approaches the conceptual issues surrounding military construction. A quarter-century ago, the trend was defined by the Objective Force concept, centred on the future combat system. At that time, I worked at the US TRADOC headquarters, which was developing this concept. A significant portion of this concept can be found in the synthetic brigade of the PLAGF. It particularly involves crewed and autonomous weapon systems in manoeuvre units and combat support units, direct fire



artillery (both towed and rocket artillery), crewed and autonomous air defence systems, a high degree of informatization, the ability to conduct electronic warfare, and armoured vehicles (including infantry fighting vehicles and tanks) equipped with UAVs, as well as systems to counter enemy UAVs, alongside other advanced weaponry. The brigade is capable of conducting combat operations in a unified armoured formation, using fire manoeuvre and battlefield mobility.

In defence publications, it's stated that the value of this heavy synthetic brigade's weaponry is about 20 billion yuan, which is roughly the cost of an infantry fighting vehicle contract for the 7th mechanised brigade. Of course, this figure can't be verified, but it offers a useful reference point. I believe this example paints a clear picture of the direction in which the entire PLAGF is modernising. However, it also teaches us something important: while our own Objective Force/Future Combat System concept is still just a paper plan after 25 years, the PLAGF already has these capabilities.

What opportunities might this development create for our defence and security industries, and is there any real chance of breaking into the Chinese market?

Major global companies are already operating in China, participating in international exhibitions, collaborating on joint projects, and even holding stakes in Chinese companies. There is a wealth of studies available that explore this in detail. These studies often conclude that the idea of isolating oneself



from Chinese industrial production is difficult to implement. That said, this is a politically sensitive area, so every commercial activity must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The Chinese defence industry is highly competitive, and the market is saturated with top-tier technological products. For our defence industry, it's less about penetrating the Chinese market and more about ensuring our products are competitive against China's offerings on the international stage. China has shifted its previous strategy. Unlike in the past when it mainly offered long-established military equipment, it now presents the latest innovations from its arms industry. China is also increasingly supplying complete military capabilities, including both hardware and materials for entire military units. This shift in policy was evident at the 2024 Zhuhai Airshow. It's also not unusual for China's largest companies, some of which I've already mentioned, to have vast portfolios that

extend into civil production, such as large infrastructure projects. This bolsters their position when negotiating military equipment deals with potential customers.

Another key factor is China's ability to swiftly execute commercial deals, thanks to its industrial capacity and raw material resources. If favourable political conditions exist, there could be numerous opportunities for cooperation with our businesses, including partnerships on third-country markets.

The conclusion of your mission in China also marked the end of your exceptionally long and varied military career. How did you experience the coincidence of these two significant moments in your life and career?

As I've always said, I joined the military modestly, and I left it in the same way. That's exactly what happened. My experience in China enriched me both personally and professionally, but I think that chapter has now closed. There hasn't been any real interest in using that experience. Right up until the end, I wasn't preoccupied with the mission's conclusion or my retirement from the military. I was focused on my work until the very last moment. At 22:05, I simply said to my colleague, "We're done, close the office, turn off the lights, and let's go." By 23:00, we were saying goodbye to the team by the car and heading to the airport. Foreign assignments can be done in many ways, but this is always the approach I've chosen.

Author: Miloš Soukup

Photo: Jaromír Žůna and amb. CR



Lt. Gen. Jaromír Žůna and his wife Hana, along with the UK Defence Attaché, Air Commodore Dom Stamp, and his wife Sheena.



THE CLOUDED FUTURE OF INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN DEFENCE

MBDA

The arrival of the newly re-elected American president, Donald Trump, in the White House signals a fundamental shift in American foreign and security policy. Washington's autonomous approach to ending the conflict in Ukraine and its direct dealings with Russia, without European involvement, marks a tectonic change in transatlantic relations.

A month after his inauguration, members of Donald Trump's administration brought a clear message to Europe: "America First" strategy means pursuing American objectives on a global scale, regardless of European allies, who should no longer expect the protection of the American defence umbrella. At the Munich Security Conference, European leaders experienced a strategic shock, and the tears of conference chairman Christoph Heusgen at its conclusion vividly highlighted the end of an era in transatlantic relations.

The new US Secretary of Defence, Pete Hegseth, outlined in February during a meeting of the so-called Ramstein Group—countries supporting Ukraine—the clear contours of the European role within NATO. He stated that European allies must take responsibility for conventional security so the US can focus on competing with China. As a result, their military spending must rise to five percent of GDP. The prospect of withdrawing most US soldiers from Europe and (perhaps) gradually reducing military capacities that Europe

lacks—such as long-range reconnaissance, intelligence, air-to-air refuelling, missile systems, and long-range bombers—may soon be on the horizon.

The question now is whether Trump's "shock therapy" will prompt accelerated European self-reflection, and whether the 27 European Union members will be able to take steps towards creating true European strategic security and defence autonomy, potentially even with the prospect of an "European Army."

What is Europe's starting position? NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte mentioned that the upcoming NATO summit in The Hague will discuss increasing defence spending among member states to 3.5 percent of GDP. However, this is unlikely to happen immediately; current plans suggest first reaching 2.5 percent of GDP, with the goal of 3 percent by the end of the decade.

The reality today is that of NATO's 32 member countries, 23 achieved 2 percent of GDP on defence last year. However, countries like Italy

and Spain will be missing from this group, and the UK is not in an ideal position either. "The UK cannot reach 2.5 per cent of GDP," said an unnamed senior British military official. Currently, the UK spends 2.3 per cent of its GDP on defence. Low economic growth and excessive deficits limit the room for increasing defence spending in countries like Italy, France, and Germany. Poland, with its 4.7 per cent of GDP on defence, is an exception to the rule—holding fast to Jarosław Kaczyński's mantra that it is better to be in debt than occupied. The Czech Republic also reached the 2 per cent defence spending target last year, and Prime Minister Petr Fiala has stated that 3 per cent is achievable by 2030.

It should also be noted that if we total the defence spending of all EU member states, it currently amounts to €320 billion, which is not insignificant when compared to Russia and China's military expenditure. The real question, however, is the efficiency of this spending and the ability to translate it into enhanced European military capabilities. This remains a significant issue.



At the beginning of March, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen unveiled a five-point plan to "rearm Europe" (ReArm Europe). According to her, this initiative could unlock approximately €800 billion (£685 billion) for defence. A key element of the plan is a proposal to relax the EU's budgetary rules, allowing member states to increase defence investments without facing penalties for excessive deficits.

However, renowned analyst and commentator Wolfgang Münchau warns that if EU nations are serious about ramping up defence spending, they will face a difficult dilemma: either raising taxes or cutting social expenditures. And that, without a doubt, is a politically explosive issue.

This holds true for Europe's two strongest powers—Germany and France. Although French President Emmanuel Macron frequently speaks about the need to strengthen European defence, he is losing political influence at home, and two years before the end of his term, he is increasingly seen as a "lame duck." Germany's parliamentary elections revealed that the political centre has dissolved, and the new government may be as unstable as the previous one. Thus, parties like Marine Le Pen's National Rally and Alternative for Germany are waiting for their chance.



It remains true, however, that the development of the defence industry can contribute to the continent's economic growth and, consequently, to social stability, with its significance rapidly increasing in the context of the war in Ukraine. Following the EU summit on European defence on 3rd February, Prime Minister Petr Fiala stated that "we must support the European defence industry, which is very strong in the Czech Republic. This not only aligns with our security interests but also with our economic interests." Increased investments in defence, he said, help boost EU competitiveness, create jobs, and support the economy. "At the same time, bureaucracy must be reduced, joint procurement simplified, and coordination strengthened across Europe in military acquisitions," he added.

However, this will be a long and complicated journey. For the EU, and with the newly established European Commissioner for Defence and Space, it is crucial that the European defence industry, unlike the United States, is not hindered by various regulations (including "green" ones). French Admiral Pierre Vandalier, head of NATO's Allied Command Transformation, told Politico that "Europe cannot win the future arms race with the rules, it has set for itself." According to the ad-



miral, the primary obstacle European arms manufacturers face is excessive regulation.

Another significant issue is the fragmentation of the entire European defence market. This hampers the creation of a cost-effective

rearmament strategy across the continent. It is clear that a more integrated market for defence products would lead to greater economies of scale, which could result in lower prices and a better state of preparedness.



Former President of the European Central Bank and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, in his report on the future of European competitiveness, also recommends that EU member states prioritise the purchase of weapons from their own defence industries and work to overcome the fragmentation of the defence market on the continent. According to Draghi, this would strengthen the scale of weapons companies, thereby consolidating the industrial base of defence. In simple terms, larger companies can more efficiently ensure the production and servicing of a broader range of weapons and weapon systems, as well as the capacity for their development. As the war in Ukraine has demonstrated, coverage of munitions production is also crucial.

The "reach" of companies such as the Czech holding Czechoslovak Group, which has a wide portfolio of firms in the Czech Republic, EU member states, and beyond, also reduces the risks associated with dependence on supply chains. Even the latest acquisition by Czechoslovak Group in the United States—the purchase of Kinetic Group's sporting goods and weapons division from Vista Outdoor—helps maintain the transatlantic partnership line despite changes in US policy towards Europe.

Author: Miloš Balabán, Chairman, Prague Security Conference, z. s.

Photo: MoD CR, MBDA, Rafael, STV Group, Review archive

Author's Supplement at the End

The End of NATO on the Horizon? We Must Consider This Possibility

Today marks 26 years since the Czech Republic joined the North Atlantic Alliance. Just ten years after the pivotal year of 1989, the country became a member of the world's strongest security organization, led by the United States, which at the time was at the peak of its global power. This membership provided a strong security guarantee for a country that had lost its sovereignty twice in the 20th century. Few in the Czech Republic could have imagined that NATO's existence might be in jeopardy a quarter of a century later.

However, the dynamics of global developments gradually brought changes to Ameri-



can politics. During his first presidency, Donald Trump sent clear signals that Europe was a "free rider" in NATO at America's expense. In 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron surprised many with his statement about NATO's "brain death," primarily due to unilateral U.S. and Turkish policies that disregarded allied interests. He even questioned the effectiveness of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which guarantees mutual assistance. Although Macron faced strong criticism, in some ways, he may have had a point.

However, Russia's invasion of Ukraine breathed new life into the alliance. A clear enemy led to aligned security priorities. Ukraine received massive support. Sweden and Finland abandoned their neutrality, and by joining NATO, they changed the strategic situation in Northern Europe.

Yet, three years into the war, the situation is completely different. Paradoxically, with Donald Trump's return to the White House, Ukraine is becoming the trigger for a loosening of transatlantic security cooperation. Trump is evidently focused on a "concert of great powers," leading to a division of spheres of geopolitical influence. For him, Russia is not primarily an enemy but rather a potential partner. Ukraine's fate is not a priority for him. This was confirmed by the rare joint U.S.-Russia vote against a UN General Assembly resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

According to former chairman of the Munich Security Conference Wolfgang Ischinger, the

meeting between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Trump, along with U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance, in the White House brought the Western alliance to a "grim moment of truth."

European leaders can no longer be certain whether the Americans still stand by NATO. Former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO forces in Europe, Admiral James Stavridis, warned Europeans in an article on Bloomberg last week that they must prepare for the end of the alliance, even though he found it difficult to write. He even proposed creating a "European Treaty Organization", which could serve as an alternative to NATO without the U.S. but with Canada.

In any case, Europe is now forced to build its own defence on the fly. This will be highly challenging, including for the Czech Republic. The new realities demand a reassessment of long-standing positions and procedures. Simply increasing the military budget will not be enough; diplomatic responsiveness must also be enhanced.

(Published in the daily Právo, March 12, 2025)





INTERVIEW WITH COLONEL DAVID MARTÍNEK, DIRECTOR OF JCBRN DEFENCE COE

The Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence (JCBRN Defence COE), based in the Czech Republic, is one of the key Alliance organisation focused on protection against weapons of mass destruction. Next year, the Centre will celebrate 20 years of existence, throughout which it has become one of NATO's leading Centres of Excellence. Under the direction of Colonel David Martinek, it is dedicated not only to doctrinal development and training, but also to research into emerging threats and technological innovations. The current geopolitical situation and technological advances bring new challenges, to which the Centre is responding by strengthening Alliance cooperation, expanding its expert capabilities and organising specialised training programmes and exercises.

INTRODUCTION TO JCBRN DEFENCE COE

Since this is the first contribution of the JCBRN Defence COE to the *Review for the Defence and Security Industry* magazine, could you briefly summarize the functions of this institution for our readers?

JCBRN Defence COE is an international military organization located in the Czech Republic, focusing on the field of protection against weapons of mass destruction (CBRN defence). It is the first such center in the Czech Republic and provides support for transforming this area within NATO, primarily in cooperation with Allied Command Transformation (ACT) in Norfolk. Its main goal is to contribute to the development of

defence capabilities, explore new areas of development, and provide expert advices.

The center's activities are based on four key pillars defined by NATO policy, including Doctrine Development & Standardization, Concept Development & Experimentation, Lessons Learned, and Education & Training. Additionally, we provide operational support known as reachback, which offers expert advice on technical or scientific matters related to CBRN defence.

Our center was founded in 2006, so next year we will celebrate our 20th anniversary. Currently, 14 countries are involved, 13 of which are NATO members, and Austria functions as a partner country. The countries involved are the Czech Republic as the host country, Ger-

many, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Italy, Hungary, Greece, France, the UK, Canada, and the United States. More information is available on our official website.

Are there any countries currently being discussed for joining this initiative? If so, what would their inclusion bring?

Currently, the center includes 13 NATO member countries, meaning there are still many from the total of 32 allied countries that could join the initiative. Not every country prioritizes the field of CBRN defence; however, some have strong capacities in this area, and their inclusion would be beneficial. Discussions are ongoing with established NATO members, but the current focus of the center is primarily on new Alliance members, espe-



cially Sweden and Finland, but also the Baltic states. The process of joining depends on the decisions of individual governments and typically takes at least two years.

The entry of new countries would bring several significant benefits. First and foremost, it would expand personnel capacity, which is crucial, as there are many tasks and limited human resources, especially in light of current security challenges. Another important benefit would be the sharing of experiences from individual countries. Even though NATO defines general policy for CBRN defence, the practical implementation often differs at the tactical level depending on specific equipment and established procedures in each country. Membership of the mentioned countries would provide direct access to their research findings, strengthening the exchange of information and the development of new defence measures.

According to the JCBRN Defence COE website, the center also conducts outreach activities. How does JCBRN Defence COE contribute to the professional preparation and training of Czech military and civilian personnel? Are there any seminars or conferences planned in the near future that professionals in the Czech defence or security sectors could participate in?

An important aspect of the education and training at our center is the cooperation between military and civilian components, which is crucial because most crisis situations related to CBRN threats affect both sectors

alike. Therefore, we create space in our courses for the exchange of experiences between these groups. A great example is our collaboration with the Czech Fire Rescue Service, whose modern training facility in Brno we use for the practical part of our courses. Some of these courses are also open to civilian experts, particularly first responders and healthcare personnel. Our educational activities are not limited to the Czech Republic but are available to NATO member States and partner countries. We cooperate with NATO Headquarters in Brussels, and as part of partner programs, we organize training both at our center and through mobile training teams directly in partner countries.

We are not an organization that offers specific products or technologies, but as part of our activities, we monitor technological development and keep track of new trends to understand their potential benefits and risks. An example of this is the use of drones, which can become part of both defence measures and potential threats if equipped with spraying devices. Regarding seminars and conferences, at the end of May, we are organizing a new initiative called *Industry Integration Days*. The goal of this format is not only to promote collaboration between industry and military experts but also to create a platform for mutual sharing of experiences and innovations. In the first phase, the event will focus on technologies for the detection, identification, and monitoring of chemical substances. Soldiers from different countries will have the opportunity to test these devices practically and then provide feedback directly to the

manufacturers. The entire event is international, and participation is open to all relevant companies involved in CBRN defence technologies.

Is this outreach mainly for the authorities you already cooperate with, or also for the (expert) public?

Industry Integration Days is the first event of its kind, so we will evaluate its success afterward and decide based on the results whether and how we will expand it in the future. Due to security risks, however, it is not possible to fully open the event to the general public. A similar development occurred with our annual conference held in October. Initially, it was a closed event for specially invited experts only, but with increasing interest, we have gradually opened it up more. Nevertheless, we emphasize the quality of the discussions—fewer participants allow for greater interaction and deeper exchange of experiences. Our conferences are not just about lectures, but primarily about active debate between panelists and the audience, which would not be possible to maintain in a larger format.

You also mention on the same source that cooperation with military and civilian entities includes sharing knowledge related to political and legal influences. Is your position political or legal?

The center's position can be divided into two levels. The first concerns the participation of countries in the organization. Each

country has its own rules for sending soldiers to international structures, usually approved by the government or parliament. Therefore, the entry of a new member state is not a decision made by an individual, but by national authorities. The second level concerns the center's role in political and legal issues. JCBRN Defence COE is an expert platform that helps identify problems and propose possible solutions. We respond to technological and security developments by analyzing their impacts and making recommendations. This also includes legal aspects, such as projects concerning the use of nuclear weapons in self-defence situations. Our job is to highlight potential issues and suggest ways to address them, but final decisions remain with political, diplomatic, and military bodies.

COLLABORATION WITH THE CZECH DEFENCE AND SECURITY SECTOR AND THE SITUATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

How do you currently cooperate with the Czech defence or security sector and its companies?

This collaboration is primarily based on expert interaction. Our center reaches out to companies at various opportunities, such as conferences and exhibitions, where we offer them the opportunity to present their results. An important part of our support also involves navigation within NATO structures. We help companies direct their activities towards the Joint CBRN Defence Capability Development Group, which deals with the development of defence capabilities. Here, companies can have the chance to showcase their products and technologies to representatives from member and partner countries. Thanks to our experience, we can advise companies on who to approach and how to proceed to effectively engage in discussions about developing capabilities within NATO.

Additionally, several projects are currently underway within NATO and the European Union. Our center is active in the NATO Science and Technology Organization and is currently involved in eight projects. The involvement of companies in these initiatives depends on their ability to become part of the problem-solving teams. The European Union offers broader opportunities for the defence and security industry, especially due

to greater availability of financial resources. Although our center primarily focuses on NATO, we monitor developments in the EU and also collaborate on several European projects.

Is there any talk within the EU, including the Czech Republic, about increasing the defence percentage? If the increase happens, would it affect your workplace?

An increase in the Czech Republic's defence budget would not directly affect our center because the financing of the JCBRN Defence COE depends on contributions from our member states, not the national budgets of individual countries. The amount of these contributions is determined based on planned projects, events, and the overall development of the center. However, if member states, including the Czech Republic, had more resources available, they could, for example, send more experts, which would increase our capacity, and in such a case, we could request a larger budget. Our center always requests only the financial resources that are actually needed and usable, and each member state has an overview of how the funds are being spent.

GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION

Have you noticed any changes in the functioning of the JCBRN Defence COE and its agenda due to the current geopolitical situation (e.g., the war in Ukraine, the change in the U.S. approach to international relations with the election of Donald Trump as president)? Do you think Europe will change its strategies regarding protection against weapons of mass destruction?

The current geopolitical situation, especially the war in Ukraine, significantly affects the functioning of our center. Increasing security threats have led to higher demands for cybersecurity, and we have observed an increased interest in our activities from both allies and opponents. For example, in 2022, much of our expert support focused on scenario analyses related to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Another key topic is the use of new technologies such as drones and their potential impact on CBRN defence, not only from a defence perspective but also regarding their potential misuse.

As for changes in the USA and their possible impact on our center, we do not expect a direct effect, as we are not governed by a single state but by 14 member countries. The question is whether a shift in U.S. policy would lead to the withdrawal of some U. S. units from Europe, which could also affect the presence of American specialists in our organization. On the other hand, this development could motivate Europe to pursue greater autonomy in defence policy and higher investments in its own defence capacities.

European strategy regarding CBRN defence has been changing in recent years. In 2022, NATO adopted a new concept that focuses more on building real defence capabilities and preparedness for conventional conflicts rather than terrorist threats, while emphasizing the development of technologies, cooperation between the civilian and military sectors, and enhancing public resilience. Raising awareness about CBRN threats is key because the public often falls for myths associated with, for example, nuclear weapons. Education in this area should be part of a broader strategy, similar to Finland, where people are systematically prepared for crisis situations. Societal resilience is not just about defence capabilities, but also about individuals' ability to respond to crisis situations, whether they involve military conflict, power outages, or natural disasters.

How would you describe the current global situation in terms of threats from weapons of mass destruction? In an earlier interview, you mentioned new challenges like the use of drones in warfare. How do these phenomena affect the work of your organization? Is artificial intelligence a topic for you? Does it pose a threat or rather an assistant, for example, in threat assessment?

The threat of weapons of mass destruction remains, and in some aspects, it is even increasing, despite expectations that chemical weapons would gradually be eliminated. Nuclear weapons, in particular, are playing an increasingly prominent role in international politics. The current rhetoric of certain states, especially Russia, creates a dangerous precedent where nuclear arsenals become instruments of blackmail, strengthening the belief that owning these weapons guarantees inviolability. This may lead to other countries seeking to acquire them.

Modern technologies accelerate this development, whether through the use of drones or artificial intelligence. Drones have become a common part of modern warfare, and their potential in CBRN defence is twofold – they can be used for both detecting and monitoring threats and for spreading them. Artificial intelligence can also speed up the development of dangerous technologies, including weapons systems, chemical and biological agents, or nuclear components. On the other hand, AI offers possibilities for more efficient threat analysis, the development of decontamination procedures, or processing vast amounts of data.

The use of AI at our facility is currently limited because security risks predominate, particularly due to unclear handling of sensitive information. In the future, AI could offer significant benefits if closed systems are developed that ensure data protection while still enabling effective use of analytical capabilities.

Have weapons of mass destruction been used in Ukraine? What factors could influence their broader deployment?

Chemical weapons have already been used in Ukraine, although not with lethal substances in the traditional sense. Irritant agents are often used to force soldiers to leave their trenches, making them more vulnerable to other attacks, such as artillery. This demonstrates that, despite international agreements, the use of chemical weapons remains a reality in modern conflicts.

Another serious issue is the attacks on nuclear power plants. While these facilities are secure, there is a risk of radiation leakage in the case of direct military threats. In the case of Russia, it is more of a strategy of coercion.

Regarding the risk of broader use of weapons of mass destruction, chemical weapons are more likely due to their locally limited effects and easier integration into tactical warfare. Nuclear weapons, on the other hand, represent a much greater strategic decision with global implications. Each country with a nuclear arsenal has its doctrine on their use. Russia recently adjusted its doctrine, and the new version no longer conditions the use of nuclear weapons only in response to a nuclear attack but also in response to any at-

tack on Russia. This raises questions about where Russia defines its territory. If Russia were to use nuclear weapons in any capacity, it would represent a significant escalation of the conflict.

CONCLUSION

You have been in your role since 2020 according to available sources. How do you assess your work so far, and what are your current goals and plans as the director of the organization? What are the current biggest challenges for the workplace, and what has been achieved?

I will leave the assessment of my work to my superiors and subordinates, but from the beginning, I had a clear vision: to advance the organization not only technologically but also in terms of its approach and work style. I strive for our center to not only provide analyses but also concrete solutions and recommendations. I want JCBRN Defence COE to be able to think innovatively and quickly adapt to the rapidly changing world. The current situation shows that we are in a new form of Cold War, with China becoming a key player on the global stage, and so on. My goal is to keep the organization at the forefront of development and ensure that it is always one step ahead, ready for future challenges.

Among the biggest challenges are personnel issues, and a key task in this regard is maintaining quality staff and expanding cooperation with other countries. The most recent country to join the center was Canada in 2018, and it has not yet been possible to expand the membership base. Talks are ongoing, but filling key positions in NATO structures for new NATO members is a priority. Therefore, it is important to make our workplace more attractive, not only in terms of professional growth but also as a place where valuable experiences for NATO can be gained.

At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that the center remains stable and capable of fulfilling its tasks in the coming years. If we succeed in strengthening its international representation, we will be able to expand activities and respond better to new challenges. My vision is clear – JCBRN Defence COE must be an organization that not only follows current trends but can anticipate the future and respond to it effectively.



Would you like to add anything or provide any final thoughts?

I would like to perhaps call for greater support from the Czech Republic. It is important to realize that our organization is the first of its kind in the Czech Republic, working for NATO and representing a significant opportunity for the Czech army as well. I would like to emphasize that our center is not only composed of CBRN experts. It also includes experts from the fields of information technology, security, logistics, administration, and other areas. This means that our activities are not only beneficial to foreign partners but also to the Czech Republic, which hosts the center, invests in it, and gains international credit from it.

We have long been striving for a high level of our work, and we are regarded as one of the best Centre of Excellence. I dare say we rank among the top ten. The feedback we receive from HQ ACT and various experts confirms our quality. However, I am saddened that the recognition for our work primarily comes from abroad, while in the Czech Republic, our contributions are not as widely recognized yet.

*Thank you for the interview,
Adriana Jesenská*

Photo: JCBRN Defence COE



INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SSHR, PAVEL ŠVAGR

The administration of state material reserves plays a crucial role in ensuring crisis supplies – from food for the army to fuel and equipment for managing emergencies. In an interview, the Chairman of the Administration State Material Reserves, Pavel Švagr, discusses current challenges, innovations in the field of crisis management, and how the state is preparing for unexpected situations.

Mr. Chairman, the SSHR plays a key role in ensuring supplies for crisis situations. What is the situation with daily food rations for the army?

The current model, where we procure daily food rations to increase food security, and the Army takes them for its own needs, is very effective. Of course, ensuring these supplies is a priority for us. We are currently working on adjusting the specifications to better meet the soldiers' needs in the field. It is not only about ensuring sufficient caloric intake but also the balance of the daily ration's composition. Ensuring a long shelf life is important, but we also need to meet current nutritional requirements. We are addressing innovations, such as self-heating meals, which do not require an external heat source, which is a great advantage for soldiers in the field. We want the daily rations we procure to provide enough energy, be tasty, and be practical for use in demanding conditions.

What is the situation with fuel supplies for the army? Why is military diesel still supplied without a bio-additive?

Fuel for the army must meet strict technical requirements. The main reason we continue to supply diesel without a bio-additive is its longer shelf life and reliability in extreme conditions. Biofuels tend to degrade the long-term stability of the fuel, which could

lead to technical issues with military equipment in the event of a crisis. We maintain the highest quality diesel reserves to ensure it is ready for immediate use at any time. This is crucial for both domestic operations and deployment in foreign missions.

Floods are one of the most frequent crises that the Czech Republic has to respond to. What is the role of the SSHR in managing them?

In general, floods are just one of the possible crises that need to be prepared for. For example, based on last year's floods, we are planning to expand our supplies with new temporary bridges with higher load capacity and the possibility of two-way traffic. These will allow for the rapid restoration of transportation in affected areas. Additionally, we plan to procure modernized water tankers with new chassis so that municipalities can easily move them as needed. We also place a strong emphasis on energy independence during crises. Therefore, we plan to buy modern generators with voltage regulation, and we are also planning to acquire handling equipment, tractors, and mobile units for temporary housing for families who lose their homes. The items in our warehouses are state-owned, and these supplies are immediately ready for delivery based on the state's decision to the site of any extraordinary event. This, in simplified terms, protects people's safety and health and helps reduce

property damage. These are, after all, the attributes that citizens expect from the state.

What are the biggest obstacles in effective crisis management?

The answer can be multifaceted, from the need for well-trained and stable staff, who should also be well-paid, to having sufficient financial resources for continuous modernization and purchasing additional equipment and supplies for reserves to respond quickly to the needs of today and potential crises. Unfortunately, these challenges are not decreasing, and it can be expected that this will apply in the coming years as well. Of course, we also deal with very practical matters. For example, in crisis situations, you need to ensure long-term continuous operation of our warehouses and smooth movement of equipment, which hits our current staffing levels, but also legislative restrictions on warehouse workers' and especially drivers' working hours, and this complicates logistics. Therefore, we are not only trying to renew equipment and replenish supplies, but also looking for ways to increase the efficiency of crisis management to ensure that in the event of floods or other emergencies, we can respond quickly and effectively where it is most needed. There are many challenges and tasks ahead, and they will need to be solved gradually.

*Eva Soukupová thanked for the interview
Photo: SSHR*



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TACTICAL NETWORKS IN HARSH ENVIRONMENTS: ADVANCED SOLUTIONS

Tactical networks are essential for modern military and emergency response operations, providing secure and reliable communication in challenging and dynamic environments. These networks are designed to support the transfer of data, voice, and video between mobile and stationary units, even under extreme conditions such as adverse weather, vibrations, or physical impacts. Their resilience and adaptability are key to mission success, ensuring uninterrupted connectivity regardless of operational complexity.

Advanced tactical network solutions integrate cutting-edge technologies with robust design, delivering high-speed, secure, and resilient communication infrastructure. These solutions are critical for defence, security, and industrial applications where operational reliability and safety cannot be compromised.

Tactical network solutions offer enhanced mobility and flexibility by seamlessly connecting mobile and stationary units, ensuring consistent communication across various operational scenarios. High-level security is ensured through advanced encryption technologies and secure protocols that protect sensitive data and critical operations. These

solutions are designed to withstand extreme weather conditions, impacts, and other environmental influences, ensuring continuous operation. Their modular construction allows for easy expansion and adaptation to specific mission needs, and their compatibility with various communication devices and systems supports comprehensive interoperability.

Tactical Network Solutions and Their Advantages

Role of HMA Expanded Beam Connectors

The HMA Expanded Beam Connector Series plays a crucial role in tactical network solutions by providing stable optical performance even in extreme conditions. These connectors utilize expanded beam technology, offering durable and contamination-resistant optical connections. This design is ideal for military and industrial applications. The HMA expanded beam minimizes sensitivity to contamination and reduces the need for frequent cleaning, ensuring consistent optical transmission even after more than 5,000 mating cycles. The hermaphroditic design simplifies deployment with adaptable, low-loss connections. With IP68-rated protection, these connectors are resistant to dust, water, mud, and oil, delivering exceptional durability in harsh conditions. Their applications range from military tactical communication, avionics, and offshore systems to the mining industry and broadcasting technologies.

LMCP-7H: Compact Ultra-Durable Server

The LMCP-7H is a rugged, multifunctional computing device designed for demanding

military and field operations. This high-performance server leverages virtualization to function simultaneously as a router, file server, remote desktop server, and more – delivering an all-in-one solution for secure data management and distribution in critical environments. Equipped with a powerful Intel® Xeon® processor and supporting up to 64 GB of DDR4 RAM, the LMCP-7H ensures superior data processing performance. Its robust design guarantees reliability and durability in extreme conditions, making it the ideal choice for defence and tactical missions.

LMSW-E33: Ruggedized Gigabit Ethernet Layer 2/3 Managed PoE Switch

The LMSW-E33 is a high-performance, rugged network switch designed for secure and reliable data, voice, and video communications in the most demanding environments. Its compact and durable construction, combined with advanced Layer 2/3 networking capabilities, ensures seamless and efficient network management in tactical and field operations. Equipped with HMA Expanded Beam connectors for resilient fiber optic connectivity, the LMSW-E33 can also be config-

ured for connections exclusively via metallic cabling, providing flexibility based on operational needs. Designed for mobile networks, it functions as a secure, high-speed router optimized for critical data transmission, voice communication, and video streaming in dynamic operational settings.

LMSR-R63: Ruggedized Next-Generation Gigabit Router

The LMSR-R63 is a robust, high-performance router engineered for secure and scalable network operations in demanding tactical environments. Designed to deliver reliable data, voice, and video communication, it features advanced encryption for secure data transmission in the harshest conditions.

This next-generation router is equipped with two Gigabit Ethernet (GE) WAN ports and four GE LAN ports with Power over Ethernet (PoE) support, offering versatile and efficient network deployment. Operating on a 20–40 V DC power supply, the LMSR-R63 is built to withstand extreme temperatures ranging from -40 °C to +70 °C, ensuring dependable performance in even the most challenging environments.

Optimized for mobile networks, the LMSR-R63 delivers secure, high-speed connectivity for mission-critical data, voice, and video communications.

LMIPT-41: High-Class Rugged IP Phone

The LMIPT-41 is a premium rugged IP phone built on proven Cisco technology, delivering secure and reliable voice communication in the most challenging environments. Designed for durability, it features a fully sealed, vibration-resistant aluminium chassis, ensuring consistent performance in extreme conditions.

The phone is equipped with a 5-inch high-resolution VGA colour display for clear, user-friendly navigation and a built-in Gigabit Ethernet switch for effortless network integration. It supports both Power over Ethernet (PoE) and external power sources, providing flexible deployment options.

Engineered for secure voice communication over data networks, the LMIPT-41 offers all standard call features, making it an ideal solution for mission-critical operations.

LMRG-8: Rugged Gamma Radiation Detector

The LMRG-8 is a high-performance, rugged radiation detector designed for rapid detec-

tion and accurate measurement of gamma radiation. Its integrated isotope identification system enables immediate threat assessment by quickly identifying hazardous radioactive materials. The detector is available in a lightweight variant optimized for drones and UAVs, enhancing monitoring capabilities in hard-to-reach or high-risk areas. It features a wide range of external interfaces for seamless integration with vehicle systems and command units, ensuring adaptability across various operational platforms.

Equipped with fast-response sensors, the LMRG-8 delivers real-time radiation detection, providing critical information for timely decision-making. Its durable construction meets MIL-STD-810G standards for operation in extreme environments and MIL-STD-461 standards for electromagnetic compatibility. The device complies with international safety and accuracy standards, including IEC-60846, IEC-61453, and ANSI 42.17A/42.17C.

The LMRG-8 offers two measurement ranges: Probe 1 measures from 0.01 to 10 Sv/h, and Probe 2 measures from 0.1 to 100 Sv/h, with an accuracy of $\pm 10\%$ of the measured value. This combination of rugged design, precision, and fast response makes the LMRG-8 an essential tool for military, security, and emergency response operations.



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AIRDA/XARDA: Ruggedized Display Assistant

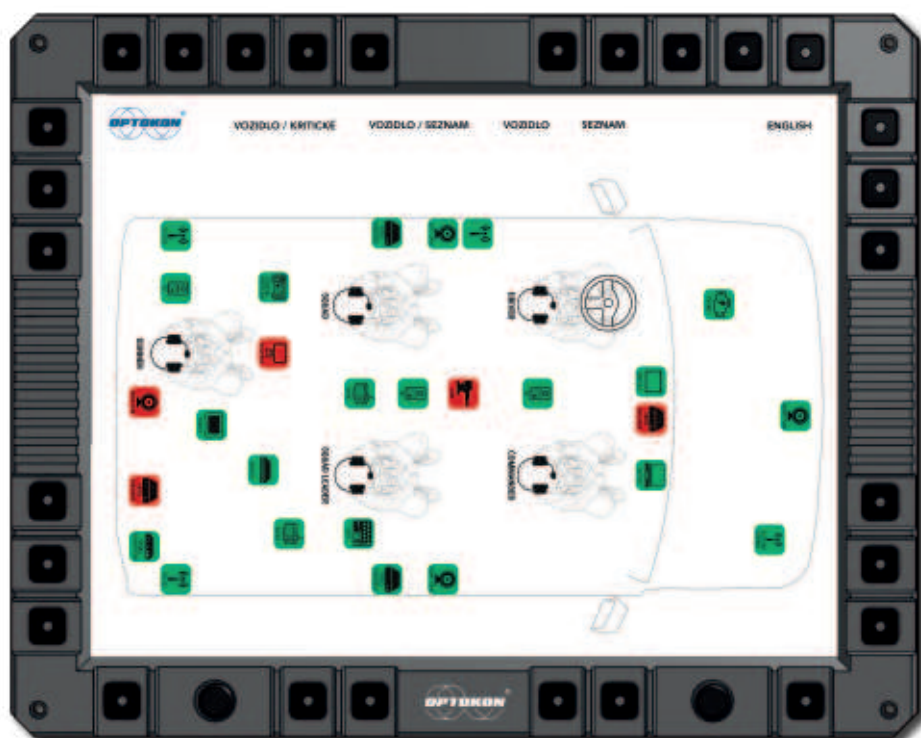
The AIRDA/XARDA is a robust 10-inch high-resolution display specifically engineered for military vehicles, providing reliable visibility and intuitive control in the harshest operational environments. Designed for mission-critical applications in both Air Force and Land Force operations, this rugged display ensures durability, precision, and functionality where they matter most.

Featuring a bright 1100 cd/m² screen, the AIRDA/XARDA guarantees exceptional readability in all lighting conditions. Its intuitive user interface includes 28 backlit buttons and two rotary encoders, enabling seamless and efficient operation even in extreme conditions. The display supports DVI and VGA video inputs, ensuring broad compatibility with various military systems and equipment.

Built for maximum resilience, the AIRDA/XARDA operates in extreme temperatures ranging from -55 °C to +85 °C and withstands operational altitudes from -500 to 16,800 meters. It is designed to perform reliably under acceleration forces from -4g to +9g and at speeds from 0 to 999 km/h. Weighing just 1.5 kg, it combines lightweight construction with rugged durability, making it an ideal solution for demanding military environments.

LMC Series: Rugged Media Converter for Harsh Environments

The LMC series is a robust media converter designed for reliable network connectivity in extreme conditions. Housed in a durable metal casing, it seamlessly connects fiber optic and copper Ethernet networks, making it ideal for industries like heavy industry, petrochemicals, mining, and broadcasting. The converter supports 10/100/1000 Mbps Ethernet with connectivity extensions up to 2 km over multimode fiber and up to 50 km over single-mode fiber. It features HMA Expanded Beam connectors for fiber optics and rugged RJ-45 ports for copper connections. LED indicators provide real-time status updates on power, LAN, and fiber activity. The standard LMC-02.GF model includes two independent 1G media converters in one unit, each with dedicated fiber and Ethernet ports. A single connector powers both converters for simplified operation. Advanced features include Auto-Negotiation, MDI/MDIX support, Jumbo Frame (9K) capability, flow control, Link Fault Pass Through (LFP), and Auto Laser Shutdown (ALS) for secure and efficient data transfer. Management is accessible via a web interface, supporting firmware upgrades, VLAN configuration, and remote monitoring. The LMC series ensures secure, high-speed network extension with superior durability for demanding field operations.



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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND DIGITALISATION IN THE POLICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

In the previous edition of the Review for Defence and Security Industry (no. 4/2024), we spoke with the Deputy Police President for Human Resources, Information and Communication Technologies, and Innovation, Brigadier General David Fulka, about modern training methods in the Czech Police. As indicated by his official title, he is also responsible for the development of information technology, the use of artificial intelligence, and the digitalisation of the Czech Police. That will be the focus of today's discussion.

Deputy President, could you explain to our readers the importance the Czech Police places on modernising information technology, given its rapid evolution?

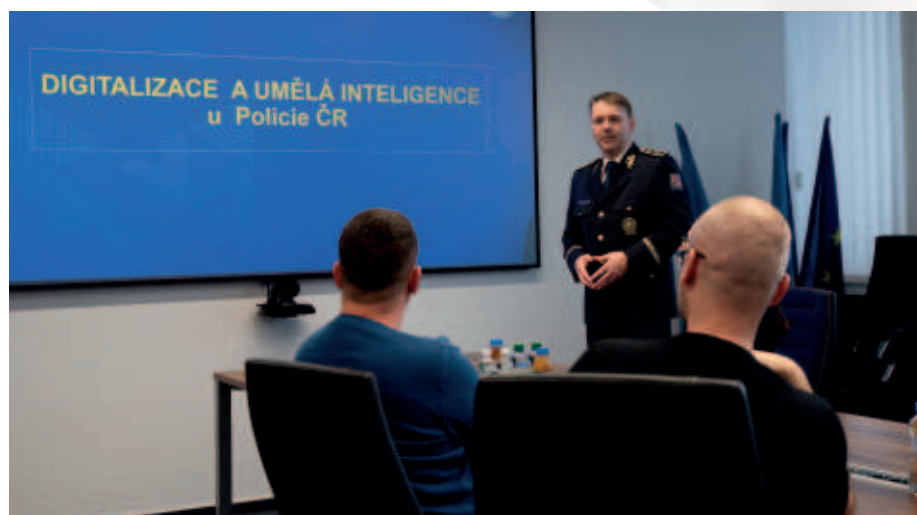
The police is a vast organisation with many interlinked activities. Managing these processes has a critical impact on the organisa-

tion's efficiency. Like any organisation of a similar scale, the police has specialised units that provide information support and maintain this "nervous system" of the organisation. We operate more than 100 information systems and a range of other technologies, some of which come with legacy constraints. The modernization of information systems is

therefore a key priority, and we are implementing various projects in this area. These include infrastructure upgrades, strengthening cybersecurity at all levels, and developing and modernising information systems. We must be able to respond dynamically to this rapidly evolving field while working within the limits of our available resources. We are striving to introduce new tools and methods that enhance our ability to process and evaluate information more efficiently. As with any large organisation, these efforts require significant resources, not least due to the number of users and devices we manage.

Does the police have sufficient resources for this modernization?

A significant portion of the police budget is allocated to information technology, and we also leverage available European funding opportunities. It is well known that modernization projects are financially, administratively, and time-intensive. Any past funding short-



falls inevitably result in higher costs today and in the future. One significant challenge is the shift from perpetual licensing models to subscription-based models and changes in support financing. This sometimes makes it difficult to align funding with the organisation's immediate needs, an issue common to both public sector institutions and large corporations.

Another challenge is securing enough qualified personnel, as there is a general shortage in the labour market, and the public sector is not always competitive in attracting talent. To address this, we are preparing financial and other benefits for selected IT positions.

The operation, development, and modernization of police IT services are managed within our allocated limits. Like most IT managers, I can envision greater investment opportunities to ensure the adequate and high-quality provision of IT services. That is why, in addition to our budget, the police actively utilise both European and national funds for digitalisation, including the procurement of essential IT equipment and training programmes. We are currently preparing projects funded through national and EU programmes such as ISF, EU-LISA, Horizon Europe, the Norway Grants, and the Security Research Programme of the Ministry of the Interior. These sources allow us to modernize our systems effectively and enhance digital security.

Do municipal police forces have access to the Czech Police's information systems? If so, which ones and under what conditions?

The Czech Police allows municipal police forces to access the Person Search and Vehicle Search information systems via the Shared Services Information System (ISSS), operated by the Digital Information Agency. This access is legislated under Section 11a of Act No. 553/1991 Coll. on Municipal Police, which entitles municipal police to request data from police and Ministry of the Interior information systems. Access to these services requires approval for ISSS and integration into municipal IT systems. Since 2022, the number of connected municipal police forces has increased from 66 to 169.

Municipal police forces also have access to the "Crime Maps" application, developed by

the Czech Police in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior. This application generates spatial data that can be used for crime analysis and prevention.

The system allows for two-way interaction: municipal police can both access and contribute data. Unlike the general public, municipal police have expanded access to the system's data. On 25 June 2024, I hosted an online presentation via MS Teams titled "Crime Maps and Czech Police Information Systems in the Context of Information and Data Exchange Between the Czech Police and Municipal Police Forces." Since then, the number of connected municipalities has risen to 133, although only 18 currently contribute data. We continue to work on expanding services, but a major challenge remains the lack of unified IT support across municipal police forces.

The Czech Police also utilises artificial intelligence. In which areas, what has been your experience, and how important is AI to your operations?

We take the role of artificial intelligence very seriously. For some time now, we have been actively involved in strategic working groups within EUROPOL that focus on AI, allowing us to share best practices with other EU member states. At the national level, we see AI's greatest potential in simplifying and automating routine administrative tasks. We already have experience with machine learning

systems in biometric analysis – examining video, images, and voice data.

One of our key tasks is to assess which of our systems genuinely incorporate AI elements. This is particularly important under the newly adopted AI Act, which introduces specific criteria. Not all machine-learning systems qualify as AI under the OECD definition.

We see significant potential in large language models, which we intend to operate entirely within our infrastructure. Security is the main reason for this approach, as it is essential to maintain public trust in how we handle police data. We cannot risk AI systems generating false or misleading information, nor can we allow data to leave the police environment. Our approach to AI follows standard ethical guidelines – ensuring maximum explainability, transparency, and robustness.

AI can also be misused. Does the Czech Police have this under control?

The police must address the risks of AI misuse from two key perspectives. First, we need to tackle new forms of crime and the evolving methods used to commit offences. AI has made fraud, cybercrime, and social engineering techniques more sophisticated and effective. We are seeing increasingly advanced cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, and manipulation via "troll farms." These activities are now much easier to carry out without extensive technical expertise.



The Surveillance Center



The Pol Point of the Police of the Czech Republic

Second, ensuring the authenticity of evidence is becoming increasingly complex. With the rise of deepfakes and manipulated audio, photos, and videos, it is crucial to verify what is genuine and what has been altered. Our efforts must also focus on this challenge.

Regarding broader safeguards against AI misuse, the newly approved AI Act provides clear guidelines for AI system operators. It defines how AI should be used and outlines conditions to prevent AI from posing risks or infringing on citizens' rights.

As part of the police modernization, one of the priorities is also digitisation. If my information is correct, the so-called "POL POINTS" are already fully operational. What does digitisation in the police force mean for citizens?

Digitisation is a long-term process. Due to the close integration of police IT with the state administration registries, a large portion of the police's processes depend on the digitisation of the public sector. Digitisation is also largely shaped by relevant amendments to the appropriate laws. Often, it is necessary to completely reconfigure existing processes, which, in a large organisation, is not always straightforward due to the significant interconnection of individual activities. We are aware of this and are continuously working on optimising IT systems and tasks that have the potential to be streamlined and digitised. As part of the digitisation process, we are also making efforts to bring the police closer to

citizens. For example, we expect increased accessibility to police services through the aforementioned Pol Points, which allow citizens to remotely connect with an officer without needing to visit a police station in person. Currently, more than 40 of these points are operational, primarily in the Central Bohemian Region, but they have also expanded to Prague, Karlovy Vary, Plzeň, South Moravia, and the Hradec Králové Region. We see great potential in this video conferencing system, especially for its widespread use across the country.

As part of our efforts for more efficient digitisation, we established a new department for Digitisation and Artificial Intelligence on 1st January 2025, which will be responsible for this extensive area. Its main tasks will include assisting in the streamlining of internal processes, aligning them with both international and national legislation, implementing solutions in the field of artificial intelligence, and identifying the needs of the police in the areas of digitisation and artificial intelligence.

General, there has been frequent discussion about online security recently. Could you provide some specifics? What areas does this project cover?

Cybersecurity is an ongoing challenge. New threats continually emerge, requiring our response and preparation for protection against them. We address this issue in terms of safeguarding our internal environment, combating cybercrime, and implementing

preventive measures for the public. Each of these areas is highly complex.

In this domain, we collaborate with other government entities, including the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NUKIB), the National Security Authority (NBÚ), and international organisations such as Interpol and Europol, as well as EU institutions like eu-LISA and ENISA.

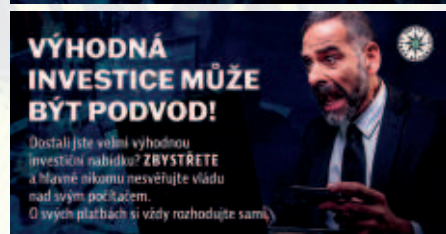
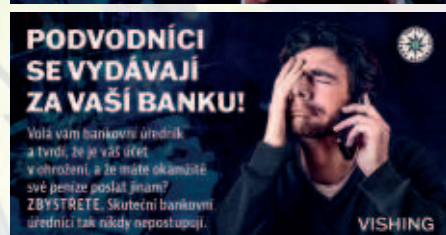
Our internal activities focus, for instance, on a new password policy, a project in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior for new service ID cards linked to two-factor authentication for access to IT systems, and the development and updating of software tailored to our specific needs.

Regarding cybercrime and other offences committed in cyberspace—which accounted for 10.7 % of all recorded crime in 2024—we registered 18,495 criminal offences last year. The slight statistical decline in this type of crime can, among other factors, be attributed to our intensified preventive efforts.

The Czech Police have been actively engaged in preventive work and raising public awareness about cybercrime threats. Crime trends closely reflect broader societal developments and economic conditions, and we respond accordingly with our cybersecurity prevention strategy, titled "Your Path Online." This initiative emphasises individual responsibility for personal security and aims to inform

the public about the growing risks associated with new technologies and fraudulent schemes. Specifically, the programme targets children, educators, and parents. Through various phases, we educate these target groups on essential principles for securing their data and online communication tools. Topics include strong passwords, two-factor authentication, safe social media practices, and avoiding the sharing of sensitive content such as intimate audiovisual materials or hate speech.

Another critical aspect of prevention involves educating the public about common cyber-crime methods, particularly phishing and vishing scams. Fraudsters frequently deceive victims using fabricated stories about compromised bank accounts or lucrative investment opportunities, leading to financial losses in the tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even millions of Czech crowns. It is worth noting that almost 47 % of fraud cases originate from online advertisements, highlighting the need for heightened vigilance when engaging in sales or purchases online.



I understand that there are preventive programmes related to the safe use of mobile devices and payment cards. Are these developed solely by the police, or do you collaborate with other entities?

One of the most impactful recent initiatives was the "You Had Better Not Try This!" project, launched at the end of 2024 by the Czech Police in partnership with ČSOB, Mastercard, and Czech Television. This educational series, consisting of ten episodes addressing the most pressing digital threats, premiered on 9 December 2024 at 17:40 on CT2, with automatic reruns and availability on iVysílání. The episode titles reflect current threats, including "Fake Banker," "Fraudulent Investments," "Love Across Continents," "Fraudulent SMS," "Disinformation," "Sales and Purchases," "Me, a Fraudster?," "Cyberbullying," "Digital Identity," and "Artificial Intelligence."

The premiere averaged 289,000 viewers aged 15+, with an audience share of 13.29 %. The programme reached a total of 1.209 million viewers and received above-average ratings across all categories. Viewers found it engaging and original. More detailed information on each episode is available at www.csob.cz/branteserozumem.

Cybercrime prevention efforts are extensive, as public awareness of fraudulent schemes is crucial. The human factor remains the weakest link in digital security. In conjunction with the February 2024 Safer Internet Day, we introduced the "First Mobile" publication. The Czech Police initiated cooperation with CZ.NIC and mobile operators O2 Czech Republic, T-Mobile, and Vodafone. This initiative supports parents in guiding their children on the safe and responsible use of their first mobile phone.

Preventive activities by the Czech Police undoubtedly also target senior citizens...

Certainly. One notable initiative is "Cautious Senior – Safe in the Online Environment," aimed at one of the most vulnerable demographics targeted by technology-based crime. The programme features a new informational brochure explaining different types of scams through real-life stories of defrauded seniors. In addition to the downloadable brochure on the Czech Police website, we have also shared information via engaging video spots dis-

played on Ámos Vision interactive screens. These screens, initially introduced in schools, are now being installed in senior homes, with nearly 60 units currently deployed across the country.

Our long-term goal is to educate the public about specific threats, and we actively monitor our outreach efforts. In 2024, through 4,305 public events under the "Your Path Online" programme, we reached 198,267 people. The media reach of our preventive campaigns was even greater, which is precisely our aim—to provide information that empowers individuals to protect themselves from cyberattacks.

The Czech Police conduct numerous preventive activities targeting various population groups. Is there also a dedicated system for educating police officers in the field of cybersecurity?

Yes, there is. The professional training of Czech Police officers in cybersecurity is given significant attention, reflecting its growing importance and the increasing sophistication of cybercrime. The police must respond swiftly to rapid technological advancements in illicit online activities, which impact nearly all sectors of society.

For this reason, professional training is divided into three levels based on the target audience: general knowledge for all police officers, advanced training for those investigating cybercrime, and expert-level training for specialists. The Czech Police utilise the E-POLIS e-learning platform, accessible via intranet and on various devices, offering courses such as "Fundamentals of Cybersecurity," "Cybercrime Investigations," and "AI for Police Officers."

In 2024, nearly 26,000 officers completed these courses, with positive evaluations regarding their content, quality, and accessibility. The Czech Police will continue to expand training programmes using the latest technologies, including pilot projects involving virtual reality in collaboration with academic and research institutions.

Deputy Minister, thank you for your time.
Jaroslav Jonák

Photo: PCR and Jaroslav Jonák

CZECH COMPANY AKM GROUP - CZ, a. s. OPENED ITS OWN CUSTOMS TERMINAL



International supplier of military and dual-use goods, the Czech company AKM GROUP - CZ, a. s., has opened its own Customs Terminal. This is the first private Terminal in the Czech Republic, which provides storage and transshipment services for Military and Dual-Use Goods which are under EU customs control.

In December 2023, AKM GROUP - CZ, a. s. launched a programme for the development of its own logistics infrastructure, which resulted in the opening of the Customs Terminal in October 2024 as planned.

This customs and logistics facility is AKM GROUP - CZ, a. s. response to the acute problem of lack of storage capacity for defence goods throughout Europe. There are more than 50 war conflicts in the world today, involving more than 90 countries. This is a huge volume of defence cargo worldwide every year. Until 2022, the global arms shipment market was quite stable, but in 2022, with the outbreak of a full-scale war in Ukraine, the number of military and dual-use cargoes increased tenfold. In addition to shipments to Ukraine, a sharp militarisation of EU countries has begun. These are hundreds of thousands of tonnes of military equipment, millions of ammunition, thousands of artillery systems, air defence systems and much more.



European logistics and customs infrastructures have not been able to cope with such a huge flow of defence goods. As a result, supplier companies have nowhere to store their cargo and it is becoming increasingly difficult to build logistics chains. They have to pay duties and VAT on transit cargo, find themselves in situations where they have to pay high fines due to their inability to use customs warehouses, as well as transship expensive military products sometimes just in the fields. All this causes disruption of shipment schedules, threatens to disrupt fulfilment of contractual obligations to the End User and significantly increases financial costs.

"We have been operating in the defence market for 24 years and we know from our own experience how important it is to have storage and transshipment capabilities, especially in the case of defence goods. Our customs and logistics terminal in the heart of Europe is a convenient gateway to the European transport network. It allows supplying companies to transload and store cargo under customs control for onward transit through the EU. This allows for significant time and money savings." says the head of AKM GROUP - CZ, a. s. logistics department.

Warehouse services

AKM GROUP - CZ, a. s. provides a full range of warehousing services, including storage,

transshipment, repacking and palletising of military and dual-use goods. We have over 5,000 m² of storage space certified for the storage of all types of armaments and ammunition of all calibres.

Customs services

Together with the partners, AKM GROUP - CZ, a. s. provides a full range of customs clearance services for import and export of military and dual-use goods.

Transport services

AKM GROUP - CZ, a. s. provides, together with the partners, a full range of services for the overland shipment of military and dual-use goods. It has more than 50 certified heavy duty vehicles at our disposal. The company is a team of professionals with many years of experience and is ready to provide air and sea logistics of cargoes of this category.

Since the opening of the private Customs terminal, it has already transshipped more than 60 trucks loaded with commodities.

AKM GROUP - CZ, a. s. is your reliable partner in the armaments and ammunition logistics sector.

www.akmg.cz





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EXHIBITION & FORUM

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RELIABLE COMMUNICATION AND HEARING PROTECTION FOR EVERY MISSION

MESIT (a member of OMNIPOL Group) is a manufacturer of tactical communication systems supplying complete solutions of tactical radios, vehicle intercoms, battlefield announcement systems including personal headsets. This year, the development of a new version of the headset has been completed, which provides the user with maximum comfort, ease of use, and reliability even in the demanding conditions of military missions.

New generation headset

The M20 Personal Headset builds on the combat-proven M10 model and is designed for military vehicles, dismounted units, and ground operations. It provides maximum comfort, easy operation, and durability even in noisy environments. It can be easily integrated with various types of helmets, whether with rail adapters, a headband or a strap and neckband for attachment under the helmet. Thanks to the modular design, it is possible to customise the set to meet the specific needs of the users.

Hearing protection and situational awareness

The M20 features excellent passive noise reduction and a monitoring system with four microphones for 360° situational awareness. Loud sounds are automatically adjusted to a safe level, while low-level sounds are amplified for better spatial awareness. This abi-

lity is key during operations in unknown environments, where it is necessary to respond quickly to acoustic stimuli from various directions.

Reliable communication without compromise

The headset is compatible with tactical radios, intercoms, and other communication systems on board military vehicles. The power is supplied by two AAA batteries with a runtime of over 150 hours and intelligent energy management. When the batteries are depleted, all communication remains functional. The construction is resistant to impacts, vibrations, and weather conditions, ensuring operational capability even in extreme conditions.

Ergonomic design and easy operation

The M20 is equipped with interchangeable comfortable earcups and a noise-cancelling



microphone. It is controlled using three intuitive buttons for power on, power off, volume adjustment, and other settings. Various types of Push-To-Talk units can be used for effective communication, including those that are located on the detachable download.

Ideal ally for tactical operations

The design of the new version of the M20 Personal Headset offers user comfort, ease of use, and reliability even in demanding conditions. Compact design with ergonomic controls allows for quick and intuitive use, interchangeable components ensure long life and the ability to adapt to specific missions. Thanks to its wide compatibility with tactical communication systems, flexible mounting options, and easy operation, the M20 is the ideal tool for effective and secure communication in combat operations.

PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE SOLUTIONS



PLESS

PASSIVE LONG-RANGE
ESM SURVEILLANCE
SYSTEM

OVER THE HORIZON
DIRECTION FINDER



VERA-NG

PASSIVE ESM
TRACKER
(PET)

PROVEN LAND-BASED
PASSIVE ESM TRACKER

RENOMIA WILL ARRANGE INSURANCE FOR YOUR SHIPMENTS TO UKRAINE, INCLUDING WAR RISKS

Insurance of civilian and military shipments to Ukraine, including military cargo, can now be provided by RENOMIA specialists—the only ones on the market. This includes war risks and deliveries to most territories.

Are you shipping to war-torn Ukraine? Or are you planning to participate in its reconstruction? If so, you have likely already faced challenges in securing transport, managing logistics, and protecting your shipments against war risks. Mitigating these risks is also a key concern for financing banks, which often require ALL RISK insurance as a condition for financing deliveries.

"For a long time, war risk insurance was virtually unavailable in the Czech and European insurance markets. However, RENOMIA has now introduced a unique solution that enables companies to transport goods to Ukraine efficiently and securely," says Roman Sluka, Director of Transport Risks at RENOMIA.

Thanks to exclusive cooperation with the world's leading insurers, RENOMIA now offers ALL RISK insurance for shipments transported by land and air to Ukraine. This insurance covers emergencies and ensures that clients are not exposed to unexpected financial losses. A key feature—unavailable elsewhere in the market—is the extension of coverage to include specific war risks, such as mine strikes or direct hits on transported goods.

"We enable our clients to insure shipments to the vast majority of unoccupied Ukrainian territory. This provides companies with security and allows them to continue their business operations even under extreme conditions," emphasises Roman Sluka.

RENOMIA also considers the specific needs of individual companies: insurance can be extended with optional additional coverage to

protect against other risks according to each client's specific needs. This flexible setup ensures effective transport protection, whether for civilian or strategic deliveries.

"A major advantage is the ability to insure defence and military equipment. We provide coverage not only for defence-related cargo but also for military shipments, which greatly simplifies procedures for defence companies supplying material to Ukraine," adds Sluka.

Insurance can be arranged subject to a positive compliance assessment by both RENOMIA and the insurers. Transparency and adherence to international regulations are key, particularly in the case of military equipment.

RENOMIA also provides expert advice, assistance with contract negotiations, and support in the event of a claim. *"Companies need a stable and reliable solution for transport to high-risk areas. Thanks to the insurance solution we offer, they can conduct their business with confidence, knowing their shipments are protected against unexpected events,"* concludes Roman Sluka.



Roman Sluka,
Director of Transport Risks
at RENOMIA

ABOUT RENOMIA GROUP

RENOMIA GROUP is one of the leading international insurance and risk management companies. It was founded in 1993 by Jiřina Nepalová and her sons, Jiří and Pavel. RENOMIA is a family-owned company with an international presence. Through its subsidiaries, it operates in 13 European countries, and thanks to its partnership with Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.—the world's third-largest insurance brokerage—RENOMIA can serve clients anywhere in the world.

For more information on RENOMIA GROUP, please visit www.renomia.cz.

RENOMIA TRANSPORT INSURANCE

- ALL RISK cargo insurance for land and air shipments to Ukraine
- "War on land" coverage: Protection against all risks, including specific war risks such as mines or direct hits
- Optional coverage for specific client needs
- Insurance available for transport to most of Ukraine, including regions close to the conflict zone
- Coverage for defence-related and military cargo



We Work to Make the World a Safer Place



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**Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic
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www.aobp.cz

MULTILIFT TALON

Innovative and smart hooklift for the new generation of defence logistics



Reliable delivery of supplies is critical to logistical operations – it's the lifeline of defensive success. To ensure fast and timely deliveries, the armies of NATO member countries use the globally recognized MULTILIFT hooklift concept from Hiab, which now comes with the latest innovation: the revolutionary type of MULTILIFT Talon hooklift. It provides significant advantages in terms of cost-savings and flexibility. In the Czech Republic, the MULTILIFT brand is represented by the company CONTSYSTEM.

MULTILIFT Talon represents a new generation of the military hooklift range with an emphasis on interoperability, safety and speed. It combines robust functionality in demanding operations with state-of-the-art automation elements. With the possibility of up to 10 % overload tolerance, MULTILIFT Talon is able to handle loads weighing up to 18 tons.

Automatic functions increase operational speed

Configuration changes between Flattrack and Container modes are performed automatically from within the cab. Automatic functions and fast-speed features significantly reduce cycle times. A complete container loading cycle with the MULTILIFT Talon takes just 180 seconds.

Single-operator use from within the cab

The heart of the MULTILIFT Talon is its user-friendly human-machine interface, which can be operated by one person (driver) from within the cab. The integrated MULTILIFT HiVision system provides the operator with assistance for fast and efficient loading/unloading. The innovative design of the lifting frame increases performance in demanding conditions (tilting and yawing) and lifting of

partially submerged containers. The unique design of the rear assembly allows handling a wide range of Flattracks without any loss of performance.

Prioritising safety

Safety is a critical element of military logistics and the MULTILIFT Talon excels in this regard. By performing all tasks from inside of the cabin, the need for external manual intervention is eliminated, significantly increasing safety in the field. The system provides automatic locking to the ISO container using both upper and lower corner castings. It also automatically locks ISO containers and Flattracks to the vehicle for transport, further increasing safety and reliability.

Hiab's global sales and service network

Currently, tens of thousands of military handling equipment from Hiab are used worldwide by NATO member states, such as the USA, Great Britain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Poland and other countries, and thanks to significant investments in research and development, Hiab has been providing tailor-made handling equipment solutions for over 80 years according to the specific requirements of the armies in a given

country. The Czech Republic makes no difference and the hooklift is adapted to the requirements of the Czech Armed Forces.

MULTILIFT is represented in the Czech Republic by CONTSYSTEM

The company CONTSYSTEM, which is an authorized sales, assembly and service representative of Hiab in the Czech Republic, has been cooperating on projects to supply MULTILIFT hooklifts for the logistical needs of the Army of the Czech and Slovak Republics for more than twenty years, and to date, the armies of both countries use over 400 MULTILIFT units, both older MK IV types or newer MSH or MPH types.

Interoperability with standard defence systems

The advanced design of the MULTILIFT Talon with built-in autonomous support capabilities anticipates future requirements for next-generation defence logistics. The MULTILIFT Talon hooklift is compatible with 1C and 1CC ISO 668 containers, NATO STANAG 2413 Flattracks and DIN 30722 bodies, ensuring interoperability with standard defence systems worldwide.

www.contsystem.cz/en/

GLADIUS: THE FUTURE OF WEAPON STATIONS IN MODERN CONFLICTS

The development of weapon stations is currently taking multiple directions, reflecting technological advancements, new operational requirements, and changes in the nature of modern conflicts. The accuracy of target detection and tracking is improving, and the range of weapon options is expanding to include machine guns, cannons, grenade launchers, guided missiles, and more. Adaptations for urban warfare and asymmetric conflicts are underway, while reliance on human operators is decreasing. Another growing trend is the need for protection against emerging threats, such as drones.

How do these development trends manifest in the GLADIUS weapon station concept, offered by the Czech manufacturer EVPÚ Defence?

GLADIUS systems stand out primarily for their compatibility with a wide range of platforms – from armored vehicles and naval vessels to

fixed installations. The possibilities for integrating different types of weapons are constantly expanding. Currently, available configurations include a 7.62 mm machine gun, a 12.7 mm machine gun, 40 mm grenade launchers, a rotary gun, or a 30×113 mm cannon utilizing programmable ammunition. Some of these configurations will be showcased at this year's IDET exhibition in Brno.

GLADIUS systems can also provide enhanced crew protection. They are remotely operated and can be equipped with armor that ensures ballistic protection up to Level 2. Additionally, the systems feature high-quality thermal imaging cameras, which are indispensable in low-visibility conditions.

Another valuable feature of GLADIUS weapon stations is the fast and precise guidance of the weapon system. The electro-optical sight operates independently of the gun carriage, allowing for effective tracking of fast-moving



targets and more accurate engagements in complex environments. Furthermore, the use of small-caliber ammunition (5.56–7.62 mm) minimizes collateral damage, making GLADIUS an ideal solution for urban combat.

GLADIUS weapon stations thus reflect current trends, bringing greater flexibility, efficiency, and safety to the modern battlefield.

www.evpudefence.com



THE ROLE OF FPV KAMIKAZE DRONES IN MODERN WARFARE: APPLICATIONS AND TRAINING WITH DRONPRO



FPV kamikaze drones have become one of the most effective battlefield assets due to their maneuverability, precision, and high operational efficiency. They are capable of executing a wide range of missions—from precision strikes on armored vehicles to reconnaissance operations. Below are the four primary ways these drones are utilized in modern conflicts.

1. Precision Strikes on Enemy Assets and Personnel – FPV kamikaze drones effectively neutralize armored vehicles, artillery systems, fortifications, and enemy personnel by targeting critical vulnerabilities with pinpoint accuracy.

2. Reconnaissance and Target Identification – These drones provide real-time aerial intelligence, identify enemy positions, and assist in directing attacks on detected targets.

3. Counter-UAV Operations and Airspace Security – FPV drones are employed to de-

tect, intercept, and neutralize enemy UAVs while also providing continuous aerial surveillance.

4. Psychological Warfare – The persistent presence of FPV drones undermines enemy morale, instills a sense of constant threat, and reinforces the technological superiority of their operators.

Where to Learn FPV Drone Operations?

The effectiveness of FPV drones depends not only on advanced technology but also on the skill of their operators.

The "FPV Drone Specialist" course by DronPro provides comprehensive training on drone selection, assembly, maintenance, and piloting:

- **40 hours of instruction** with experienced trainers;
- upon completion, students will have the necessary technical knowledge—only piloting practice remains;
- **up to 82% of the course fee can be covered by a government grant.**

Enrollment is now open at dronpro.cz





DEUS AUTOMATION:

Precision, Innovation, and Strategic Importance in Industrial Automation

DEUS Automation, part of the STV INVEST holding, delivers industrial automation solutions not only for the defence industry. Its production can stand comparison with the leaders in this fascinating field. We travelled to Zákupy near Česká Lípa to interview its director, Alex Černý.

Mr. Director, some say, with a bit of exaggeration, that DEUS Automation can manufacture anything from ammunition production lines to artistic objects. How true is that?

I would slightly correct your statement: it is not an exaggeration, but a fact supported by evidence (laughs). One of our main and strategically significant products are ammunition production lines. However, we also take on challenges that are unique and have nothing to do with defence industry. A good example is the complete restoration of the statue of Franz Kafka by David Černý. Such projects broaden our expertise and are genuinely enjoyable.

What makes your production strategically important, as you mentioned?

Our sister company is the only producer of large-calibre ammunition in the country –

a commodity made scarce by the crisis in the East. Artillery and ammunition reserves have proven essential for national defence, and the technology for its production is even rarer. As early as 2020, STV's management decided to pursue independence. Thanks to our skilled team, we now build technology for various manufacturing programs ourselves. Moreover, everything is Czech—the ammunition, the production lines, and the people who make them. After all, the entire STV INVEST holding is entirely Czech owned.

So, I assume you have no shortage of orders.

Currently, we're finalizing a fully automated line for filling artillery shells with TNT. Equally demanding are the deliveries for another of our sister companies – STV Technology which produce precision ammunition for small arms. As they expand their product range, we supply them with additional loading, priming, and packaging machines, as well as the

technology for annealing cartridge cases. Poličské strojírny, another company from our group, manufactures pneumatic and door systems for the automotive industry. Part of this production runs on our welding and robotic lines. In addition to fulfilling internal orders from our holding, we also continue to meet foreign inquiries, as our capacity allows.

You have obviously quite a broad scope. Can you give us some insight into current trends in your industry?

Your question captures the essence of DEUS as we see it. We strive to be the gateway to the world of automation for our customers, guiding them through global trends and promptly offering reliable, up-to-date solutions. Automation is an incredibly diverse and dynamic field that is evolving in multiple directions. We help our customers to navigate this complexity and, in most cases, simplify their path to the desired solution. Not

everything works perfectly on the first try, but that is a part of the development process. We emphasize communication and synergy between our team and the customer. I'd like to highlight that we cover the entire production process – from the very first click in the design software to the final handover to the customer.

How do you keep up with such a dynamic development in automation industry?

We stay updated by attending major exhibitions and trade fairs. As members of the AFEMS association, we share and gain valuable industry insights. We also actively cooperate with regulatory authorities. Many of our machines must be certified for explosive environments, resistant to static electricity, and designed in non-sparking configurations according to ATEX standards. We use specialized drives and pay careful attention to the materials used for other mechanical components.

Thank you.

Any final message for our readers?

I will conclude with the motto of our holding, which encapsulates a lot: *"We are making the world a safer place. Together!"*



AGADOS SUPPLIES THE ARMY WITH MODERN LOGISTICS EQUIPMENT

At the end of 2024, the Army of the Czech Republic expanded its equipment with two new types of special AGAHELP trailers. AGADOS handed over a modern mobile tanker NAVA 2000 and a double-chamber refrigerated trailer NANUK 2K to the Army. These trailers reflect the current requirements for mobile logistics and are designed for both ground and air force units.

The NAVA 2000 tanker is designed to store and transport water in harsh environments. Its robust single-axle suspension chassis with a total weight of 3,500 kg ensures stability even when moving over difficult terrain. The tank can be made of stainless steel or of the certified plastic material POLYSTONE, which meets hygienic standards for contact with drinking water. The great advantage of the tank is its easy handling and quick commissioning. The variation of connection, such as ball or eye, allows compatibility with different types of military vehicles. In addition, the height-adjustable drawbar facilitates easy connection to several towing systems, which contributes to flexible deployment in the field.

The NANUK 2K double chamber trailer is designed for the safe transport and storage of food in a chilled or frozen state. Each of the 1300 litre chambers is equipped with independent electronic temperature control, allowing different types of food to be stored in

ideal conditions. Thanks to the integrated power generator with its own battery, the refrigeration system can also be operated during transport. Another innovation is the electronic temperature recorder with 30-day memory, which is an important part of the system. This ensures that the food always arrives in the desired condition and meets all standards.

AGAHELP products are the result of many years of development and intensive cooperation with military and humanitarian organisa-

tions. AGADOS focuses on the production of equipment that contributes to ensuring efficient and safe logistics in the field. The high mobility, robust design and modularity of the products ensure their deployment in a wide range of conditions, from military operations to crisis situations and humanitarian missions.

AGADOS appreciates the trust of the Czech Army and looks forward to further cooperation in the modernization of military equipment.

www.agados.cz/en



FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND COMPANY VOP CZ

VOP CZ will deliver a new generation of multifunctional tankers "CAP Shadow tanker" to the Czech Army.

The state-owned company VOP CZ has signed a framework agreement with the Ministry of Defence for the delivery of at least 13 new multifunctional tankers for the Czech Army.

The contract was signed on behalf of the Ministry of Defence by Lubor Koudelka, Chief Director of the Armaments and Acquisitions Section of the Ministry of Defence, and on behalf of VOP CZ by Vlastimil Navrátil, Director of VOP CZ. The first prototype will be delivered to the soldiers at the turn of the year, and the contract allows for ordering up to 47 of these tankers by 2031.

The CAP Shadow tanker will be, like its predecessors, on a TATRA FORCE chassis with a superstructure from the Jičín-based company KOBIT.

Compared to its predecessors, the CAP-16M1 tanker will feature a significant novelty, which is the refuelling of both ground and air equipment of all NATO member states. Another minor new feature is the addition of an AD Blue tank.

The total value of the contract is CZK 1.943 billion excluding VAT, or CZK 2.352 billion including VAT. The state enterprise has extensive experience with the tankers themselves. Last year, for example, it completed an order

for more than two dozen CAPL-16M1 and CNS tankers for the Air Force of the Czech Armed Forces. *"Moreover, as the current knowledge shows, modern logistics and supply is the basis of any modern army,"* **said the director of VOP CZ Dipl. Eng. Vlastimil Navrátil MBA.**

The wheeled CAP Shadow tanker will thus become another addition to the "family" of tankers from the VOP CZ state enterprise.



RHEINMETALL BOXER 8 × 8: VERSATILE, COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION FOR MODERN MILITARY OPERATIONS

The Rheinmetall Boxer 8 × 8 is a highly versatile and mobile armored vehicle designed for modern military operations. It stands out for its superb mobility, offering excellent off-road performance and high-speed capabilities, making it ideal for rapid deployment in diverse terrains. This flexibility allows it to adapt quickly to evolving combat situations.

A significant advantage of the Boxer is its low lifetime cost. The vehicle's robust design and ease of maintenance make it a cost-effective solution over the long term. Additionally, shared logistics across OCCAR (Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en matière d'Armement) member states streamline support and ensure efficient integration within international defence frameworks.

The Boxer is highly adaptable, with a wide range of mission modules available, including options for troop transport, command and control, and medical evacuation and many others. Its ability to be reconfigured for

various roles enhances its operational flexibility. Furthermore, future upgrades will continue to improve its capabilities, ensuring it remains effective as technology evolves. One of the already operating options for the Boxer is the Skyraider air defence system.

This addition enhances the Boxer's versatility, making it a formidable asset in both ground and air defence operations. Overall, the Rheinmetall Boxer 8x8 is a cost-effective, flexible, and future-proof solution for modern military forces.





IDET HAS SEEN A RESURGENCE IN INTEREST, WITH A NUMBER OF NEW EXHIBITORS SIGNING UP

The IDET International Defence and Security Technologies Fair will take place at the Brno Exhibition Centre from 28th to 30th May 2025, after a two-year interval. Together with the PYROS and ISET trade fairs, it will show the professional public from all over the world the latest developments in safety technology and engineering.

"For over 30 years, IDET has been a popular venue for presenting innovations, establishing industrial cooperation and negotiating and finalising major contracts. It fulfils all these roles even in the current challenging security situation, when record investments are directed into the defence industry and the whole sector is the focus of extraordinary attention," said **Jan Kubata, CEO of BVV Trade Fairs Brno.**

"We have already registered more exhibitors than during the previous record-breaking edition two years ago, and approximately one third of those interested in IDET are newcomers or companies returning to the fair after a long time.

As the entire defence and security sector is now investing massively in research and development, we can look forward to a lot of interesting innovations in May," added **Michalis Busios, Director of International Security Fairs.**

The event will bring together global brands and start-ups under one roof

Returning exhibitors include Germany's Rheinmetall, which was last presented in Brno in 2021, and this year will be showcasing its products on an area of 350 sqm. Overall, the participation from Germany will be stronger, with 15 companies already regis-

tered, including KNDS Group. The joint stand of Indian companies on an area of 150 sqm is also worth mentioning.

The Czech defence and security industry, headed by the Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic (AOBP), will also be extensively represented. Traditional exhibitors include companies such as Agados, Czechoslovak Group, Česká Zbrojovka, EVPÚ Defence, LOM Praha, STV Group, SAAB, Svos, Trade Fides and VOP. The Military Research Institute and the Brno University of Technology will also feature their displays here. New to the event this year will be the

ContSystem company, which represents foreign manufacturers of special vehicles and means for handling heavy equipment.

Innovative companies from the fields of defence, security, aviation and aerospace will also be featured, with the aim of showcasing the potential of emerging companies and connecting them with larger partners.

New topics: Space Defense and 3D Technology

With the development of new technologies, global security is becoming increasingly interconnected with space security, and this year's IDET will focus on the security and defence aspects of activities in space and the use of space as an operational domain. The fair will also include the **Space Defense & Start-Up Hall**, a platform to showcase the latest products and technologies from innovative companies in the field of space security.

The development of additive manufacturing, also known as 3D printing, has opened up entirely new design possibilities for the industry, and this year the highlighted theme of 3D technology will demonstrate for the first time how effectively the defence industry is using these innovations.

Cybersecurity, a perennial highlight of IDET, will be a prominent topic, along with the pressing issue of safeguarding sensitive information and critical infrastructure in the digital age.

The trade fair will once again feature a specialist extra programme and the Gold IDET Awards for the best exhibits.

The Army will celebrate 80 years since the end of World War II

The IDET fair is once again organised in close collaboration with the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic, reflecting the Ministry's current investment plans. In conjunction with the army of the Czech Republic, the Ministry is also preparing the largest trade fair exposition, which carries the motto "80 years since the end of World War II". One of the objectives of the army's presentation at IDET will be recruitment of novices, which will be the focus of the three specialist days as well as the follow-up Security Day for the broad public on Saturday 31 May.





Concurrently with PYROS and ISET

In the same period, the Brno Exhibition Centre will also host the industry-related PYROS International Fire Fighting Equipment and Services Fair, and ISET International Security Technology and Services Fair. This combination enables all components of the integrated rescue system to be presented in one place, and the combination is also advantageous for exhibitors who can offer their products and services simultaneously to the army, fire-fighters, police and other armed forces. The Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, the Police of the Czech Republic, the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, the Administration of State Material Reserves of the Czech Republic, the Prison Service of the Czech Republic and the Brno Municipal Police are also preparing their presentations.

The company New Space Technologies will be participating for the first time at PYROS, where it will officially present its revolutionary KALAN amphibious vehicle on an area of 120 sqm.

The Brno Exhibition Centre offers a unique opportunity to present heavy equipment in action, which is highly appreciated by exhibitors and visitors alike. This year, therefore, the IDET ARENA off-road polygon with dynamic demonstrations of military, fire-fighting and police equipment or simulated intervention actions of various units will not be missing.





FOCUSED ON SECURITY

IDET

INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES FAIR

28–30/5/2025
BRNO CZ

More information **here:**



CONCURRENTLY HELD WITH:



GENERAL PARTNERS OF THE FAIR



B | R | N | O |



INNOVATION IN DEFENCE AND SECURITY INDUSTRIES: HOW TO SECURE FUNDING?

Innovation is crucial for strengthening the defence and security industry. This year brings numerous funding opportunities for research, development and innovation from both European and national sources. What opportunities are available?

European Funding: One Billion Euros for Technology

The European Defence Fund will allocate over one billion euros in 2025 for technology development and strengthening of strategic partnerships. The support is directed towards land, air and water combat, cyber defence, space technologies, digital transformation, sensors, training and simulations. This also brings an opportunity to establish or expand strategic collaborations within international consortia.

Deadline: October 16, 2025.

Another significant opportunity comes from the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, where

e.g. the Advanced Steel Alloys for Special Applications call is aimed at developing steel for the defence sector. The allocated budget for 2025 is 150 million euros.

Deadline: May 6, 2025.

Small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups can also benefit from EIC Pathfinder or EIC Accelerator schemes, which offer funding in the range of several million euros to validate the potential of their products or services. Additionally, the European Investment Bank has released 2 billion euros for the defence sector.

National Funding: TAČR PRODEF and OP TAK

Companies can also access support through national programs. TAČR PRODEF finances research and development of defence technologies, while OP TAK supports digitization and innovation in industrial production. Businesses can obtain up to 75 % funding for the development of R&D infrastructure.

„Support for defence innovation has never been so extensive. A well-planned development and financing strategy can help companies achieve not only technological advancement but also strategic partnerships,“ says Tereza Vogeltanzová from enovation.

How to Succeed in the Application Process?

To successfully secure funding, it is essential to monitor the priority areas targeted by the available support. Additionally, early preparation of the application is crucial, as competition is high, and high-quality project documentation plays a key role.



www.enovation.cz

SOKOL™4 – PARACHUTE SIMULATORS

The purpose of the SOKOL™4 parachute system is to provide a most realistic environment for all phases of parachute jump training.

It allows instructors to build and tailor their own scenarios to meet the requirements for different levels of the training phases.



The latest generation of SOKOL™4 system brings major improvements in realistic freefall simulation, parachute control and landing. The new version of our Unity-based visualization system enhances the visual experience with smoother animations, realistic lighting, and more immersive training scenarios.

SOKOL™4 offers a wide range of terrains that serve as the basis for planning and executing training missions. In addition to the 3D terrains provided with the SOKOL™4 systems, the customer and/or end user has the ability to import geo-specific satellite imagery such as those from MAXAR, for special operations that need to be carried out as soon as possible, without unnecessary delays.

Where do we exhibit?

Meet us at PIA Symposium 2025 in Daytona Beach, USA, where we will showcase the latest innovations of our system!

www.esigma.cz

Company Profile

Protect Parts, s.r.o., is a purely Czech company with the ambition to become a leader in the trade in steel products (plates or semi-finished products) intended for the military and special production, ensuring the required level of ballistic protection of the final products.

To fulfill these ambitions and goals, the Protect Parts closely cooperates with the key armour European manufacturers, as well as with the authorized research & testing institutes focused on research and testing of armor materials. Due to the nature of our activities, the company possesses authorization for military goods and dual-use material trading.

Company Product Portfolio

- Plates intended for production of military equipment, facilities and infrastructure
- Plates intended for production of special parts and parts of infrastructure for other security forces (i.e. shooting ranges, special training facilities), but also for the civil sector (banks, etc.)
- Semi-finished products and complete assemblies (cut, edged, twisted parts & workpieces) for the above-mentioned projects, made according to the obtained customers drawings

Type Of Activity

- Purchase & sale of plates with a focus on various types of armor from the world's major manufacturers
- Fabrication of semi-finished products (cut, edged and twisted parts & workpieces) according to the obtained drawings
- Cooperation with authorized research & testing institutes
- Expert consulting in the phase of prototyping as well as in the phase of serial production

Territorial Focus

In addition to the Czech Republic, also customers from Central & Eastern European countries (both, EU and Non-EU members).

Armored metal plates

The ballistic-resistant plates are the strong items of our product portfolio. They can be used in the military and civilian sectors.

Our Options

In stock armor plates from the world's leading producers

Production of semi-finished parts

- parts for the military and the civilian sector

Production possibilities

- cut parts – laser / 3D plasma
- edged & twisted parts
- drilled, milled & grinded parts

Delivery of complete sets



protectparts.cz/en

ARMOX

SSAB

ARMOX 370
ARMOX 440
ARMOX 500
ARMOX 600

RAMOR

SSAB

RAMOR 450
RAMOR 500
RAMOR 550
RAMOR 600

DIFENDER

DILLINGER

DIFENDER 400
DIFENDER 450
DIFENDER 500
DIFENDER 600

MARS

INDUSTEEL

MARS 380
MARS 440
MARS 500
MARS 600
MARS 650
MARS 650
Perforated

SIGMA – BECAUSE LIFE MATTERS

SIGMA Výzkumný a vývojový ústav, s. r. o., based in Lutín, is a traditional leader in the field of protective filters for respiratory protection. With a history dating back to 1935, the company has been continuously innovating in health and safety protection. Today its products serve not only the civilian sector but also the armed forces, emergency services, and industrial operations.

Modernization and Innovation in Respiratory Protection

In 2025, we introduced a new series of REAKTOR combined filters, ensuring a high level of protection against radioactive iodine and its organic compounds. This development is a direct response to the growing demands of the defence industry and the modernization of the Czech Armed Forces. The new models provide users not only with increased security but also with comfortable usage. **Plus versions of the filters feature significantly lower breathing resistance compared to competitors while maintaining the same capture parameters.**

Collaboration with Key Partners

We are a long-term partner of the Czech Armed Forces, the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic, the Fire Rescue Service, and the Police of the Czech Republic. Our protective filters meet the strictest European standards and are certified according to ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, AQAP 2110, EN 14387, EN 143, DIN 58621, and others. We also supply high-quality protective filters for armed forces in NATO member states and Ukraine, where we contribute to addressing the current security situation and ensuring the protection of both military and civilian personnel.

Research and Testing – The Key to Perfect Protection

We focus on continuous development and testing of our products. In our own laboratories, we conduct resistance tests against harmful substances and evaluate filters under the most demanding conditions. Thanks to modern technologies and the latest know-



ledge, we can respond to new threats and the needs of the security sector.

With our long-standing tradition, innovation, and commitment to quality, we are strengthening our position as a key player in the field of protective filters, not only in the Czech Republic but also worldwide. Our products are an essential part of professional protection in the defence and security industry.



DOGFIGHT BOSS: INNOVATION IN FLIGHT SIMULATION

Dogfight Boss is a Czech company specializing in cutting-edge aviation hardware for mixed reality flight simulation. Their technology delivers highly realistic simulations of aircraft, ground vehicles, and various instruments, seamlessly integrating with existing simulation software.

The company also offers standalone instrument panels, enhancing fidelity, haptic feedback, and visual realism for more authentic pilot training. Based in Brno, their team consists of seasoned aviation and simulator development experts dedicated to providing high-quality, cost-effective solutions that redefine realistic training.

In 2024, Dogfight Boss successfully delivered an F-16 simulator to Ukraine, where it received high praise, leading to discussions about further acquisitions. Additionally, in 2024, Dogfight Boss participated in the UTSEC event in Orlando, showcasing its products at three booths, including collaborations with U.S. industry leaders Cymstar and Ache-



leon, major suppliers to the American market. In 2025, the company completed a new JTAC training product Moskito Ti.

www.dogfightboss.com



3D TECHNOLOGIES REVOLUTIONIZING THE DEFENCE INDUSTRY

With over 20 years of experience in additive manufacturing, 3Dees Industries provides comprehensive solutions for companies looking not only to adopt but fully integrate the latest cutting-edge technologies into their production processes. 3Dees helps optimize manufacturing, accelerate prototyping, and unlock new possibilities in the defence sector, including the development and production of drones.

Speed and Flexibility in Critical Situations

With 3Dees' 3D technologies, damaged parts can be immediately replaced, lighter and more durable components can be produced, and new designs can be tested rapidly. Additive manufacturing reduces the time

from design to functional prototype from weeks to just days.

Innovation in the Field and Defence Systems

3Dees technologies are used, for example, in the production of tactical mounts for special forces—covering everything from scanning existing components and design optimization to the final production of durable custom parts. Additive manufacturing also plays a key role in the drone industry, enabling rapid structural adaptations for various applications.

Technology That Changes Lives

3Dees is a proud partner of the Superhumans Center project, where 3D printing helps war veterans regain mobility. Thanks to advanced additive technologies, it is possible to quickly and precisely produce prosthetic sockets, which are crucial for natural movement and patient comfort.

Complete Solutions from A to Z

3Dees goes beyond selling 3D printers and scanners—it delivers comprehensive expertise. The company provides consulting, installation, service, and training, ensuring businesses can fully leverage the potential of 3D technologies.

With 3Dees, defence industry companies can stay ahead of technological advancements and implement state-of-the-art solutions for more efficient and high-performance production.

www.3dees.cz/en



GRENABOX: REVOLUTIONARY SAFE SOLUTION FOR STORING BATTERIES AND ACCUMULATORS

Currently, we increasingly use battery-powered appliances in households, such as electric bicycles, scooters, battery-powered tools, RC models and other appliances that operate on the principle of rechargeable Li-ion and polymer batteries.

The company GRENA, a.s., which has many years of experience with non-flammable panels and fire-resistant boards, came to the market with new product.

With the growing demand for safe and efficient battery storage, Grenabox brings an innovative battery storage cabinet. This product

represents the perfect combination of safety and functionality, making it an ideal choice for modern storage.

Grenabox testing is based on the ČSN EN 1363-1 standard, and corresponds to fire resistance from inside to outside for 60 minutes. Thanks to special non-flammable Grenamat materials and integrated elements such as detection sensors, this box provides reliable protection even in risky situations.

Batteries and accumulators can be a source of fire if stored incorrectly, so it is important to take care of their proper storage. Grenabox ensures heat and fire insulation, protecting not only the batteries themselves, but also the surrounding space and your entire home.

Grenabox is not only a safety feature, but also an intelligent solution for storing batteries and accumulators. It offers:

- **Easy installation** – no need for complex household modifications
- **Minimal space requirements** – compact dimensions for flexible placement
- **Choice of equipment** – standard or over-standard equipment according to the customer's needs

Thanks to these features, Grenabox becomes a practical and safe solution not only for households, but also for companies or operations using battery storage.

Modern design and aesthetics

Grenabox was designed to fit naturally into any space – whether it is a technical room, garage or living part of the house.

You can find more information on the website www.grena.cz



LATANIR: LET'S CHANGE THE PARADIGM OF MODERN DEFENCE AND WARFARE

Latanir is on the market for more than five years now. From the original focus on engineering and project support of Skoda Auto and Volkswagen we expanded to small volume production of testing devices, prototyping and testing. We engineer cable harnesses and small mechanical applications. Since 2023 we engineer and tailor harness cables for ground application within Czech Republic. For these applications we also provide retrofit solutions with reverse engineering of some older vehicles. We also provide system integration for such applications, and we do not fear taking tasks of cross generation modifications. For our customers, we are a reliable and flexible partner for R&D in the cable area



with the focus on quality, customer-oriented development, open and transparent cooperation, so the project can meet its deadlines and production plans of the customer.

Our people are professionals with experience from many areas but connected with simple love of engineering of military equipment. Some of us even have experience in the national army. We provide our customers with a one-stop shop on their troubles with harness cables for new vehicles, repassed or modernized. We are also capable of helping in the area of special civil vehicles. Our job starts with drawing, then goes to prototype, and ends with a complete documentation for production. It is our belief that the customer should always get complete documentation for everything he ordered.

We are able to offer solutions for components for repass vehicles which are not on the market anymore. We can examine them and



prepare documentation for our supply chain to produce them.

Thanks to the AOBP activity, we get a lot of information about planned exhibitions, meetings, partnerships or R&D programs. We also stay focused on trends and try to look ahead with the hope that one day, we could be a part of a big breakthrough in the modern warfare.



LATANIR

MS PUBLISHING HOUSE
LINE S.r.O.



Visit us

IDET 28. 5.-30. 5. 2025

REDO s. r. o. – YOUR RELIABLE PARTNER IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our company REDO s. r. o. has been manufacturing military accessories for more than 30 years. We have been on the market since 1992. We are a family company, whose founder is Mr. Zdeněk Císař. We are mainly engaged in the production of backpacks, bags, cases and accessories for the army and police forces. In recent years, we have been expanding our product range to include equipment for emergency service providers. We supply mainly to EU countries. We are a supplier to the Czech, German, Austrian and Dutch army.



We supply thousands of products to the German army annually under several concurrent public contracts. The Austrian army is also an important client for us, where our company has been supplying since 2004. REDO is also a supplier on the domestic market, both to the Czech Armed Forces and to the Police of the Czech Republic, where it responds to the requirements of special army and police

units in its development. Last but not least, the company's portfolio also includes development and supplies for various units of the rapid rescue service, firefighters and other services. For these groups, there are separate product lines that are specifically designed for the tasks of securing health and property. We meet the requirements relating to ISO

14001, ISO 9001 and AQUAP 2110 certification. We strive to responsibly manufacture quality products that can be used by military, police forces and emergency service providers with confidence in the field. Our success in practice is not the result of an individual, but a team effort of all our employees, family and loved ones.

PUBLISHER'S PLAN 2025 – REVIEW FOR DEFENCE AND SECURITY INDUSTRY & IDET NEWS

Review 2/2025

- IDET, ISET, Pyros, General Assembly of AOBP Czech Republic, company invitations to trade fairs IDET, ISET, PYROS
- **Deadline: 11th April 2025**
- **Dispatch: 19th May 2025**

Review 3/2025

- NATO Days, interviews
- **Deadline: 15th August 2025**
- **Dispatch: 18th September 2025**

Review 4/2025

- Annual meeting of the representative editorial board, awards for 2025, interviews
- **Deadline: 14th November 2025**
- **Dispatch: 23rd December 2025**

IDET NEWS 19/2025

- Special publication to IDET, ISET, PYROS
- **Deadline: 22nd April 2025**
- **Dispatch: 26th May 2025**





Review for the Defence and Security Industry
Media platform of the Defence and Security Industry
Association of the Czech Republic

Issue 5/2025 now available

Review



IDET NEWS

Official media partner of the IDET exhibition for the Czech Republic, media partner of the Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic (AOBP CR)

Published in conjunction with the IDET, ISET, and PYROS 2025 exhibitions

IDET NEWS

Security & Defence Technologies Catalogue

**2025
2026**



Czech Republic

Security & Defence Technologies Catalogue

The new 14th edition of the Security and Defence Technologies Catalogue is now available. The PDF version of the catalogue can be found here:

https://msline.seethebrand.com/issue/sdtdc_2025_2026_web/

We will soon be launching a new mobile application. For information how to present your company, please contact us at: scook@msline.cz



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LINE S.r.o.

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Security & Defence Technologies Catalogue

2025–2026

Application SDTC (Security and Defence Technologies Catalogue) intends to introduce the best Czech companies and Czech branches from the defence and security sector. You can search for your potential business partner by alphabetically list or field of activity via sectors.

Czech defence and security industry has a long tradition and it is known for its unique structure, quality products, and excellent innovation potential. Czech products of the defence and security industry are among the world's best and the main reference is customer satisfaction around the world. Our country depends very strongly on the export opportunities that are very competitive and successful at the foreign market. Most of the companies supply their products and service to the Army, Police, Fire Rescue Brigade, Prison Service of the Czech Republic or abroad.

Security and Defence Technologies Catalogue is published/printed as a hardcover book also. The deputies of Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic use this publication and application to introduce Czech companies by their business meeting to help mutual cooperation around the world. It helps to introduces Czech firms by the ambasssy deputies of Ministry of Foreign Affairs around the world also.

Security and Defence Technologies Catalogue should help to promote business and export successes and make, media-wise, a significant contribution to ensuring the defence and security of the Czech Republic and our foreign partners.



FRIENDLY GATHERING AND RECOGNITION OF THE BEST OF 2024

A longstanding tradition of the friendly gathering programme is the Recognition of the Best Personalities, Companies, and Products. Awardees received plaques from the hands of members of the representative Editorial board. Prior to the official ceremony, as is customary every other year, the *Security & Defence Technologies Catalogue 2025–2026* was symbolically christened by the catalogue's editor-in-chief, Šárka Cook, the Minister for European Affairs, Martin Dvořák, and Tomáš Kuchta, Director of the Department of Economic and Scientific Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.



Recognition for Longstanding Journalistic and Analytical Contributions in the Defence and Security Sector

The following individuals received plaques in appreciation:

Miloš Balabán

Antonín Svěrák

Michal Zdobinský

The plaques were presented by representatives of MS Line Publishing House, Šárka Cook and Miloš Soukup.

A commemorative certificate of appreciation was awarded to Brigadier General ret.



Zoltán Bubeník for his active collaboration and membership in the representative editorial board of the Review for the defence and security industry, as well as for his long-term support of the defence and security industry.

Brigadier General ret. Zoltán Bubeník served as Chief of the Medical Service from 2015 to 2023. Between 2015 and 2019, he was Director of the Military Medical Agency, and from 2020 to 2023, he was Director of the Military Medical Section. During this time, he was also elected to the highest medical position in NATO as Chairman of the Committee of the Chiefs of Military Medical Services (COMEDS)



and Medical Advisor to the NATO Military Committee from 2018 to 2021. Since 2016, he has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Military Health Insurance Fund of the Czech Republic. After nearly 40 years of active service in the Czech Armed Forces, he retired and now works as a general and aviation physician under MEDFIMA Praktik s.r.o., Sezemice. He has been a long-standing active member of the *Review* editorial board.

The commemorative certificate was presented by Jiří Hynek, Rresident of AOBP CR.



Recognition for Contribution to the Defence and Security Industry

Acknowledgement for active collaboration and membership in the representative editorial board of the Review for the defence and security industry, as well as for longstanding support of the defence and security industry, was awarded to:

Martin Dvořák

Martin Dvořák's career began in the military sector, focusing on quality control of military contracts. He worked as a technical specialist in the aviation sector and later held managerial and conceptual positions, culminating in his role as Director of the Office for Defence Standardisation, Codification and Government Quality Assurance Authority from 2009 until the end of 2023. During this period, he was actively involved in quality control and standardisation at both the national and NATO levels and played a key role in transforming the cataloguing system. He contributed to the drafting, negotiation, and implementation of key strategic documents in these areas.



Within routine contract quality control, he helped establish a new NATO-compatible system and continuously worked on its maintenance and improvement. His long-term participation in NATO committees and working groups has earned the Czech Republic a strong reputation in this field. Beyond the defence sector, he has also been involved in the Czech Quality Council, the Accreditation Council, and collaboration with the Association of Defence and Security Industries.

His contributions include drafting and signing several cooperation agreements related to international armament cooperation and government quality assurance authority for Czech defence industry projects, as well as cooperation with domestic entities such as the Administration State Material Reserves and the Czech Police.

The award was presented by Pavel Švagr, Chairman of Administration state material reserves.



Best of 2024 Awards Exceptional Foreign Company in Logistics

Awarded for the *UNEX UGV* robotic platform presented at the *Future Forces Forum (FFF)* 2024.

Recipients: **Mikhailo Vigovskyi,**
Serhii Samokhvalov

The *UNEX UGV* is an autonomous multi-purpose robotic platform designed for extreme conditions. It represents a Czech-Ukrainian

collaboration in the development and production of a revolutionary technology with unparalleled capabilities. Its exceptional off-road and amphibious abilities allow it to perform missions in any terrain, with modular adaptability for various uses.

The award was presented by Tomáš Kopečný, Governmental envoy for the reconstruction of Ukraine.



Exhibit of the Year 2024

Awarded to 3Defense for their *UAV Production System*, showcased at FFF 2024.

Recipient: **Štěpán Dokoupil,**
CEO of 3Defense

The *UAV Production System* is an innovative solution for manufacturing aircraft and UAVs. The combination of lightweight materials and 3D printing technology enables mass production even in field conditions. Its infinitely scalable containerised design ensures rapid deployment, reduced logistics demands, and supplier independence.

The award was presented by Šárka Cook, Director MS Line.

**Innovation of the Year 2024**

Awarded to VTÚ, s. p. for the *Data Diode and Security Filter* showcased at FFF 2024.

Recipients: **Jiří Kašpárek, Director of the Military Technical Institute,**
Marek Hajn,
Director of the KIS Division

These innovative technologies ensure secure data transmission between systems with dif-

ferent security classifications. They are approved by the National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NÚKIB) and are available in various configurations, including solutions for mobile and deployable systems.

The award was presented by Major General Robert Bielený, Director of the Logistics Section of the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic.



PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2024 in the field of advanced aviation technologies has been awarded to **PBS Group** for the **PBS TJ150 jet engine for unmanned applications**.

The award was received by **Pavel Čechal, Executive Director of PBS Group**.

The PBS TJ150 propulsion unit is designed for a wide range of applications, including unmanned aerial vehicles, training targets, and drones. Developed based on over 50 years of experience in the aviation industry, the engine meets the demands of even the most discerning customers thanks to its combination of high thrust, reliability, and low weight.

The award was presented by Tomáš Kuchta, Director of the Department for Economic and Science Diplomacy Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.



PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2024 in the field of firearms has been awarded to **Česká zbrojovka a.s.** for the **CZ BREN 3 automatic rifle**.

The award was received by **Radek Hauerland, Public Relations Manager at CZUB and Vice President for Industry at AOBP CR**.

The **CZ BREN 3 assault rifle** builds on the proven and battle-tested **BREN 2 model**. It introduces a range of innovations that enhance its resistance to extreme conditions and improve user comfort. Key improvements include enhanced aiming ergonomics, increased reliability when using ammunition

of varying quality, resistance to overheating during continuous fire, dependable operation with a suppressor, and other technological refinements.

Česká zbrojovka is a part of the **international Colt CZ Group** and will celebrate its **90th anniversary** next year. The company sells its products in more than 90 countries, with its firearms being used by armed forces in dozens of nations worldwide.

The award was presented by Brigadier General David Fulka MBA, Deputy Police President of the Czech Police.





RISING STAR OF THE YEAR 2024 has been awarded to **Česká exportní banka** (Czech Export Bank) for its significant support of the defence and security industry within the banking sector.

The award was received by **Daniel Krumpolc, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Česká exportní banka.**

Supporting the Czech defence and security industry is one of the key priorities of the **Czech Export Bank**. As a state-owned bank, ČEB is not constrained by internal policies of foreign owners and is fully capable of meeting the needs of export-oriented businesses in the defence and security sector, helping them expand into international markets. Since 2022, the **Czech Export Bank** has played a crucial role in supporting growth and investment in this strategically important sector. Since that year,

40% of the bank's portfolio has been dedicated to providing financial products for companies in the defence and security industry.

The award was presented by General ret. Jiří Šedivý, Programme Director of MPA – Security and Crisis Management, CEVRO University and Šárka Cook, Director of MS Line.



COMPANY OF THE YEAR 2024 in the **ammunition sector** has been awarded to **ZEVETA Bojkovice a.s.** and **ZEVETA AMMUNITION a.s.** for their outstanding achievements in development, manufacturing, and commerce.

The award was received by: **Radoslav Moravec, CEO of ZEVETA Bojkovice a.s.**

Tomáš Hrádek, Director of ZEVETA AMMUNITION a.s.

Mastering the **development of new HG series hand grenades** and the modernization of RPG series reactive grenades, combined with the ability to manufacture all components in-house **without relying on foreign sub-contractors**, makes these products **100%**

Czech-made. ZEVETA is a traditional Czech manufacturer with **over 89 years of experience in ammunition production**. The company continues to prove that it can offer **competitive products** that can effectively rival **foreign manufacturers** both in **performance and cost**.

The award was presented by Lauren Imari Cooková, Project Manager MS Line and Eva Soukupová, Editor-in-Chief of IDET News.





COMPANY OF THE YEAR 2024 in the field of **cybersecurity** has been awarded to **GORDIC spol. s r. o.** for its **outstanding performance over the past year.**

The award was received by **Vladimír Přech, Director of the Commercial and Administrative Section.**

The **Czech developer and supplier of information systems GORDIC** achieved the

highest security certification for commercial cloud services – Security Level 3 last year. This certification, granted under the **Cloud Computing Catalogue**, confirms that the company's cloud services meet the **strictest security and data protection standards.** In addition, in 2024, the company successfully **implemented its cybersecurity management applications** across both the **commercial and public sectors**, ensuring compliance with the **NIS2 directive.**

The award was presented by **Pavel Čechal, CEO of PBS Group and general partner of the Editorial Board Meeting, award ceremony and friendly meeting, together with Šárka Cook, Director of MS Line.**



Since a **uniform without patches, insignia, and other markings is not a uniform**, and **patches, insignia, and other markings are useless without a uniform**, the prestigious **MANAGER OF THE YEAR 2024** award has been granted to **two individuals** – the so-called **K+K duo.**

The **MANAGERS OF THE YEAR 2024** are, and the award was received by:

Pavel Koutný jr., CEO of Koutný spol. s r. o.
Libor Kříž, CEO of Kříž s. r. o.

Pavel Koutný jr. is the director of **Koutný, a family-owned and traditional clothing**

company celebrating its **30th anniversary** this year. The company produces and supplies **uniforms for armed forces and governmental organisations across Europe and beyond.** Additionally, through its **own retail stores**, it provides **classic men's suits** to individual customers. **Koutný** is one of the leading innovators in the **clothing industry** and, in **cooperation with NATO armies and Czech security forces**, actively participates in the **development of ceremonial and tactical uniforms.** Last year, **Koutný** won an **international public tender for Dutch customs officers**, competing against global manufacturers. A key factor in securing this contract was the use of **sustainable materials**, such as **recycled polyester, RWS wool, and organic cotton.**

Libor Kříž is the **co-owner of Kříž, a family business** based in **Letovice**, specialising in **professional patches, name tags, and rank insignia** for security and military forces. This year, the company celebrates its **33rd anniversary in the embroidery industry**, firmly establishing itself as a **leader in the field.** **Kříž**, who has been with the company since its founding in **1992**, has built its reputation on **quality production and innovation.**

The award was presented by **Brigadier General Jaromír Bischof, Deputy Police President of the Police of the Czech Republic, and Šárka Cook, Director of MS Line.**





The **MANAGEMENT TEAM OF THE YEAR 2024** award has been granted to **FUTURE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES, z.ú. (FAT)** for outstanding achievements in team management and event organisation as part of the international **FUTURE FORCES FORUM (FFF)** project.

The award was received by:

Daniel Kočí, Director of FAT and CEO of FFF

Adam Drnek, Chairman of the FAT Board and Executive Director of FFF

The **FUTURE FORCES FORUM (FFF)** is a key international platform that organises events

and activities supporting **Czech Republic's defence, security, and resilience goals**, as well as the **development of domestic industry, research, and innovation**.

The most significant event of last year was the **Future Forces Exhibition & Forum**, which attracted:

- Over **8,500 visitors from 70 countries**
- **340 exhibitors from 34 countries**
- More than **40 expert panels**

The **next edition of the Future Forces Exhibition & Forum** is scheduled for **October**

next year in Prague. In the meantime, **FFF will continue hosting conferences, workshops, and seminars** to further its mission.

The award was presented by Defence Attaché Lt. Gen. ret. Jaromír Žůna and Lauren Imari Cooková, MS Line Project Manager.



The **MANAGEMENT TEAM OF THE YEAR 2024 in the Defence and Security Industry** has been awarded to **LOM PRAHA s. p.**, together with its subsidiary **VR Group, a. s.**, for outstanding achievements in team management.

The award was received by:

Jiří Protiva, Director of LOM PRAHA

Vít Ryška (Ivo Gamba), Chairman of the Board of VR Group

Letecké opravny Malešice (LOM PRAHA) is one of the **oldest aviation enterprises in the**

Czech Republic, celebrating its **110th anniversary** this year.

The company is currently undergoing **dynamic expansion**, focusing on **strategic projects** for the **Czech Armed Forces**, including:

- **H-1 helicopter platform**
- **F-35 fighter aircraft acquisition**
- **Embraer C-390 transport aircraft procurement**

Additionally, **LOM PRAHA** operates **two airports**:

- **Přerov-Bochoř**
- **Plzeň-Líně**

LOM PRAHA's subsidiary, VR Group, plays a crucial role in the **CV90 infantry fighting vehicle project**, providing **cutting-edge training simulators** for **ground and aerial forces** of the **Czech Armed Forces**.

The award was presented by Maj. gen. Radek Hasala, Chief of the Military Office of the President of the Republic, and Šárka Cook, Director of MS Line.





The **COMPANY OF THE DECADE** in the **electronics sector** has been awarded to **ERA a. s.**, part of the **OMNIPOL Group**, in celebration of:

ERA's 30th anniversary
OMNIPOL's 90th anniversary

The award recognises **ERA's outstanding achievements in the development and production of passive surveillance systems.**

The award was received by:
Ondřej Chlost, MBA, CEO of ERA a. s.,
Jozef Piga, Vice President for External Relations of OMNIPOL Group

The **Pardubice-based company ERA** celebrated its **30th anniversary** last year – **30 years since the successors of the Czechoslovak electronics company Tesla saved a unique passive radar technology** and turned it into a **national treasure.**

Today, **ERA's passive surveillance systems** ensure **air traffic safety and border protection** for the **Czech Republic and allied nations.** Over the past three decades, **ERA has installed more than 160 civilian systems in 70 countries across five continents.**

The company was founded in **1994** and, since **2011**, has been part of the **OMNIPOL Group**, which itself **celebrated its 90th anniversary** last year.

The award was presented by Col. Petr Sehnoutka, Director of the Regional Directorate of the Police of the Hradec Králové Region, and Šárka Cook, Director of MS Line.



The **PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR 2024** in **industry** has been awarded to:

Filip Engelsmann,
CEO and Managing Director of **AURA s. r. o.**

Filip Engelsmann is the **owner and CEO of AURA**, a **Brno-based, family-owned, purely Czech company**, which **celebrated its 35th anniversary** last year.

With **100 employees**, **AURA** has become a **major global supplier of military logistics information systems.** For years, the company has been developing and maintaining the **Logistics Information System** for the **Ministry of Defence and the Czech Armed Forces**, a system **indispensable** for the logistics operations of the nation's armed forces.

In **2023**, **AURA** was a **finalist** in the **"Czech Exporters Award"** competition, organised

by the country's **largest business platform, HELAS.** The company also ranked **among the top ten** in the **Exporter of the Year** competition in the **"Mid-Sized Exporter with the Highest Growth in 2022–2023"** category.

The award was presented by Martin Dvořák, MoD CR and Miloš Soukup, Editor-in-Chief of the magazine Review for the defence and security industry.





The **PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR 2024** in the defence and security sector of public administration has been awarded to **Tomáš Hytych, MBA**, Director of the **Aviation Service of the Czech Police**, for his **longstanding service** in the **Czech Police Force** and his **active participation** in the **editorial board** of the **Review for the Defence and Security Industry**.

The award was received by:
Col. Tomáš Hytych, MBA

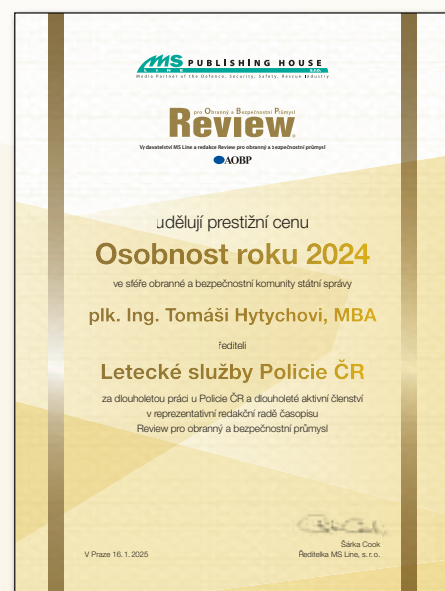
A member of the editorial board of the **Review for the Defence and Security Industry** since **2012**, **Colonel Hytych** has held **numerous leadership positions** in the **Czech Police**.

During his career, he has been involved in **managing the construction of facilities for the detention of foreign nationals** and was personally responsible for the **final evaluation of conditions for the Czech Republic's entry into the Schengen Area**.

From **April 1st, 2012**, until the end of 2024, he served as the **Director of the Aviation Service of the Czech Police**, where he led the **modernization of the fleet through helicopter acquisitions, the development of drone capabilities**, and authored the **new Aviation Service Development Concept for 2030**.

Over the years, he has received **several ministerial awards**, and under his leadership, the **Czech Police Aviation Service** was honoured with the **Golden Rescuer's Cross by the President of the Czech Republic in 2023**.

The award was presented by Jiří Hynek, President of the AOBP CR, and Šárka Cook, Director of MS Line.



We appreciate your work and excellent results in 2024



MS Line Publishing House and the editorial staff of **Review for the Defence and Security Industry** congratulates all the awardees, wishes them new professional successes, looks forward to a joint meeting at the beginning of next year and thanks the members of the representative editorial board and all invited guests for their extraordinary participation and interest, a total of 185 Representative Editorial Board members, friends of the magazine and invited guests attended.

Editorial staff of **REVIEW for the Defence and Security Industry**

*Photo: Lauren Imari Cooková,
Adriana Jesenská and Jaroslav Jonák*

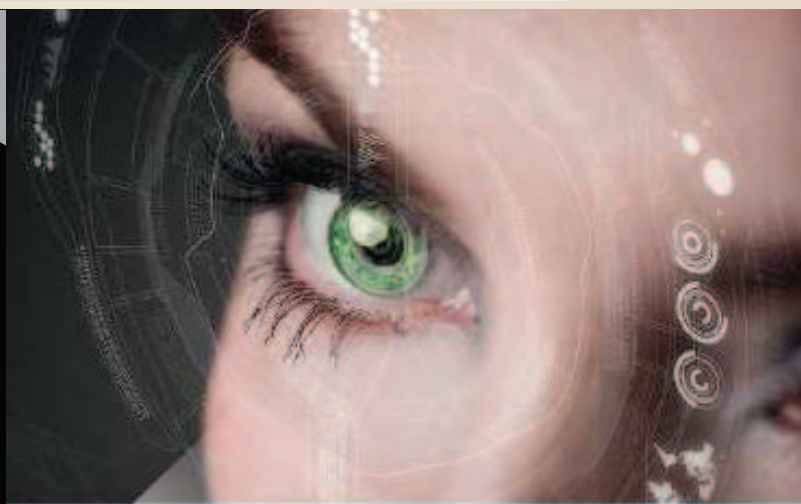
INTERVIEW WITH TOP PERSONALITIES



AVEC

AVEC CHEM
IN CBRN BUSINESS SINCE 1994
OVER 1 MILLION FILTERS PER YEAR
CUSTOMERS IN MORE THAN 70 COUNTRIES
ON 5 CONTINENTS
THE WIDEST RANGE OF PROTECTIVE FILTERS
IN THE MARKET
OWN TESTING LABORATORY FOR RESEARCH
AND VERIFICATION OF ALL TYPES OF PROTECTIVE
EQUIPMENT
INNOVATIVE APPROACH IN DESIGN AND SOLUTION
CLOSE CONTACT WITH ARMED FORCES

**| CBRN FILTERS | TACTICAL HALF MASKS | CBRN
PERMEABLE PROTECTIVE SUITS | COLPRO FILTERS
| PROTECTIVE FULL FACE MASKS AND ESCAPE HOODS**



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KNDS ESTABLISHES JOINT VENTURE: LEOPARD HUNGARY MRO

KNDS Deutschland (KNDS) and the Hungarian company HM Currus Zrt. (Currus) have joined forces to establish a new joint venture, **LEOPARD Hungary MRO Kft.**, reflecting their shared commitment to close cooperation. Founded on **20 February 2025**, the company is headquartered in **Gödöllő, Hungary**, with **KNDS holding a 49% stake and Currus a 51% stake**.

LEOPARD Hungary MRO (**Maintenance, Repair, and Operations**) will provide **long-term logistical support** for all KNDS systems in service with the Hungarian armed forces. Hungary's partnership with KNDS dates back to **2019**, when it signed a contract for a total of **90 systems**, including **Leopard 2 main battle tanks, PzH 2000 self-propelled howitzers**, and a range of **support vehicles**



such as the **WISENT armoured recovery vehicle** and the **LEGUAN bridge-layer**. The new joint venture will also be responsible for maintaining **training and simulation systems** associated with these platforms.

Speaking on the launch of the joint venture, **Hubert Dassinger, Co-Managing Director of LEOPARD Hungary MRO**, remarked:

"This joint venture is built on the strong and successful partnership we have cultivated with our Hungarian customer over the past five years. We take great pride in the trust placed in us to support Hungary's KNDS fleet in collaboration with our Hungarian industrial partner, Currus, as part of a long-term commitment."

KNDS itself was formed from the merger of **Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) and Nexter**, two of Europe's leading manufacturers of land-based defence systems, headquartered in **Germany and France**, respectively. Today, the KNDS Group employs approximately **9,500 people** and reported **€3.3 bil-**

lion in revenue in 2023, with an **order backlog of around €16 billion** and **new orders totalling €7.8 billion**.

Its extensive portfolio includes **main battle tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery systems, weapons, munitions, military bridging systems, combat management systems, training solutions, protection systems, and a wide array of other defence equipment**.

The creation of KNDS represents a **major step forward** in the consolidation of Europe's land defence industry. The strategic alliance between **KMW and Nexter** enhances both companies' **global competitiveness and ability to respond to national defence requirements**. At the same time, KNDS offers its **European and NATO customers improved standardisation and interoperability** of defence technologies, supported by a **robust and reliable industrial base**. The **KNDS headquarters is located in Amsterdam**.

Author: KNDS

RAFAEL ADVANCED DEFENCE SYSTEMS UNVEILS CUTTING-EDGE LASER AND INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGIES AT IDEX 2025

Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, renowned for developing battle-proven defence solutions such as Iron Dome and Trophy, continues to push the boundaries of technological innovation. Through its pioneering advancements, Rafael is setting new global standards in threat interception and military protection.

Innovative Directed-Energy Systems

At IDEX 2025, Rafael is showcasing its latest directed-energy technologies, including Iron Beam and Lite Beam. Iron Beam is a high-powered laser weapon system designed to neutralise a wide range of aerial threats, including rockets, artillery shells, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). With unparalleled precision, it ensures instantaneous threat elimination at minimal operational cost, offering an effectively unlimited "ammunition supply" and negligible collateral damage.

Complementing this is Lite Beam, a mobile laser system optimised for rapid and precise

engagement of low-flying aerial threats. Compact yet highly effective, it provides crucial protection for manoeuvring forces and critical infrastructure, even in dynamic operational environments.

Integrated Intelligence and AI Capabilities

Rafael's advanced intelligence solutions integrate artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance situational awareness and decision-making processes. These systems rapidly process and analyze vast amounts of data, providing actionable insights and improving response times to emerging threats.

Combat-Ready Capabilities

Rafael's defense systems are designed to be combat-ready, offering immediate operational effectiveness. These systems have demonstrated exceptional performance in various scenarios, showcasing their capability to neutralize threats with precision and reliability.

Contributions to New Space

Beyond directed-energy and intelligence innovations, Rafael is also making major strides in space technology. The company is at the forefront of New Space developments, particularly with its autonomous, tactical, 24/7 ISR satellite platform, LiteSat.

CEO Statement

Speaking at IDEX 2025, Yoav Tourgeman, CEO of Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, emphasised: *"Our presence at IDEX 2025 underscores Rafael's unwavering commitment to technological excellence and operational superiority. By integrating cutting-edge directed-energy and intelligence solutions, we are not merely introducing new products—we are delivering capabilities that redefine modern warfare. We remain dedicated to equipping our partners and allies in the region with the most advanced and reliable defence systems available today."*



DNY **NATO** DAYS 2025

THE BIGGEST SECURITY SHOW IN EUROPE

25TH NATO DAYS IN OSTRAVA 16TH CZECH AIR FORCE DAYS

LEOS JANACEK OSTRAVA AIRPORT 20 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

TITULAR SUPPORT



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



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ENFORCE TAC 2025

Continued growth and strategic importance in security and defence

ENFORCE TAC
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE

Our editorial team has visited the German exhibition Enforce Tac multiple times, previously held alongside the IWA trade fair. Each year, we have observed a growing number of exhibitors and visitors. However, this year, we were particularly surprised by the composition of exhibitors. The event featured numerous renowned companies, as evidenced by our photographic documentation. Therefore, we reached out to the exhibition organizer for their statement and the final report, which we are publishing here.

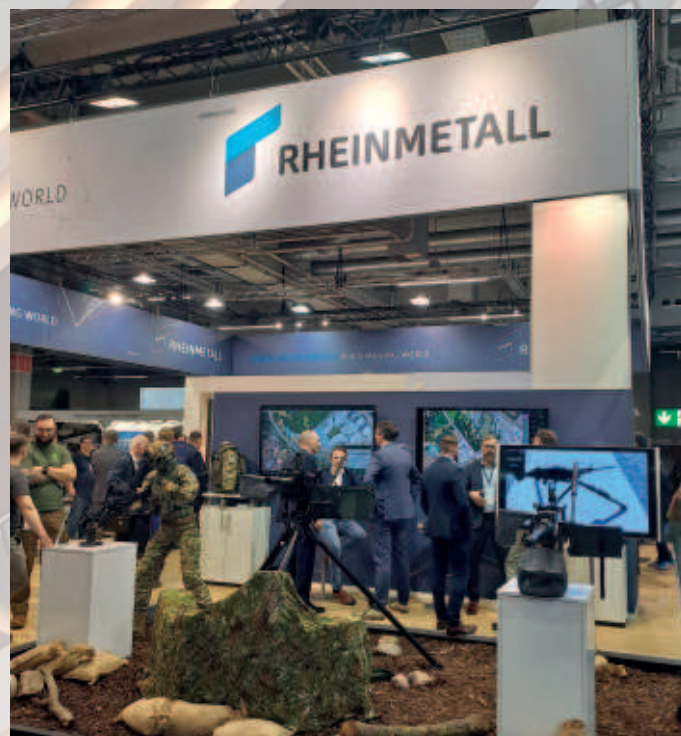
"Enforce Tac has established itself as the key gathering for German and international decision-makers and experts from the security and defence landscape. Its sustained growth reflects the ever-increasing need in the industry for dialogue, innovations and practical solutions," stresses Isabelle Teufert, Exhibition Director of Enforce Tac.

High-calibre forums and symposia stimulate professional exchange

A core component of Enforce Tac 2025 was the extensive supporting programme that

put both security policy issues and technological developments under the spotlight. This year, there was particular interest in the German-Nordic Defence Industry Dialogue, which provided a key platform for addressing the current challenges and opportunities in the industry to strengthen cooperation on security policy between Germany and Scandinavia. The event promoted and discussed opportunities for closer cooperation in the security and defence industry. Another successful premiere at Enforce Tac was the Ammo Symposium powered by RWS GmbH. This event addressed the growing demand

for ammunition in Europe, challenges in procurement, and innovative approaches to logistics. High-profile experts from industry and official agencies discussed the future development of this strategic market. With its constantly growing programme of forums, symposia and specialist presentations, Enforce Tac is setting new benchmarks in the discussion about security and defence policy. "Our vision is to continue to promote professional dialogue and provide solutions for the security-related challenges of our times," Teufert continues.



Expanded supporting programme with practical insights

As well as the symposia focusing on strategy and policy issues, Enforce Tac 2025 offered a wide-ranging supporting programme with practical demonstrations and specialist presentations. Live demonstrations of innovative technologies and new equipment enabled visitors to the Enforce Tac Village to experience product innovations from leading manufacturers live in action and learn about their possible applications away from the exhibition stands. The popular Enforce Tac Stage mastered its debut with flying colours. It proved to be a key platform for presentations and discussion panels focusing on cutting-edge solutions and the latest developments in the sector.

Strong encouragement from the political arena

On his visit to the trade fair this year, Bavarian Minister of the Interior Joachim Herrmann made the following point: "In a constantly changing security situation, we need to work together more than ever and find fresh solutions. Innovation and cooperation are the key to effective prevention, but also to law enforcement and defence."

As well as Minister Herrmann, Vice-Admiral Stawitzki, Bavarian Police Chief Schwald and many VIPs and members of the diplomatic

and consular corps were also impressed by the numerous technological developments and trends.

International relevance and preview of Enforce Tac 2026

The growing number of international participants and the high professional calibre of the event underscore Enforce Tac's role as the key platform for internal and external security in Germany and the rest of Europe "We are seeing how Enforce Tac is constantly evolving and attracting even more trade visitors from all around the world. This affirms our approach of constantly developing the trade fair with new formats and a more targeted supporting programme with a consistent focus on the needs of the security and defence sector," says Isabelle Teufert.

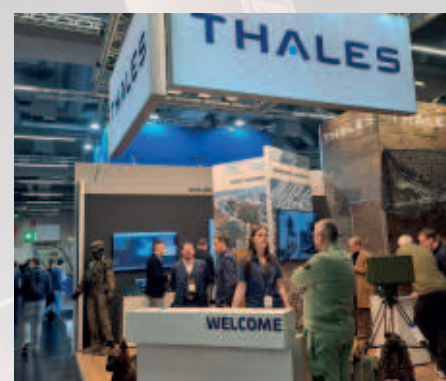
Save the date

In 2026, the exhibition will grow to fill six halls, covering an area of around 56,000 m². As a result, the Enforce Tac Village will find a new home in the Frankenhalle.

Enforce Tac will be held at Exhibition Centre Nuremberg from 23 to 25 February 2026. For more information please visit:

www.enforcetac.com.

*Author and photo:
Eva Soukupová and Enforce Tac*



SEEN BY EXHIBITORS & VISITORS

Prepared by Eva Soukupová and Lauren Imari Cooková

We visited Czech companies and asked specific exhibitors two questions:

1. What did you present at this year's exhibition?
2. How do you evaluate this fair and was your participation beneficial for you?

ANTREG – Ondřej Spisar

1. I represented the Czech company **Antreg**, a manufacturer of rifles based on the **AR-15 platform**.

2. This year was once again beneficial for **Antreg**, particularly in terms of **finding new dealers and spreading awareness about our rifles**. However, it would be great if **Enforce Tac and IWA could coordinate** to allocate dedicated halls for exhibitors attending both fairs. This would eliminate the need to **dismantle and transport entire booths across four halls**, leading to **significant cost savings** (as large companies with big booths currently have to build two) and a **much more environmentally friendly approach**—which is exactly what all of Europe is striving for now.



AVEC CHEM – Lucie Hamplová

1. AVEC CHEM showcased a new type of personal protective filter at Enforce Tac 2025, alongside an innovation to one of their existing CBRN filter models and a new full-face mask. The company also displayed its standard range of products, including a broad spectrum of personal and collective filters, tactical half-masks, and breathable protective suits.

2. The Enforce Tac exhibition is highly significant for AVEC CHEM as it facilitates direct contact with the users of our products. Personal meetings with CBRN specialists from military and emergency services provide invaluable feedback and insights for further development. Although the sector has a limited number of manufacturers and customers, this year we successfully established new business contacts that promise long-term collaboration. Therefore, Enforce Tac remains a highly valued opportunity for AVEC CHEM to present the work of our Czech family-owned company.



DESIGN TECH – Vojtěch Beneš

1. At the Enforce Tac trade fair, we presented holsters primarily designed for armed forces.

Visitors had the opportunity to view our new products and ask about specific details of the individual holsters.

2. We recorded continued interest not only from our current and potential business partners but also from the professional public. The fair showcased new products and innovations across many industries. Overall, I evaluate the fair and our participation positively.



ESP – Ondřej Muzika

1. We attended Enforce Tac to showcase the latest innovations from our development department to our partners. These included new plastic handcuffs, wall-mounted spray holders, new baton lengths, and the innovative Smartax flashlight.

2. As every year, we rate the trade fair very positively. It provided us with a great opportunity to present our products, meet industry experts, and establish new business connections. Interest in our solutions was high, confirming the growing demand for innovative security technologies. The fair also allowed us to gain valuable feedback and inspiration for further development. Our participation was undoubtedly beneficial, and we are already looking forward to the next edition.



FFF – Adam Drnek

1. This year marked our first time exhibiting with our own stand, where we introduced the upcoming 16th edition of the Future Forces Exhibition & Forum, set to take place in Prague from 21–23 October 2026. Given Enforce Tac's focus, many of our exhibitors and partners were also in attendance, providing a great opportunity to reconnect.

2. We received highly positive feedback from exhibitors regarding Future Forces 2024, which has already translated into numerous stand reservations for FF26. Additionally, we established new connections and secured fresh exhibitors, making our participation a resounding success. We have already secured the same location for next year's Enforce Tac.



HOLÍK – Petr Ovčáček

1. Traditionally, the Enforce Tac show serves as a showcase of equipment capabilities for law enforcement, military, and special forces. HOLÍK also regularly offers a wide range of gloves designed for various activities within these combat units. These include gloves for pilots, operatives, tactical shooters, rappelling teams, anti-riot units, search gloves with enhanced mechanical protection, ceremonial uniform gloves, and, of course, various models for winter use—both in standard Central European conditions and in extreme cold regions of our planet. HOLÍK produces this extensive selection of glove models in its own manufacturing facilities.

2. Over the past four years, Enforce Tac has become a prestigious exhibition of the production capabilities of the world's leading manufacturers of police and military gear and equipment. Therefore, participating in such a high-profile event alongside the most renowned and powerful global manufacturers is a significant occasion for HOLÍK

as well. We carefully prepare for months with our marketing team to ensure a strong presence. The confirmation of dozens of meetings with existing partners at the fair, preparations for upcoming projects, the

search for new contacts and opportunities, and, most importantly, the direct presentation of our models to end users is invaluable to us. This also includes gathering their feedback.



PRABOS PLUS – Monika Hlucháňová

1. This year, Prabos introduced three new footwear collections—Striker, Predator, and Caracal—which have generated significant interest from both industry professionals and the general public. Visitors appreciate not only the design and functionality but also the emphasis on durability and comfort.

2. Overall, this year's exhibition has attracted a high number of attendees, reflecting the growing demand for modern footwear that meets stringent customer requirements. Interest is coming not only from end users but also from business partners seeking reliable suppliers. Feedback from both exhibitors and visitors suggests that this segment of the market is experiencing dynamic growth, creating exciting new business opportunities.



PROTOTYPA – Zdeněk Hořák

1. At Enforce Tac 2025, we showcased our in-house measuring technology for ballistic laboratories. Throughout the exhibition, we had numerous meetings and discussions—both with potential customers interested in our products and with existing clients who are already using them.

2. From our perspective, this type of event is highly valuable, as it allows for personal engagement with our buyers while also providing an opportunity for direct discussions with potential customers who are in the process of selecting equipment for their laboratories.



STATEX GERMANY – Stefan Harms

1. At Enforce Tac, we specialized in two key areas. Firstly, IR shielding, where we presented both fabrics as semi-finished products and complete suits that serve as coverings for infrared camouflage.

Our second focus was on EMC-shielding textiles and the solutions developed from them. These included special bags and tent solutions that can be used as mobile command posts.

2. Unfortunately, we are not yet able to say much about a final evaluation of the whole project. It was our first visit to the trade fair and the results always show up with a little delay. However, the feedback we received at the stand was very positive and gives us hope for the best.



TILAK MILITARY GEAR – Martin Luřák

1. For us, the annual visit to Enforce Tac is important for two reasons. First, we present new products for the upcoming season each year—this year, it was the Malibu combat shirt and the Altair insulated jacket. Of course, we also showcase products from our existing collection. Second, the event is a key opportunity to meet with our contacts and business partners from across Europe and the world. Last but not least, we value the chance to connect with professionals from military and police units with whom we collaborate.

2. We first participated in Enforce Tac in 2021 (after several years of exhibiting at IWA), and from our perspective, the trade fair improves each year and plays an important role in our growth. At present, it is essentially the only event of its kind that we attend as exhibitors with this part of our portfolio, and we fully intend to continue participating in the future. We consider it highly valuable and essential.



WILD US – Petr Borák

1. This year, our company **WILD US** (www.wildus.cz) participated in the **global military and law enforcement trade fair Enforce Tac**, where we introduced the **NEXT GENERATION** tourniquet for stopping arterial bleeding. One of its key advantages is that our system is directly integrated into **four main points of the uniform** and can be applied **in just two seconds**. This ensures that every soldier is protected **24/7**.

2. Our innovation generated tremendous interest among representatives of **armed forces and police units worldwide**, as well as **special forces, defence organizations, leading uniform manufacturers, and medical equipment suppliers**. We were thrilled by the response, as our primary vision is to **save the lives of those who dedicate themselves to keeping us safe**.



LATANIR – Pavel Růžička – seen by visitor

1/ Was this your first time attending? What led to your decision to visit the exhibition?

Yes, this was our first time at Enforce Tac. Our decision was based on the information and invitations we received through AOBP, where we have been members for two years. We also drew on the experience of colleagues from partner companies who had attended in previous years. To assess the event's potential for us, we conducted a thorough analysis of both this year's exhibitors and those from past editions. We didn't just focus on company portfolios but also examined their origins—whether they hold primarily local significance or operate on a global scale. Our interest spans from major players to mid-sized and smaller partners in the defence industry. Given our expertise in engineering services and manufacturing, we pride ourselves on being highly flexible in both development and production. This strategic approach allowed us to enter discussions at the exhibition with concrete topics and solutions already prepared.

2/ How do you evaluate the exhibition, and was your participation beneficial?

Our meetings with partners were extremely positive, and we advanced discussions on multiple levels. Our counterparts appreciated our concrete proposals, deep understanding of the sector, technical expertise, and flexibility in custom solutions. We are well aware of the capacity challenges companies in our field face and came prepared with specific ways to assist. Often, conversations at exhibitors' stands evolved beyond the initial topics—such as with the owner of

a German company, where an unexpected issue arose: *"I also have a yacht, and I'm struggling to find a supplier for the cabling."* Our response? *"Fantastic! You've just found one. Send me any available schematics today, and our team will have the rest of the details sorted with you by tomorrow morning."*

Additionally, we held meetings with representatives from U.S. state administrations, including the Idaho Department of Commerce, as we are actively exploring opportunities to support our future investments in the United States.





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