Review®

FOR DEFENCE AND SECURITY INDUSTRY

AOBP The Media Platform of the Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic

MS LINE online en.msline.cz

IDET ISET PYROS

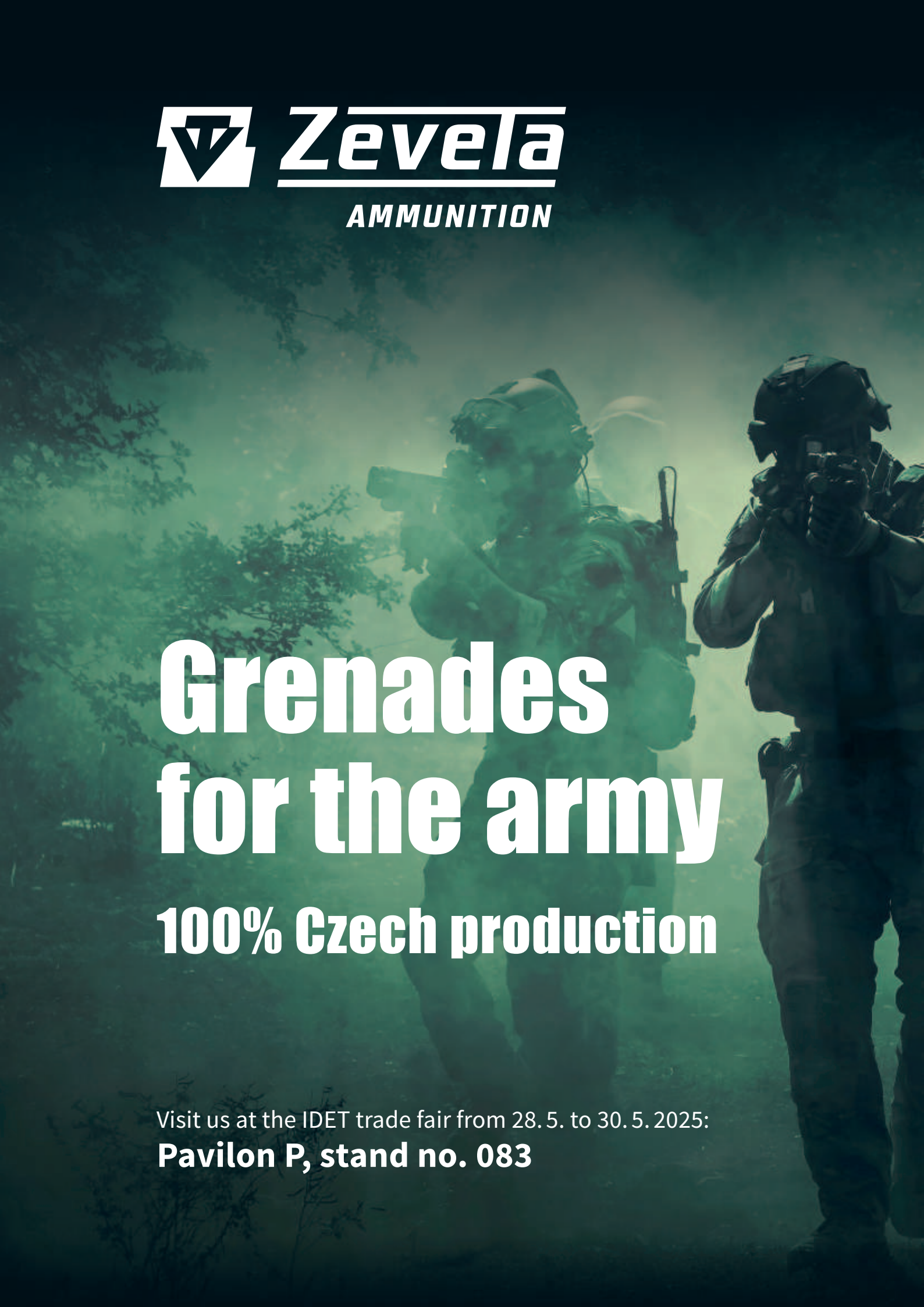
2|2025

LOM PRAHA

VR Group®

Pilot Training at LOM PRAHA reaches a new level

pages 29–31


Zevela
AMMUNITION
Grenades
for the army
100% Czech production
Visit us at the IDET trade fair from 28. 5. to 30. 5. 2025:
Pavilon P, stand no. 083

Czech production of hand grenades

As a traditional Czech ammunition manufacturer, ZEVETA comes with a new comprehensive range of new hand grenades including a new igniter, so that the user gets a modern means of tactical use that meets all current trends in the field of hand grenades with the greatest emphasis on ZEVETA's ability to produce all parts of a hand grenade, including the initiation chain, by ourselves and under our own direction.

The new hand grenades are designed in such a way that their handling meets the usual handling and safety standards for this type of ammunition, i.e. security against unwanted initiation during handling and at the moment of readiness for use.

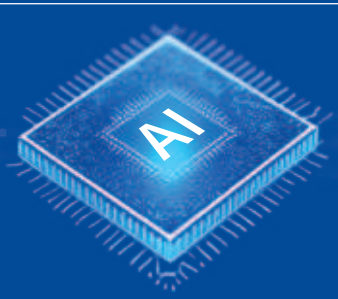
New

Offensive, Defensive, Thermobaric Hand Grenades

for Maximum Efficiency

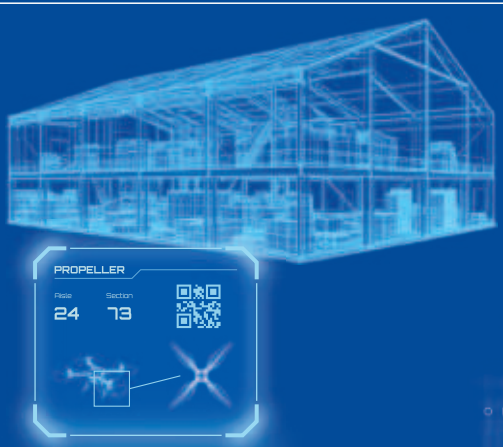
ØAURA

artificial intelligence



visibility and transparency

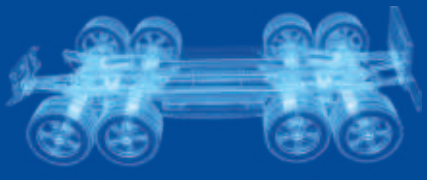
Logistic Information System

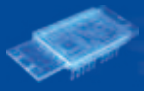


virtual reality

standards

NGVA





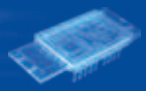
See you at the **IDET 2025** trade fair

hall P, stand 114

interoperability

readiness

efficiency



sensor network

We make the world of information more organised

Dear Readers,

In this second issue of the year, we bring you a number of engaging interviews, particularly with prominent representatives of the public sector, and—as usual—a presentation of the Czech defence and security industry. This edition of Review is being released ten days before the IDET, ISET, and PYROS trade fairs and essentially serves as an invitation to visit your exhibits.

Another major event is the General Assembly of the Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic (AOBP CR), which will take place in Brno shortly after the trade fairs, on June 5th. Of the more than 220 companies that make up the AOBP CR membership base, approximately 50 % have already used this magazine to present their activities. As a member company and media platform of the AOBP CR, we are dedicating a significant portion of this issue to the 29th General Assembly. In addition to an interview with the association's president and the Annual Activity Report, we also provide information about new member companies. We wish them success in finding the information, support, and network they need within the association.

As outlined in our publishing plan for this year, a key focus of this issue is the presentation of the Czech Republic's security forces—namely the Police, Prison Service, Customs Administration, Fire and Rescue Service, and the Administration of State Material Reserves—at the ISET and PYROS exhibitions. This community is becoming increasingly important for the defence and security industry, and we are pleased that these forces regularly use our pages to share relevant information that our industry can benefit from.

It is also particularly important to our editorial team that many medium and small-sized Czech defence and security companies continue to rely on this magazine to showcase their activities. At the same time, I would like to highlight that leading companies such as OMNIPOL GROUP, ZEVETA, LOM PRAHA, PBS GROUP, OPTOKON, GORDIC, AGADOS, and others are also regularly featured. We also appreciate that, after a brief hiatus, this issue features a return of companies from the Czechoslovak Group—TATRA DEFENCE, TATRA EXPORT, and EXCALIBUR. It is also encouraging to see a number of innovative projects being presented by universities, technical schools, and research institutes.

We thank everyone for their excellent cooperation.

Ing. Miloš Soukup
Editor-in-Chief

FROM THE CONTENTS

Publishing House: MS Line, s. r. o., Vykáň 82, 289 15 Kounice, e-mail: scook@msline.cz, en.msline.cz • Editor in Chief: Ing. Miloš Soukup Deputy Editor in Chief: Šárka Cook • Deputy Editor-in-Chief for the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and the Police of the Czech Republic: JUDr. Jaroslav Jonák • Editor-in-chief of the electronic English version of the Review, project manager: Lauren Imari Cooková Professional Editors: Adriana Jesenská • Language editing: Šárka Cook, Eva Soukupová • Translator's Agency: Eva Soukupová, Lauren Imari Cooková • Typesetting and graphic design: Magnus I s. r. o. • Head of Advertising Office: Eva Soukupová, e-mail: evasoukup@seznam.cz Internet Manager: Soliter – polygrafická společnost, s. r. o. • Print: Magnus II s. r. o. • Distribution: MS Line, s. r. o., MailFinish a. s. • Key number: MK ČR E 19352, ISSN 2336-3460 • Not for sale • Cover photo: LOM Praha, s. p.

MY PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

is to establish a robust connection between Prague and Washington

”The relationship between the United States and Europe remains strategically significant, although differing perspectives may arise in certain areas regarding specific security, trade, or technological cooperation issues. Despite these differences, there is a strong willingness on both sides of the Atlantic to deepen partnerships, especially in the fields of defence and security, where we share common interests and a long-standing collaboration,“ mentions among other things the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the USA, Miloslav Stašek, in this interview.

It has been exactly four years since you gave us an interview in your role as the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Much has happened since then— in 2022, you were appointed as the Czech Ambassador to the United States, a position you continue to hold.

Could you share with our readers your new impressions from serving as the Czech Ambassador to the U.S.? How has exchanging Prague for Washington, D.C. for such an extended period changed your life?

It’s a significant change, both personally and professionally. Serving as Ambassador to the U.S. is a highly responsible position at any time, and I dare say the intensity and demands of the job have increased under the Trump administration, which is introducing new dynamics into Transatlantic relations, particularly in terms of security and trade cooperation between the U.S. and Europe.

I would venture to say that Washington is something of a ”Mecca“ for global diplomacy. Global leaders and top Czech officials come here regularly, and key negotiations on major foreign policy issues take place here. I doubt there is any other bilateral embassy with such a dynamic and high-profile agenda. Personally, I am deeply grateful for this exceptional and intense professional opportunity.

Of course, serving as Ambassador in Washington also brings with it considerable pressure and demands. This applies to the entire embassy team, and I must highlight the high caliber of diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Czech institutions who I have the chance to work with every day. I am also immensely grateful to my family, who are managing this demanding assignment alongside me and have adapted as best as possible to the not always easy family-life circumstances.

In your last interview as State Secretary, you mentioned your main priority was managing the epidemiological situation (COVID-19), with an emphasis on protecting the health of employees at the MFA headquarters in Prague and at Czech embassies abroad. What is your main priority now?

My main priority is to actively contribute to the further deepening of the strategic partnership between the Czech Republic and the United States at all levels: bilateral, within NATO, and in the broader Euro-American context. My primary objective is basically to establish a robust and impactful connection between Prague and Washington.

On the bilateral level, we strive for the closest possible cooperation in key areas – from defence and security partnerships, to expanding trade and investment ties, to science, research, and technological innovation. I believe that high-quality bilateral relations form the solid foundation of our Transatlantic bond within NATO and also help strengthen EU–U.S. relations.

A key challenge remains ensuring that our economic ties remain open and fair. Both Europe and the United States currently face temptations to introduce protectionist measures that could weaken our shared position

in relation to global competitors. My goal is to support dialogue aimed at making our rules more compatible and our economic relationship more mutually beneficial.

Could you briefly describe the current state of strained U.S.–Europe relations, especially with respect to potential impacts on the Czech defence and security industry? How is the Czech defence industry perceived in the U.S., and what might threaten its production or export to the U.S.?

Relations between the United States and Europe remain of strategic importance, even if there are at times differing views on specific security, trade, or technology issues. Despite these differences, there is a strong commitment on both sides of the Atlantic to deepening the partnership—especially in defence and security, where we share many interests and have a long history of successful cooperation.

The Czech defence and security industry has built a very solid reputation in the U.S. Its strengths lie in quality, reliability, technological advancement, and the ability of Czech companies to respond flexibly to the specific needs of American partners. The Czech Republic's active involvement in NATO structures and specific alliance projects also plays a significant role.

As for potential risks, regulatory frameworks are key—particularly issues around foreign investment control, export licensing, and the national security implications of certain technologies. That's why we consider it essential to maintain open dialogue with U.S. institutions and to provide Czech companies with the best possible support in navigating the local environment.

What specific problems have you had to address during your time in office when it comes to supporting Czech industry in general? And how can representatives of industry reach out to your embassy when facing challenges?

In supporting Czech industry, we often focus on removing barriers that hinder Czech companies from entering the U.S. market—whether it's access to key information, establishing business relationships, or navigating local rules and procedures.

We also actively work to improve systemic conditions for the long-term presence of Czech companies in the U.S. One of our goals is to promote legislative change in the U.S. Congress that would allow Czech citizens to apply for E1 visas—intended for entrepreneurs and companies seeking to expand their business in the U.S.

Companies are always welcome to contact the Economic and Commercial Section of the Czech Embassy in Washington or the relevant Consulates General in the U.S. The best approach is to briefly describe the situation, need, or problem—and together we'll find a solution or recommend next steps.

Is your embassy planning any industry-support missions, and what projects have already been implemented with the help of the PROPED economic diplomacy program?

The Embassy in Washington actively supports Czech companies entering the U.S. market through the economic diplomacy program PROPED. One of the flagship projects in 2025 was the largest-ever Czech participation in South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, Texas, where technology firms, startups, and regional innovation centers were showcased.

The first-ever national "Czech House" and participation in the SXSW Expo enabled Czech companies to present themselves and establish partnerships—especially in areas like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and the creative industries. The event is a unique combination of business, technology, and culture. On the margins of the event, Minister of Industry and Trade Lukáš Vlček met in Washington with USTR Greer to discuss strengthening Czech-American trade ties and in Austin with the CEO of Onsemi about their planned investment in the Czech Republic.

The mission was funded as a PROPED project by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry for Regional Development, and supported by the South Moravian and Zlín regions, as well as CzechInvest, CzechTrade, and CzechTourism. The Embassy is planning additional projects focused on technological cooperation, innovation, and investment.

Your Excellency, thank you for the interview and I wish you much strength in such an important, demanding and responsible position.

Šárka Cook

Photo: Embassy of the Czech Republic in the USA

Security & Defence Technologies Catalogue

New mobile app

Mobile app
for searching
defence and security
industry companies
by sector
classification.

For more information about
how your company can be
featured in the app,
please contact: scook@msline.cz
or +420 773 990 626

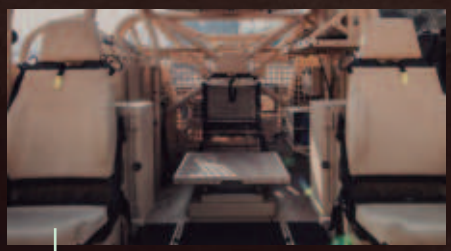
ARQUUS-DEFENSE.COM

ARQUUS
A John Cockerill Company

MADE IN FRANCE

SABRE

SPECIAL FORCES SPECIFIED



COMBAT PROVEN

NATO QUALIFIED

MOBILITY

MP DRAHOSLAV RYBA ON HIS VISION FOR SECURITY

MP Drahoslav Ryba is a long-time expert in the field of the Integrated Rescue System and served for ten years as Director General of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic (HZS CR). In the Chamber of Deputies, he focuses primarily on internal security and supporting both professional and volunteer firefighters. In this interview, he reflects on the current challenges facing the Fire Rescue Service, discusses funding for defence, the work of the Security Committee, domestic defence exhibitions, and his candidacy in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

How do you assess the performance of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic since stepping down as Director General in 2021? What motivated you to enter politics at the time? What was the biggest surprise in your transition from leading the HZS to becoming an MP?

Looking back at the development of the Fire Rescue Service since my departure in 2021, I would say that I now observe its evolution with a degree of perspective. Naturally, there are decisions I might have approached differently, but I view the continued modernization of equipment, the effective handling of emergencies, and especially the improving cooperation between professional and volunteer firefighters very positively. These are key areas, and I'm glad to see continuity being maintained.

I left the position of Director General after completing the statutory limit of two five-year terms. Once that period ended, I began considering my next professional steps. I accepted an offer to serve as a liaison officer at the Czech Embassy in Bratislava, where I worked for about six months. Shortly after that, I was approached by the chairman of the ANO movement with a proposal to run for Parliament as the lead candidate in the Vysočina region. At first, I hesitated. I had never aspired to enter politics, but after consulting with my family and colleagues, we agreed that I might be more useful to firefighters as an MP than continuing my work abroad. In the end, I accepted the offer—and I have no regrets.

The transition was a significant change. While at the HZS, decisions were made and implemented quickly in an operational environment. Parliamentary work, especially from the opposition benches, has an entirely different dynamic. Legislative processes are far slower, and the ability to push through concrete proposals is much more limited. That was the biggest surprise for me—but even so, I consider my political engagement meaningful.

As a member of the Security Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee for the Fire Rescue Service, you contribute to addressing key issues in the area of internal security. Which events do you consider the most significant over the past year? How do you think the committee—and the Fire Rescue Service itself—handled, for example, the recent flood situations?

There were many noteworthy events for the Fire Rescue Service over the past year. Floods have become something of an evergreen issue—in the Czech context, they're nothing new, but they continue to demand a high level of preparedness and coordination. On this front, it's encouraging to see that the experience gained from past disasters—especially the extensive floods of 1997, which claimed more than 50 lives and caused massive damage—has significantly improved the response of the Integrated Rescue System, as well as the readiness of local governments and even individual citizens.

Those events were the catalyst for new crisis legislation in 2000, and since then, the standards of crisis management have steadily improved. Today, I can confidently say that the

handling of flood situations is carried out at a high level—even though such emergencies are, of course, always challenging.

What challenges are the committee and the Fire Rescue Service currently facing?

One of the most pressing challenges at the moment is the environmental disaster caused by a benzene spill from derailed tankers in Hustopeče nad Bečvou. This was an exceptionally serious incident, one for which Czech firefighters had no prior hands-on experience. Even on a European scale, it was an unprecedented event that required an extraordinary effort. We will be dealing with the consequences of this accident for a long time to come.

The media has also reported on other events, such as the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in Slovakia and the recent explosion at an arms manufacturing facility. How do you assess the response to these situations?

Yes, there was an explosion at a munitions facility earlier this year. While not entirely uncommon—during my tenure in both the leadership of the Fire Rescue Service and in the Chamber of Deputies, this was already the third or fourth such incident—it once again proved that preventive measures are effective. The facility's structure prevented the blast from spreading beyond the specific worksite, and specially reinforced equipment, purchased by the Fire Rescue Service precisely for operations in high-risk environments, played a key role once again. Part of this equipment had previously been deployed in Vrbětice, and it is becoming increasingly evident how essential investment in high-quality gear truly is.

As for the situation in Slovakia, the Czech Republic has long established itself as an experienced partner in handling biological emergencies. Our experts train international teams, and the Fire Rescue Service has considerable experience in such operations—for instance, dealing with avian flu outbreaks, which have become an almost annual occurrence. However, foot-and-mouth disease is particularly challenging due to its high contagion rate. In such cases, command lies with the relevant sectoral authority—here, the State Veterinary Administration—while the Fire Rescue Service is involved as a technical support branch, especially in the area of decontamination. This model of cooperation has proven effective in practice.

I also personally encountered a similar type of crisis situation during my time as the regional fire chief in Jihlava, when we handled the first outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the Czech Republic. That was a completely new situation that demanded intensive cooperation between the veterinary authority and the components of the Integrated Rescue System. Strict hygiene measures were introduced, including the construction of burial pits and the incineration of carcasses. That experience clearly demonstrated the importance of preparedness for extraordinary events—even those outside the scope of common risks.

The Security Committee recently reviewed the Development Strategy for the Fire Rescue Service for 2025. In your view, what progress has the Service made in recent years?

The Subcommittee for the Fire Rescue Service held a detailed discussion on the draft of the 2025 development strategy. The current Director-General of the Fire Rescue Service, Lieutenant General Vladimír Vlček, was present to introduce the document to committee members. We acknowledged the material without objections—it was mainly about becoming acquainted with the proposed direction of future development. It doesn't involve any dramatic changes but reflects a natural evolution of the organization.

I believe that the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic is currently very well-equipped. The modernization of equipment is evident—not only among professional units but also within volunteer fire departments. Considerably more funding is now allocated to this area than in the past. For comparison: when I began my tenure 15 years ago, the annual budget for volunteer firefighters was less than 100 million CZK. Today, it's over one billion.

I'm proud to have been involved in two key initiatives that significantly shaped this area. The first was the adoption of legislation in 2013 that introduced the Damage Prevention Fund. Its resources benefit not only firefighters, but also the police and various prevention projects. The fund became operational in 2015 and has provided volunteer firefighters alone with around one billion CZK—supporting, for example, the purchase of new tankers.

The second major step I consider a great success was the increase in investment for transport vehicle acquisition for volunteer units. This project wasn't limited to units operating outside their municipality (known as JPO II and III), but also extended to smaller village departments (JPO V), which previously had only limited access to such grants. Thanks to this support, we now see new vehicles across the country—even in the smallest fire stations. From my perspective, it was one of the most successful projects during my term.

That said, I must also acknowledge one thing that concerns me. In recent times, several true professionals—people who were deeply committed to the Service—have left the organization. I won't speculate on the reasons, but it's undoubtedly a loss. The greatest asset of any organization isn't its vehicles, equipment, or buildings—it's its people.

Are there currently any issues related to the defence or security sector being discussed in the Chamber of Deputies that you would like to comment on? In your political work, for example, you are known for highlighting the underfunding of firefighters' salaries.

The issue of remuneration for members of the Fire Rescue Service has been a long-standing "rollercoaster." In the past, firefighter salaries were very competitive compared to the national average. However, due to inflation and other economic factors, the real value of those salaries has declined in recent years. So it's not that salaries have been directly reduced, but the real impact on firefighters' standard of living is tangible.

At the moment, I am also working to prevent the adoption of an amendment to the Act on the Service Relationship of Members of Security Forces, which is currently being debated in the Chamber of Deputies. If passed in its current form, it would significantly worsen the current service framework within the Fire Rescue Service. Firefighters have long operated under an ABC shift system—24 hours on duty, followed by 48 hours off. This model has suited the specific nature of their work.

The proposed amendment refers to a European directive that limits the maximum weekly working time to 37.5 hours, with the possibility of extending it to 48 hours with the employee's consent. However, this would mean that firefighters, who currently spend approximately 240 hours per month on-site (including standby duty), would be limited to 190–192 hours. That 50-hour difference would have a substantial effect—not only on their workplace presence but also on their earnings. If they are not physically present, they lose entitlement to standby bonuses. This would likely necessitate the recruitment of additional personnel to maintain current operations and could also lead to the departure of experienced firefighters accustomed to the existing system, which they view as functional. I believe this proposal will not pass in its current form—or that amendments will be made to preserve the current system.

In addition, the Chamber is debating an amendment to the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection, which partially responds to lessons learned from the large-scale wildfire in Hřensko. The aim is to prevent similar incidents by dividing protected areas into smaller sectors, improving water availability for firefighting, and establishing escape and access routes. Personally, I would welcome even more decisive changes, but the current proposal is a reasonable compromise between environmental interests and the needs of emergency services. If passed, it would represent a significant step forward.

What is your view on the current staffing situation in the Fire Rescue Service? Do we have enough professional firefighters? And what role do volunteer firefighters play in the system? Has there been any progress in this area during your term?

When it comes to professional firefighters, we used to be able to be very selective. There were sometimes ten candidates for a single position, all of whom had passed rigorous entry requirements—physical and psychological testing, medical examinations, and they had to be of legal age, have clean criminal records, and be Czech citizens. These entry requirements remain strict today, and rightly so. However, we no longer have the same pool of applicants. In some regions—especially large cities and border areas—we're struggling to find suitable candidates. Contributing factors include high living costs or competition from job opportunities abroad.

Volunteer firefighters play an irreplaceable role. They are not only a critical backup for professional units but also serve as a recruitment base for new members. They are deeply involved in public life, youth programs, and organizing cultural and community events. And of course, they are actively engaged in emergency response. Currently, volunteer firefighters participate in roughly 50% of all deployments, either alongside professionals or independently. They form a massive force of people willing to help this country. While active military reserves number in the thousands, the Firefighters Association has over 350,000 members—approximately 70,000 of whom serve directly in firefighting units. That's a tremendous asset.

I can also say that the cooperation between professional and volunteer firefighters is now at a high level. This was not always the case—I recall times when such cooperation was viewed negatively. But during my tenure, and already under my predecessor, the relationship improved significantly.

You often meet with volunteer firefighters in the regions. Are they satisfied?

Yes, I meet with volunteer firefighters regularly. Just in the past month, I visited all district delegate assemblies in the Vysočina Region and had the opportunity to speak with nearly a thousand firefighters. Overall, they view the situation positively. They appreciate the collaboration with professional units and the improving technical equipment. Our region has benefited from additional support from the Vysočina Region itself, which has increased funding for operations and equipment.

That said, one ongoing issue is the underfunding of non-investment expenses—primarily deployments outside their home jurisdiction. Firefighting units are established by municipalities, and their operations within the municipality are funded from the local budget. However, when they respond outside their jurisdiction, those costs should be reimbursed by the state. Unfortunately, the reimbursement allowance hasn't changed since 2017—it remains at 100 million CZK per year nationwide, which is no longer sufficient under current conditions. In practice, this means that municipalities are partially subsidizing activities that should be covered by the national budget. I believe this can and should be addressed in the future.

In response to the current global situation, both national and EU institutions are stepping up defence spending. As a Member of Parliament, a member of the Security Committee, and former General Director of the Fire Rescue Service, how do you view these developments? And how might such investments affect your work or directly influence the fire service?

There is no doubt that the current security environment calls for strengthening our defence capabilities. At the same time, I believe discussions on defence spending should not start with the question of what percentage of GDP to allocate—whether 2%, 3%, or more. The first step should be to clearly define what we need, determine the specific actions to be taken, and only then find an appropriate financial framework. If it turns out we need to invest even 3% of GDP, I will support it. But figures alone are meaningless without a clearly defined purpose.

From a broader perspective, I believe external and internal security are inseparable—they form a single, interconnected whole. While it is entirely appropriate to talk about investing in external defence, we must not overlook internal security. I'm in regular contact with firefighter colleagues in Ukraine and I've seen how vital their role is in crisis situations brought about by war. The Czech Fire Rescue Service plays a similarly irreplaceable role here.

For example, our current population warning and information system is technologically outdated. Many municipalities still rely on rotating sirens with no voice messaging. That means people hear the alert, but don't know what's going on. This system is simply not fit for the 21st century. Investments in modern electronic sirens capable of delivering real-time voice messages are crucial—and this is just one example of how increased defence spending should also benefit civil protection systems.

One of the topics frequently discussed today is Europe's global competitiveness. In your view, is Europe capable of competing with global suppliers in the defence and

security industries in terms of quality, capacity, or pricing?

While I wouldn't call myself a defence industry expert, I'd like to think my perspective is no longer entirely that of a layman. I believe there are many areas where Europe should be capable of ensuring its own production—especially when it comes to standard equipment and technologies. We should strive for self-sufficiency, not only for economic reasons but also to enhance security.

However, there are certain segments where I don't think Europe can currently compete with global leaders—particularly in advanced systems like air defence, geolocation technologies, and some high-end solutions. Catching up in those areas would require sustained, long-term effort.

That said, I welcome the initiatives heading in the right direction. One such example is the push to establish a European semiconductor factory. Even if it won't produce the most cutting-edge microchips, it would still be a significant step toward greater technological independence for Europe.

Will you attend this year's IDET, ISET, or PYROS trade fairs? What are your expectations for PYROS, and what are you looking forward to? In Germany, the major fire and rescue trade fair Interschutz is held only once every five years, which some visitors view as ideal. More frequent events, like in the Czech Republic, can be costly and may not feature enough innovation. What is your opinion on the frequency of trade fairs in the Czech Republic, and what would you suggest to make their organisation more effective?

If my schedule allows, I'd very much like to attend PYROS again this year—I'm a regular visitor. These fairs offer a great opportunity to meet up with colleagues I've worked with over the years. I don't expect groundbreaking technological innovations, but I do greatly appreciate the informal space for dialogue and discussion.

As for frequency, I believe the five-year interval of Interschutz makes sense. The development cycle for fire and rescue technology isn't fast enough to justify a national-level trade fair every two years. Naturally, that means there are fewer real innovations on display. I would personally support extending the interval between PYROS fairs.

One idea could be to strengthen cooperation with Slovakia, which organises similar thematic events, and consider alternating the venue between the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Germany. We could, for instance, try holding PYROS once every three years and then evaluate whether to shift to a four-year cycle, depending on interest. Of course, this is also a question for the fair organisers—whether they would be open to such changes.

With parliamentary elections approaching and your term nearing its end, what are your plans for the future? Can voters expect to see you running again with the ANO movement, or perhaps later for the Senate? What would you offer your future constituents?

I'm interested in running again, provided I receive the nomination from the ANO movement. If I do, the final decision will be in the hands of the voters.

What can I offer? Primarily, that I'm here for the people. I aim to be accessible, open, and ready to listen. During my Senate campaign, I met thousands of people in person, and each of those encounters was enriching. It helps keep me grounded and in touch with what people are really concerned about. With that humility, I'm asking for voters' trust once again.

If re-elected, I'd like to continue my work on the Security Committee and stay focused on areas where I can make the biggest difference—internal security, the integrated rescue system, and most of all, our firefighters. I don't try to comment on every issue; instead, I concentrate on matters I genuinely understand and approach them with professionalism and expertise.

At this time, I'm not considering another Senate run. That campaign was a valuable experience—I dedicated three intense months to it and ran a very hands-on campaign. The outcome wasn't what I had hoped for, but I don't regret it. Right now, my priority is to return to the Chamber of Deputies and serve where I believe I can contribute most—standing up for our fire and rescue services.

Interview with the President of the Confederation of Employer and Entrepreneur Associations of the Czech Republic,

Jiří Horecký

The Confederation of Employer and Entrepreneur Associations of the Czech Republic (KZPS ČR) is the largest employers' union with the broadest range of entrepreneurs. Its president granted us the following interview, including his views on the future of Czech industry. At the same time, he accepted our offer and became another member of the Representative Editorial Board of the Review magazine for the defence and security industry.

Mr. President, what is the current state of Czech industry, and what lies ahead?

The key sector of the Czech economy is the automotive industry, which is facing challenges related to the transition to electromobility, tightening emission targets, and growing competition from Asia. These factors, along with unmet demand expectations, are already affecting this sector's performance. High energy prices are another barrier to industrial growth, especially for energy-intensive sectors like metallurgy and foundries, which have seen production declines due to costly energy.

Despite these challenges, there are also positive signals. Surveys from January 2025 suggest a slowdown in industrial production decline in Central Europe, with companies expressing optimism about the future. However, the introduction of U.S. tariffs on European goods poses a significant risk to further recovery.

Overall, Czech industry is expected to continue facing challenges in the near future, but there are also opportunities for growth through adaptation to new technological and market conditions.

It is often said that the Czech Republic does not produce enough final products—those with the highest added value. How can this be changed?

Yes, the Czech Republic still does not produce a sufficient quantity of so-called final products—those intended for end consumers and thus generating the highest margins.

We are still heavily reliant on a supply-chain-based economy, with end products being made outside the country. This relates not only to know-how and innovation but also to the structure of the Czech economy, which is changing gradually and more slowly than we might wish. In other words, if someone owns a company producing and selling intermediates to other firms, it is not always easy to switch that production. On the other hand, we need to support start-ups and invest in research, innovation, and digitalization.

The European Green Deal continues to burden Czech employers and seems increasingly unachievable. Do you have any recommendations to make it more acceptable for companies?

A major revision is necessary—of the Green Deal itself and other related documents and targets such as Fit for 55, the Clean Industrial Deal, and a suspension of the CSRD directive and ESG reporting.

We must revise the EU's climate targets, re-evaluating ambitious emissions commitments to reflect Europe's actual economic and technological capabilities. Furthermore, support should focus on technological innovations and investments in R&D of low-emission technologies and energy efficiency,

rather than relying on regulatory enforcement. Finally, ensuring energy security by creating a stable and diversified energy mix—including nuclear, gas, and renewables—and protecting industrial competitiveness (e.g., reducing bureaucracy and introducing incentives to keep production in Europe rather than relocating it) is key.

We have addressed these matters in a joint letter with ČMKOS to the European Commission, presenting specific proposals and demands. We are also communicating these issues with the Czech government, our MEPs, and international social partners.

Cutting red tape and bureaucracy is a perennial topic. Do you see any hope for success? Could digitalization of public administration bring better prospects for businesses?

The proposed OMNIBUS I is a small spark of hope that the European Commission may finally be realizing that decarbonization—with all its regulation and reporting—is leading to deindustrialization in Europe. On the other hand, the suggested modest removal of a few reporting obligations after years of imposing thousands of unnecessary ones is not what the EU truly needs. The real solution and immediate relief would be a complete abandonment of the ESG and CSRD concepts—just as all U.S. banks managed to do in the span of a single week.

What is your view on the prospects and future development of the defence and security industry?

The defence and security industry is undergoing a transformation driven by increasing geopolitical tensions, technological advancements, and heightened state investments in modernizing armed forces. The development of unmanned and autonomous systems, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence plays a key role, reshaping both current and future conflicts. NATO countries and others are increasing their defence budgets and focusing on resilience, interoperability, and innovation.

However, in addition to political declarations at the EU and national levels, it is essential to identify the actual capacity of the defence industry in the Czech Republic and the EU—not just talk about billions being allocated to defence. This constructive and active dialogue is somewhat lacking. At the same time, cooperation is strengthening between the state, private sector, and research institutions, especially under programs like the European Defence Fund (EDF) or PESCO. There is also growing pressure to ensure secure and independent supply chains within Europe. For countries like the Czech Republic, this represents an opportunity for further growth and internationalization of domestic manufacturers and developers. The key challenges ahead remain maintaining the pace of innovation and securing enough qualified experts and workers.

Mr. President, thank you for the interview. I look forward to our collaboration as part of your new membership in the editorial board of the Review magazine.

Šárka Cook

Photo: KZPS ČR

Professional background of Jiří Horecký

Jiří Horecký's professional life is closely connected with advocacy activities, employer and business representation, and the social sector at both national and international levels. He is currently a statutory representative and president of several organizations. Since 2007, he has been the president of the Association of Social Service Providers of the Czech Republic, since 2013 the president of the Union of Employers' Associations of the Czech Republic, since 2018 the president of the European Ageing Network, since 2017 the vice president of the European Federation of Employers in Social Services, and since 2024 the president of the Confederation of Employer and Entrepreneur Associations of the Czech Republic.

Besides managing organizations, he participates in many expert councils and bodies, such as the Council for European Structural and Investment Funds, the Board of RHSD (Tripartite), the RHSD Working Group on Economic Policy, the Expert Group on Systemic Change of Funding of Publicly Beneficial Services, the Advisory Board of the Czech Labour Office, the Government Council for Public Administration, and the Business Council at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The Confederation of Employer and Entrepreneur Associations of the Czech Republic (KZPS CR) is the largest employers' union with the widest spectrum of entrepreneurs. Through our members, we represent the largest number of employers and employees in the Czech Republic: 140 associations, entrepreneurs' and employers' unions with more than 23,000 member entities and their 1,750,000 employees. We formulate the common business and employer interests of our members and promote them in cooperation with the relevant state and public authorities, other employer organizations and trade union representatives. We actively communicate as a social partner representing the employers' side with the government in the Council of the Economic and Social Agreement – the tripartite.

www.kzps.cz

WILL FRANCE TURN EUROPE INTO A NUCLEAR POWER?

What does the current global overview of military nuclear capabilities show? Nine countries possess nuclear weapons: Russia, the United States, China, France, the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Israel (whose nuclear programme remains officially classified), and North Korea. Six additional countries are hosts to nuclear weapons: NATO members: Italy, Turkey, Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands host U.S. -controlled nuclear weapons, while Belarus hosts Russian nuclear arms.

The American commitment to protect NATO allies with nuclear weapons, if necessary, is now somewhat in question due to the unpredictable foreign policy of returning U.S. President Donald Trump. Europe is therefore increasingly compelled to consider its own options for strategic autonomy in nuclear deterrence. Friedrich Merz, when running for the post of German Chancellor, called for European "nuclear independence" and the expansion of nuclear capabilities.

So where does Europe stand? The continent currently has two nuclear powers—Britain and France. London's nuclear weapons system (Trident missiles) is fully reliant on U.S. support. In contrast, France, an EU member state, possesses a fully autonomous nuclear capability—four nuclear-powered submarines armed with nuclear warheads. These submarines can operate undetected underwater for months without surfacing. At least one is always deployed somewhere in the world, ready for a potential nuclear strike should the French president order one. Nuclear-capable Rafale aircraft also serve as delivery systems.

France therefore maintains credible deterrence, despite having fewer than 300 nuclear warheads (compared to the more than 5,000 held by both the U.S. and Russia—accounting for 90 percent of all nuclear warheads worldwide).

In March 2025, French President Emmanuel Macron announced the launch of a strategic dialogue exploring the possibility of extending French nuclear deterrence to European allies. This, however, does not imply France would share nuclear capabilities with them.

Statements by French officials suggest that any closer nuclear cooperation would follow a gradual, step-by-step approach. Initially, European partners will be offered the opportunity to gain practical insight into nuclear deterrence. France will invite them to participate in training exercises—held three to four times a year—in which nuclear strike scenarios are simulated using aircraft.

There may also be discussions regarding the financial burden of maintaining nuclear capabilities. France currently spends 15 percent of its defence budget on nuclear deterrence—€6 billion per year (approximately CZK 150 billion). This is not an overwhelming sum, and EU member states could potentially contribute to it without difficulty. In this context, recent remarks by Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk are worth noting—he stated that Poland is *"seriously talking"* with France about nuclear protection.

Author: Miloš Balabán, Chairman of the Prague Security Conference, registered Association)

BOXER 8 × 8

versatile, cost-effective solution for modern military operations

The ARTEC* BOXER 8 × 8 is a highly versatile and mobile armoured 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.

Modularity

Consisting of a uniform drive module, the BOXER vehicle family's user-specific mission modules can be quickly exchanged. A wide range of mission modules is 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.

Survivability

The modular design of a multi-layer floor concept and safety cell provides a unique overmatch behaviour that minimises the 'catastrophic kill' risk from mine and IED attacks. The BOXER is operational with the whole crew under armour - including driver and commander. In order to prevent an impact, the BOXER follows a new generation of stealth design, low acoustic, infrared and radar signatures

Growth potential

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

*ARTEC is a consortium of Rheinmetall Landsysteme GmbH, Rheinmetall Defence Nederland B. V. and KNDS Germany.

Low life-cycle costs

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 / organisation for joint armament co-operation) member states streamline support and ensure efficient integration within international defence frameworks.

OPERATIONAL COMMAND IN THE POLICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Previous issues of this magazine have already covered the modernization of the Police of the Czech Republic in areas such as transport (including specialized vehicles), equipment and gear, training methods, the use of modern technologies, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and digitalization — all in line with the Concept for the Development of the Police of the Czech Republic until 2027. Today, we sat down for an interview with Major General Tomáš Lerch, First Deputy Police President, who is among other responsibilities in charge of operational command and the functioning of police operations centers.

General, what exactly is the National Operations Centre? What are its responsibilities?

The National Operations Centre (NOC) is one of the organizational units of the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic with a unique role within the operational centers system of the Police of the Czech Republic. Its structure consists of three departments: the Operations Department (including the operations center and traffic information center), the Department for Operational Support, and the Department for Geographical Support. Positioned at the top of the organizational pyramid, the NOC's place within the structure defines most of its tasks and competencies. It also serves as the managing authority for cybersecurity systems.

Could you specify the core responsibilities of these departments?

The Operations Department coordinates police actions and measures during emergency situations (e.g., floods, traffic accidents with mass casualties) that either exceed or are expected to exceed the territorial boundaries of regional police directorates. In such cases, it coordinates the deployment of police units and resources (such as the Aviation Service, bomb disposal units, divers, Rapid Response Unit, and Special Surveillance Division). It also ensures coordination during joint interventions with other emergency services, manages information flow during major incidents, monitors the transport of weapons, ammunition, explosives, and other hazardous materials, and notifies diplomatic

National Operations Center of the Police of the Czech Republic

missions in cases involving foreign nationals (e.g., detention, death, or serious injury). Furthermore, it collaborates with and ensures coordination with other institutions (e.g., Prison Service, Customs Administration, Czech Army) and continuously monitors and analyzes the security situation in the Czech Republic — and, when relevant, abroad (e.g., terrorist attacks in Europe) — to implement appropriate responses. The department also fulfills one of the police's key legal responsibilities: collecting and distributing traffic information. It is responsible for over 90% of all traffic data disseminated in the Czech Republic. Every day, the National Operations Centre responds to over 3,500 incidents.

The Department for Operational Support contributes to developing strategies for the construction and modernization of operations centers, emergency communications, traffic reporting, communications systems, and IT solutions for operations and traffic information centers. It also proposes implementation measures, participates in police training within its area of expertise, collaborates with partners influencing operational command and emergency communications, and helps ensure cybersecurity of the relevant systems.

The Department for Geographical Support develops map applications and spatial services, manages maps (in both digital and analog form), and oversees the comprehensive management of spatial data for the Police of the Czech Republic. Its main objective is to provide complete geographic support for the police organization. The department's officers have developed several sophisticated systems and mapping applications, such as the Crime Map, Accident Map, Soft Targets Registry, and various map layers for security operations.

Operational command likely involved significant modernization, integration of new technologies, and interconnection of databases. Is the Czech police keeping pace globally in this field?

We live in an era of rapid technological advancement, especially in information technology — and operations centers are no exception. Some technologies are introduced in line with European legislation, such as AML (Advanced Mobile Localization), which automatically transmits the caller's precise location to emergency services when contacting the emergency line, enabling faster and more effective response.

Several new police systems have been or are currently being developed specifically for operational command purposes. A good example is the *Kasandra* information system, which helps predict the whereabouts of missing persons.

The operational command system used by the Czech police is among Europe's best, enabling communication not only within the police but also between various emergency services via structured data. Many European countries look to our system as a model for their own communication between security forces.

We are also one of the few European countries to actively monitor the transportation of weapons, ammunition, and explosives

Director of the National Operations Center of the Police of the Czech Republic, Brigadier General František Habada with an operator

Integrated Operations Center of the Police of the Czech Republic

within our borders and to engage in incident resolution as needed.

Thanks to regular international cooperation (with EENA*, QROC**, TIG-OC***), we receive valuable feedback confirming that the Czech Police ranks among the most advanced in Europe in the area of operational command.

Are you satisfied with the placement and material equipment of operations centers across the country? Does it meet your expectations everywhere?

The current structure and distribution of operations centers is fully adequate for the internal security needs of the Czech Republic. However, due to the expanding responsibilities of these centers, it will likely become necessary to increase the number of technical workstations in the future. Such an expansion would not only require financial investment but also construction adjustments, as many police buildings are operating at full capacity.

To meet increasing demands for speed and efficiency, we are continually integrating legal mandates as well as feedback from officers in the field. Currently, we're preparing to migrate technologies into police data centers, which will significantly boost computing power and enable the further development of operational command systems. This includes integrating new technologies that are rapidly gaining traction — such as artificial intelligence and automatic speech-to-text transcription. The evolution of the operational command system has been under development for several years in collaboration with technology suppliers and universities. The Police of the Czech Republic is committed to harnessing the potential of the most advanced technologies, and the expansion of our infrastructure is a logical and necessary step.

Another key element we plan to upgrade is the system for transmitting video signals from police aircraft. This system is used by various police units and, in the future, could benefit other emergency services as well — for example, during floods, wildfires (such as in Hřensko), or natural disasters like the tornado in South Moravia.

I can also imagine establishing a nationwide **non-emergency call line** operated by the

* **EENA** – ***"European Emergency Number Asociation"***, is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that focuses on providing support to emergency lines throughout the European Union. During the annual conferences, the latest technological trends are presented, helping to accelerate the interventions of individual IRS components and make the response to individual emergency calls more efficient (e.g. the implementation of artificial intelligence, training of operators, real-time text communication, emergency communication via satellite, etc.).

** **QROC** – ***"Quick Response for Operational Centers"***, 16 members in total, the goal is to create a network between European national operational centers, interconnect them, exchange experiences, create a cross-border warning platform (fast and secure data sharing in the event of a terrorist attack, attack on soft targets, search, large-scale emergencies, etc.).

*** **TIG-OC** – ***"Technology Interest Group – Operational Centers"***, 23 members in total, is a working group within the ENLETS network, which brings together most EU Member States to improve international information sharing in the event of emergencies in Europe.

Integrated Operations Center of the Police of the Czech Republic

Police of the Czech Republic, aimed at providing non-urgent information to citizens, tourists, and long-term foreign residents.

We also use several specialized devices, such as mobile phone localization systems, which help save dozens of lives each year.

You've certainly worked with many companies during tenders for construction, equipment, and technology for the operations centers. Were any of them Czech? Which ones have proven most reliable?

Before preparing tender documentation, market research and experience from foreign partners were used to define the technical requirements for each contract. The number of companies invited to participate was determined in accordance with the Public Procurement Act, and total price was one of the primary evaluation criteria. Most of the selected contractors were Czech companies. However, the country of origin was not a consideration (with the exception of companies linked to the Russian Federation).

In general, we have very positive experiences with Czech companies, which are often key suppliers of technology solutions for police operational command. Since we are currently preparing and will continue to issue new tenders, I will refrain from naming specific firms to avoid any perception of favoritism.

Several years ago, operations centers at the district level were abolished, and control was transferred to regional centers. Was that the right move?

Originally, there were 95 operations centers — 86 at the district level, 8 at the regional level, and one at the Police Presidium. The integration process reorganized this into a 14+1 model: 14 regional operations centers plus one at the Police Presidium.

The main benefits of this integration included the establishment of operational departments at regional administrative hubs, faster data transmission, efficient data-based communication protocols, and unified, state-of-the-art technical infrastructure. A significant outcome has been more effective crime-fighting through the consolidation of resources across district lines. The professional standards of operations staff have risen, and modern tools now support resource and personnel management. The specialization of activities (emergency calls, traffic, command and control, etc.) has helped eliminate disparities in workload among centers. Integration has also resulted in material savings in equipment and maintenance, improved work environments, and better workplace conditions.

This integration took place under the project "Unified Level of Information Systems for Operational Command and Modernization of Emergency Call Technology for Core Emergency Services," which connected the systems of the police and other emergency response entities.

Based on both practical experience and specific examples, it is clear that integrating the operations centers was the right decision. Thanks to the interconnected structure across the entire Police of the Czech Republic — including command services and other emergency components — we have built one of the most advanced operational command systems in Europe. Maintaining this status will not be easy, now or in the future.

General, thank you for the interview.

Jaroslav Jonák
Photo: Police of the Czech Republic

KOUTNÝ – A CZECH FAMILY COMPANY – celebrates 30 years on the market this year

Our company Koutný is celebrating thirty years on the market this year. We have always strived to supply high quality clothing to customers in the Czech Republic and around the world. In 2020, we became the largest clothing company in the Czech Republic. Last year, we obtained ISO 14001:2015 certification; we also hold the ISO 9001:2009 and AQAP 2110 quality certificates. Our production incorporates a share of sustainable materials such as recycled polyester, RWS (Responsible Wool Standard) and organic cotton. In 2023, our company installed photovoltaic panels on all its buildings, and thanks to this sustainable approach, our company is now much closer to implementing ESG, setting decarbonisation goals and achieving circularity.

In order to facilitate collaboration with other entities, we have joined the CLUTEX cluster. We are one of the most reliable suppliers of formal and field uniforms, special-purpose combat clothing, overalls, waistcoats, suits, jackets, trousers and many other products, mainly for NATO countries. We strive to meet our customers' high demands for material and the technological quality of our workmanship. We approach each order individually in order to deliver on time and in the required quality.

We make formal and field uniforms that are crease-resistant yet comfortable to the touch, made of high quality materials from Italy, France and Spain.

The list of our customers includes the Police of the Czech Republic, the Forest Service of the Czech Republic, Fire Brigades of the Czech Republic, the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, the Czech Army, the Royal Netherlands Army, the Austrian Army, the Prague Castle Guard, the Customs Administration of the Netherlands, Prague Airport, Czech Airlines, and many others. We also produce classic menswear. We sell men's ready-to-wear and made-to-measure suits through our own stores in the Czech Republic. You can visit us at seven company stores located in Ostrava, Prostějov, České Budějovice, Karlovy Vary, in Prague's Bílá labuť and Letňany shopping centres and in Hradec Králové. We try to meet the demanding requirements of our customers, which is why we also sew tailor-made garments. We have been here for you for 30 years.

INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CZECH PRISON SERVICE

The current situation of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic (VS ČR), particularly in terms of financial coverage and staffing stabilization, is highly dynamic. We spoke about these pressing issues with the Director General of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, Lieutenant General Mgr. Simon Michailidis, MBA.

Mr. Director General, this October marks four years since your appointment as the Director General of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, following your role as Deputy Director General for Education and Specialized Care. How would you evaluate your nearly four years in this top post?

It's best to leave a proper evaluation of my time in this position to my colleagues after I leave the service. When I took over from General Dohnal, conditions for fulfilling the statutory obligations of our security corps were far from favorable. In 2021 and 2022, we faced a sharp decline in staff, rising inflation significantly eroded the real value of officers' incomes and employees' wages, and after years of decline, the number of incarcerated individuals started to rise again. All of this under a tight budget.

One of the few positive aspects at the time was that the leadership transition at the helm of the Prison Service was amicable—without outside interference, emotional fallout, or manipulations. The position was handed over in accordance with the law on civil service, based on mutual agreement and planning. Then-Minister of Justice Marie Benešová ensured stable personnel conditions for navigating the difficult period ahead. There were no destabilizing leadership shake-ups, either at the central level or within individual prisons. I believe this was essential not only for maintaining the service's functioning but also for its development.

Today, while the Prison Service continues to face challenges, we are gradually managing to implement effective solutions to the most urgent problems—thanks to the commitment of our staff and the support of the Ministry of Justice.

In last year's May issue, we interviewed General Petr Dohnal, then Director of the Prison Affairs and Departmental Oversight Section at the Ministry of Justice. He expressed serious concern over the lack of financial resources and the low interest among new recruits. He described exhausted officers working 18-hour shifts with only six hours of rest in between, sometimes even requiring prison management to step in for duties like escorts. Has anything changed in this long-standing issue since then?

The financial and staffing situation within the Prison Service remains highly dynamic. The lack of funds is long-term and especially affects our ability to maintain state-owned properties and operational technologies. We struggle to meet our statutory obligations in these areas. However, we've managed to make some notable investments supported by energy-saving grant programs.

This year, we're also beginning to implement modern surveillance systems, allowing us to phase out guard tower surveillance—after many years—without compromising safety standards. We're making steady progress in digitalizing administrative, specialist, and operational processes, though I would prefer a faster pace. Unfortunately, this is also tied to staffing, which remains lean and will be difficult to change in the near future.

In terms of salaries and service income, we secured support from the Ministry of Justice

last year to offer recruitment bonuses across the board and significantly increase special and stabilization allowances. This led to a notable increase in service income.

That said, the low interest in joining our security corps remains an issue. This is something most security forces face. Contributing factors include uncompetitive starting salaries, a complete lack of systemic support for housing and young families, and an uninspiring benefits system. Moreover, our current culture often doesn't leave much room for values like service, empathy, cohesion, sacrifice, or solidarity.

We're doing our best to change that narrative by being as transparent and visible as possible. You'll find us in the media, on social networks, at community events, and at commercial or benefit activities. Still, the most effective recruitment remains word of mouth—especially through family ties or sports and club activities. That kind of recommendation only comes from a satisfied employee.

That's why retaining our experienced staff is just as important as hiring new people. We're working to ensure not just material conditions but also a healthy work environment. In line with the old Roman adage, *"As the king, so the court,"* we focus on educating supervisors to avoid inappropriate or insensitive behavior—especially when we expect loyalty and commitment from staff during tough periods of personnel shortages.

A small but positive sign is that in the second half of last year, we managed to stop the decline in staff numbers, stabilize our teams, and slowly start recruiting again. Unfortunately, overtime and inter-prison support are still at very high levels.

What is your personal view on the increasing number of horrific acts committed by children and adolescents in schools and beyond? How should we address this issue?

I believe that no one is born inherently evil and that children don't misbehave without a reason. While many adults might disagree in practice, I firmly maintain that the root of the problem lies with those responsible for the child's care—parents, close relatives, caregivers, and teachers.

These adults hold powerful tools: their example, attention, and the way they respond to children's needs. They ultimately determine whether a child grows up happy or morally adrift—hurting others in the mistaken belief that it's beneficial to themselves.

The absence or loss of strong family ties, lack of trust and reciprocated love, and exposure to the egotism of those closest to them can lead to a breakdown in empathy and result in selfish, reckless behavior. That's how tragedies happen.

So, how do we fix this? First and foremost, by not creating environments that turn young people into cold, violent offenders. We need a robust, inspiring educational and social system, proper support to mitigate the effects of divorce, anti-bullying measures in schools, and well-informed parenting. Solutions already exist—it all comes down to the moral grounding of adults and whether ethics are genuinely lived or merely printed on paper.

Should the age of criminal responsibility be lowered, and what would this mean for already overcrowded prisons?

I don't think it should. As I've said, I believe adults in a child's close environment are ultimately responsible for their criminal behavior. It's a tragic failure on their part. That may sound harsh, but blaming "bad company" or the school system doesn't reflect the reality. In most cases, a child turns to the wrong crowd only when home feels like an unwelcome place—when there's no attention, support, or understanding at home, only negativity.

Once we've "succeeded" in pushing a child into committing violent or criminal acts, we should have tools for rehabilitation other than prison or isolation. That means functional intervention centers at schools, family and psychological counseling, and so on. If it's already too late, then yes, placement in a juvenile correctional facility or prison may be necessary—but punishment alone doesn't solve anything.

Does the Czech Prison Service offer psychological counseling for 18-year-olds who have just become legally responsible for their actions? If so, do you receive feedback on the support provided?

Within the prison system, we're limited to crisis intervention and professional care aimed at motivating long-term positive change. But it's incredibly challenging work for our officers, educators, and psychologists. Shared living arrangements in particular can significantly limit the effectiveness of our professional engagement.

That said, our young offenders are cared for by experienced multidisciplinary teams, including psychologists capable of helping them develop a genuine motivation to change. Sadly, there's a major gap in the

Czech Republic when it comes to follow-up care after release. That greatly increases the risk of reoffending.

What is the current state of cooperation with the defence and security industry? Setting aside the long-standing issue of underfunding, what would you like to acquire to improve the functioning of the system, if financial resources were made available?

In recent years, the Prison Service has made considerable efforts to reduce our "technological debt" and has been fairly successful in this regard. We are testing, evaluating, and gradually acquiring a wide range of tools in the areas of surveillance and security technologies, detection systems, communication, and the digitalisation of work and operational processes. In cooperation with partners from the defence and security industry, we are seeking responses to current threats such as drones over prisons and secured sites, exploring new options for local communication, ensuring cybersecurity more broadly, and researching new surveillance technologies based on lidar. We are also assessing new detection technologies and gradually integrating them into practice—such as detectors for living organisms, magnetostatic detectors, drug and explosive detectors, and others. This is just a brief overview of the areas where cooperation is currently underway.

At the moment, our main focus is on creating the conditions necessary to procure lidar-based surveillance systems for all prisons where they are needed, as the existing microwave systems from the 1970s and 1980s are well beyond their intended service life.

The Prison Service took part in last year's Future Forces Forum 2024 and will no doubt be present at IDET, PYROS and ISET 2025 this May. How would you evaluate that participation, and what are your expectations for the upcoming events? What are you planning to showcase?

I see the Prison Service's participation in these events primarily as an opportunity to gain insight into current trends and the technological capabilities of the defence and security sector. It is also a chance to present the activities and role of the prison system in our society, and, not least, a great opportunity to share the experience and needs of our service with other entities involved in national security, including manufacturers. As in previous years, we are preparing both a static display and a series of dynamic demonstrations of our service's activities. From this perspective, I welcome the opportunity to participate and be part of both the Future Forces Forum and IDET – ISET – PYROS.

General, thank you for the interview.

Šárka Cook
Photo: Prison Service of the Czech Republic

PBS GROUP
Begins Engine Production in the United States

In 2025, PBS GROUP is localizing the production of small jet engines in the United States. For this strategic investment, the company, through its subsidiary PBS Aerospace, selected the Atlanta metropolitan area in the state of Georgia. PBS jet engines are primarily used in the production of drones and cruise missiles. In April, production of the first engines began in the new facility, with full-scale serial production scheduled to launch in September.

PBS is investing up to 20 million USD in the construction of a new manufacturing plant in Roswell through its subsidiary. The site will house a modern factory for jet engine production, complemented by a research and development center. The project will create around 100 new jobs. This has earned the company strong support from local authorities—not only because of the creation of high-skilled positions in a region with a rich aviation tradition and a strong ecosystem of schools and suppliers, but also thanks to the transfer of unique manufacturing and R&D know-how from Velká Bíteš to the United States.

"Atlanta has proven to be an excellent base for our business. It offers access to a high-quality education system, a skilled workforce, and robust infrastructure," said Tomáš Koutský, Director of PBS Aerospace.

This investment by the Czech manufacturer carries significant strategic value. The supply of small jet engines is crucial to expanding the capacity of the U.S. defence industry, which aims to support America and its allies by replenishing stockpiles of modern weapon systems suited to today's methods of warfare. PBS holds a notable technological edge over its competitors in this area, and its products are in high demand for their quality and reliability. The new facility will also help reduce lead times, as production capacity in the Czech Republic is already operating at full stretch.

"Our American customers are mostly companies that supply the military, and we want to be close to them. Having production capacity directly in the U.S. is advantageous not only for processing orders more quickly, but also for building trust, simplifying service, and improving communication. Our engines are often customized to meet specific client needs. We believe it is essential to be able to respond promptly to both our customers and end users," said CEO of PBS GROUP Petr Kádner.

Production in the U.S. also responds to the current unpredictable trade situation concerning tariffs. While tariffs were not the original motivation for expanding to the U.S., they now represent an additional advantage of this strategic localization.

PBS Aerospace, in addition to its current facility in Roswell, is also planning further expansion with a new building that will be constructed at the Tech Village North site in the city of Roswell. Several new American employees have already completed professional training at PBS's manufacturing plant in the Czech Republic.

Roswell, Georgia—located in the Atlanta metropolitan area (not to be confused with Roswell, New Mexico)—offers an ideal environment for the development of innovative and technology-focused companies.

The arrival of PBS Aerospace in Roswell is seen as a confirmation of the city's long-term strategy focused on supporting modern industry and strengthening the local economy. The announcement of this investment in February of this year marks an important milestone in Roswell's path toward becoming a hub for aerospace and technological innovation.

Georgia is home to a strong aerospace and space industry, supported by high-quality infrastructure and a favorable business climate. The Atlanta metro area hosts leading companies such as Lockheed Martin and Hermeus and is also home to the Georgia Tech Research Institute. Thanks to this concentration of key aerospace players, PBS Aerospace benefits from access to both highly skilled professionals and potential strategic partners.

PBS GROUP's expansion into the U.S. is a response to rapidly growing demand for its products. At the same time, the company is making substantial investments in its home plant in the Czech Republic.

"Our Velká Bíteš facility is running at full capacity, which is why we are expanding. This year, we are planning investments in production modernization worth several hundred million Czech crowns," added CEO Petr Kádner.

The company is also preparing further expansion into India, where the government requires localized production.

"We are in talks with local partners to manufacture components and carry out joint development projects. We estimate the potential of the Indian market to be in the thousands of engines per year," Kádner concluded.

PILOT TRAINING AT LOM PRAHA REACHES A NEW LEVEL

Less than a year has passed since the foundation stone was laid in May 2024 for the new simulation center at the LOM PRAHA Flight Training Centre in Pardubice. In March 2025, the facility — officially titled “NG1 Ground Training Complex” — was ceremonially opened, marking a significant milestone in enhancing the integration of synthetic and live training for pilots of the Czech Air Force. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Jiří Protiva, Director of LOM PRAHA, alongside Vít Ryška, Chairman of the Board of VR Group, CLV Director Jaroslav Špaček, his Deputy for Ground Training Jaroslav Šefl, and Radim Špona, Chairman of the Board of Trigema Building.

At the heart of the new facility is a next-generation simulator for the L-39NG subsonic jet trainer, developed by VR Group, a subsidiary of LOM PRAHA. The simulator is a Level 2 Flight Training Device, certified by the Czech Military Aviation Supervision Authority and in full compliance with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) regulations.

This sophisticated platform features a cockpit that is a precise replica of the real aircraft, with a high-fidelity motion model. The simulator replicates flight dynamics and ground handling within a narrow margin of error — a level of realism indistinguishable from real-world flight for trainees.

The L-39NG (Skyfox) simulator enables comprehensive training across all normal and emergency procedures, under any weather condition and at any time of day. It features a detailed mock-up of the forward cockpit, including all instruments and controls, as well as a replica Martin-Baker MB16CZ ejection seat, complete with harnesses and a canopy with a breakable lightning cord mechanism.

Surrounding the cockpit is an eight-channel projection system with a spherical display, offering a 300° horizontal and 120° vertical field of view — fully immersing the pilot in a virtual environment. The visual system includes a separately projected Head-Up Display (HUD).

The simulator is operated from an instructor station located behind the projection dome. The station is equipped with large displays offering complete oversight of the trainee’s aircraft position on both 2D and 3D maps, mirrored cockpit instruments, and control inputs. A simplified secondary L-39NG simulator allows the instructor to fly alongside the trainee for advanced mission scenarios.

The system allows for highly customizable training conditions, simulating everything from clear skies to low visibility, crosswinds, and turbulence. It supports both VFR and IFR training.

The terrain database covers the entirety of the Czech Republic, including all major airfields, using data provided by the Czech Military Geographic and Hydrometeorological Office in Dobruška. The level of detail supports realistic visual navigation and terrain awareness.

The aircraft simulation is powered by a software core developed by VR Group, integrated with adapted avionics software from the actual L-39NG. This ensures consistent compatibility with the aircraft throughout its life cycle.

The simulator also includes a Virtual Training System (VTS), which equips the simulated aircraft with a virtual radar and weapons system, vastly expanding the range of tactical scenarios that can be practiced. Future plans include connecting the VTS used in real aircraft to the simulator, making the training platform a fully integrated part of live flight operations.

The new NG1 training facility is not limited to the Skyfox. Future expansions aim to include simulators for Zlín Z-242 and Z-143 propeller aircraft, as well as helicopter trainers for the Mi-17 and Enstrom 480B-G. The facility also features modern classrooms, offices, and briefing rooms across two floors and can accommodate up to 70 trainees at full capacity.

A notable feature is its low operating cost, thanks to an eco-friendly energy system powered by 110 rooftop solar panels with a total output of 49.5 kW.

A few historical notes underscore the progress of aviation simulation. While the first manned flight took place in 1903, the earliest training simulators didn't appear until around 1910, when the French manufacturer Antoinette developed one of the first mechanical devices for pilot instruction. Crude by today's standards, it was nonetheless a pioneering step.

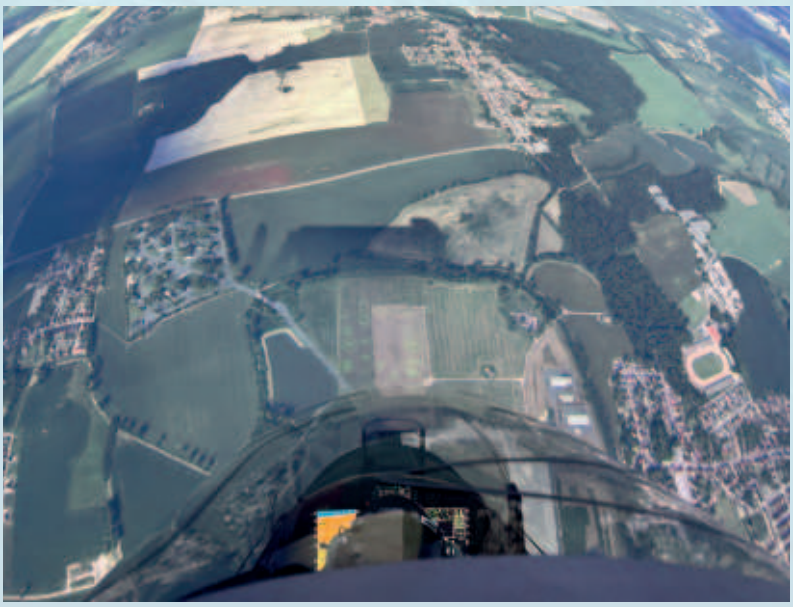
Fast forward 115 years, and the L-39NG FTD at LOM PRAHA is light-years ahead. Today's training simulators precisely replicate the instrumentation and dimensions of the actual aircraft and are considered full substitutes for flight training in many scenarios.

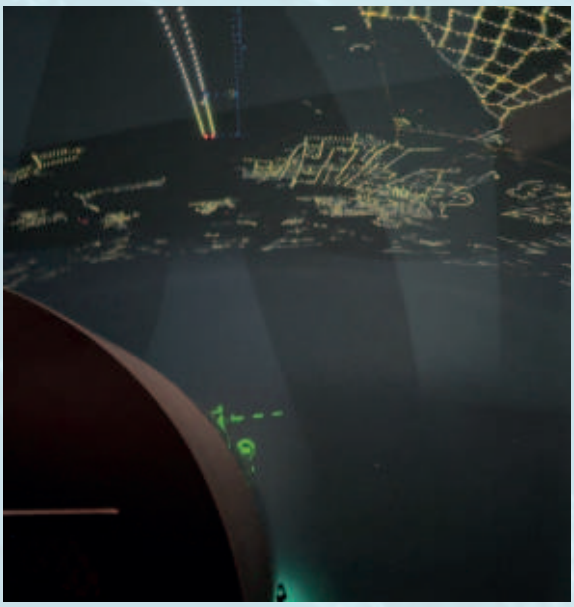
"It's a full mission simulator, capable of training all procedures used in the real L-39NG — including in-flight emergencies such as engine failure, fire, or gear malfunction," says Ivo Gamba from VR Group. *"Development took around four years. The simulator can reproduce the Czech Republic in day or night conditions, even*

with a starry sky. It realistically simulates various weather conditions and gives an accurate depiction of the operational airspace."

The simulator also received praise from LOM PRAHA's L-39NG instructor pilots Tomáš Merta and Ervín Ehm: *"It feels just like real flying. Our students transition from propeller-driven Zlín aircraft to jet training, and this simulator allows them to drill procedures repeatedly. It speeds up training and makes it far more effective. This is nothing like the basic dry-runs we used to do. The data available to instructors enables in-depth debriefs after each session, allowing us to focus on execution or managing emergencies. About 40% of their training syllabus is expected to be completed in the simulator."*

Text by: Pavel Lang
Photos: LOM PRAHA archive





PBS Velká Bíteš production plant

PBS GROUP SETS INVESTMENT RECORD AND INCREASES PRODUCTION

This year, leading Czech engineering company PBS GROUP is making a record investment in its key production facility in Velká Bíteš, which plays a crucial role within the entire group. The investment amounts to nearly one billion CZK. The goal is to significantly increase the production capacity of this plant, which serves as the backbone of an international leader in the field of aerospace technology.

Leading Czech engineering company PBS GROUP is making record-breaking investments this year in its key production facility in Velká Bíteš, a site that plays a crucial role within the group. The total investment is nearing one billion CZK. The goal is to significantly increase the production capacity of this facility, which serves as the backbone of an international leader in the field of aerospace technology.

With growing demand driven by the high quality of its products, PBS GROUP is responding accordingly. *"We are investing—and will continue to invest—in the plant primarly to increase our production capacity of jet engines, and to meet the demand from our customers around the world. Our investment will also focus on development, so we can continue to meet the expectations and needs of our clients as a leading global manufacturer in the aerospace industry,"* said Petr Kádner, CEO of PBS GROUP.

Demand for PBS GROUP's jet engines has surged, especially from dozens of international markets. This year alone, the production volume has increased by more than 200% compared to the previous year—an 800% increase over the last two years. The engines are used in both manned and unmanned aerial vehicles, such as microjets, light aircraft, helicopters, missiles, target drones, high-speed UAVs, and combat drones.

To meet this demand, PBS GROUP established an entirely new aerospace division in Velká Bíteš in April. This strategic move will allow the company to double its production capacity for jet engines. Investment in the new division will reach several hundred million CZK.

"These large-scale investments are great news not only for our customers, but also for our employees—they can be confident that meaningful and stable employment in our group and in the Velká Bíteš plant is secured for many years to come," added Pavel Čechal, Executive Director of PBS GROUP.

With the new division, PBS is planning further growth—a second doubling of production, enabled by a dedicated production hall and a completely new production line. Investments in cutting-edge technologies will further strengthen the group's global position and leadership in aerospace and defence innovation.

Customers appreciate PBS GROUP products for their reliability, durability in demanding conditions, and consistent performance. The company continuously reinvests in improve-

PBS Foundry

ment. More than 10% of its annual revenue goes toward development, innovation, and the latest technologies aimed at extending product lifespan and improving performance.

In April, the group also launched a new technical development division, dedicated to innovative manufacturing methods and technologies. This division will receive an investment of 250 million CZK and will significantly accelerate the pace of development and innovation—and ultimately, production.

"Creating this new division is a strategic step for the ongoing development of our group and for expanding collaboration with our customers. Developing new products and improving existing ones is the foundation for future growth—both for us and for meeting the evolving needs of our clients. Our continuous pace of innovation helps us stay ahead of the competition," explained CEO Petr Kádner.

Research and development are critical elements of PBS GROUP's success—not only in aerospace, but also in energy and cryogenics. The new division will be based in one of the buildings at the Velká Bíteš facility.

Several dozen R&D professionals are currently working on a range of exciting projects. The group also holds numerous patents and utility models. Opportunities remain open for new experts who wish to participate in innovation and the continued growth of Czech engineering.

A major new product for this year is the PBS TJ200 engine. Designed primarily as a propulsion unit for modern UAVs, drones, and defence applications, the engine will be officially introduced at the Paris Air Show in June.

In addition to jet engines, the Velká Bíteš plant also manufactures auxiliary power units (APUs) for aircraft and helicopters, along with other advanced aerospace technologies. PBS contributes to projects such as components for the F-35 aircraft by Lockheed Martin and cooperates with major global players, including U.S. engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney.

Beyond aerospace, PBS also serves industries such as transportation and energy, producing systems like auxiliary power and air conditioning units, and industrial turbines. The Velká Bíteš facility includes a state-of-the-art investment casting foundry—one of the leading facilities in Europe—specializing in high-precision castings made from steel and nickel alloys. An integral part of the plant is its electroplating department, which is equipped with advanced technology for surface treatments, including aerospace-grade metal coating.

This year, the facility celebrates its 75th anniversary. As part of ongoing modernization efforts, PBS is also investing in architectural upgrades to improve building conditions and the work environment for employees. In parallel with increasing production and business growth, the company continues to expand its workforce. The number of employees has grown from 600 to 700 in just one year.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK GROUP'S

exhibition at the IDET 2025 trade fair will feature new products and world premieres

Companies belonging to the Czechoslovak Group (CSG) are traditional exhibitors at the IDET fair. This year, the CSG will present itself as the general partner of IDET 2025 and its companies, together with Tatra, will present their products and services within the largest exhibition in Hall P at stand No. 094 as well as on outdoor areas and on the dynamic demonstration polygon.

The companies Tatra Export, Tatra Defence Vehicle, Excalibur Army, Retia, Eldis, Pocket Virtuality, MSM Group, Karbox and Excalibur International will present themselves at the CSG stand. **Tatra Export**, representing the Tatra Trucks manufacturer, will bring vehicles for military applications to IDET. The new model will be the modernized version of the Tatra 810 M medium-duty truck, which will be on display at the stand in Hall P. The latest third-generation Tatra Force 8 × 8 will make its debut on the outdoor area, and the Tatra Phoenix 10 × 10 bridge vehicle with an armoured cabin and Leguan bridge system will also be on display. The third-generation Force 6 × 6 will be presented as part of the dynamic demonstrations.

Excalibur Army will present the Patriot 4 × 4 armoured vehicle with preparation for an unmanned combat turret at the CSG stand, as well as the Hector observation and patrol system on a Toyota chassis armed with a heavy machine gun. The RM-70 Vampire self-propelled rocket launcher with a Puma armored cabin and the Treva-30 rescue and evacuation vehicle will be on display in the static outdoor exhibition. As part of the dynamic demonstrations, experts and the general public will see the AM-70EX bridge vehicle on a Tatra 8 × 8 chassis in action.

Tatra Defence Vehicle (TDV) will exhibit the new Pandur 8 × 8 EVO wheeled infantry fighting vehicle with the Elbit UT-30MK2 turret at the CSG stand in a world premiere. This vehicle is the first representative of the new generation of the Pandur 8 × 8 universal platform, which is suitable for service in the Czech Army and for foreign customers. The outdoor exhibition will also feature two modernized Pandur II 8 × 8 vehicles with new unmanned combat turrets designed for fire support and air defence, which will have a Czech premiere.

The **CSG Aerospace** division will be represented by Retia, Eldis and Pocket Virtuality. **Retia** will bring an X-band radar system, which represents a compact solution for protection against drones and unmanned aerial vehicles at very short distances. Retia will also exhibit the latest version of the ReTwis 5+ radar device, designed especially for security forces. The new product will be an electronic situational awareness system SAAV for military vehicles with artificial intelligence elements, as well as a new air force command and control system developed with Israeli partners.

Eldis will exhibit a new generation combined primary and secondary surveillance radar RL-2000/MSSR-1 NG or PAR-NG, which is a new generation precision approach radar. Last but not least, the exhibition will also feature a 3D radar model under the designation RL-3000, which is a fully software-defined long-range radar that provides three-dimensional information for tracking non-cooperative air targets.

Pocket Virtuality will demonstrate the Lumnio system for supporting the service and maintenance of military vehicles or other equipment using augmented reality at the CSG stand. The system contains a database of instructions and work procedures and can be used both in the background and directly in the field with common mobile devices such as tablets or mobile phones.

Another exhibitor at the CSG stand will be **MSM Group**, which includes several manufacturers of modern ammunition and special military equipment. Under the ZVS brand, 155 mm artillery ammunition and 30 mm cannon ammunition as well as pyrotechnic components will be presented. Fábrica de Municiones de Granada will show various types of 105 and 120 mm tank ammunition, as well as 105 mm artillery ammunition and pyrotechnic equipment.

VOP Nováky will exhibit 155 mm artillery ammunition and 122 mm artillery training ammunition, as well as 60 mm, 81 mm and 120 mm mortar shells. In the outdoor exhibition, visitors will also be able to see a command container and a mobile airport control tower DISK-2 from **Vývoj Martin**.

Excalibur International (EI) will also present its services and projects, offering a full range of unmanned aerial vehicles and loitering ammunition, such as the Chaser, Scorpio 500 and 1000 types, as well as the Xtender unmanned aerial vehicle and the anti-drone UAS Hunter, and others. In addition, EI will present the Korkut air defence system on the Tatra 6 × 6 vehicle platform in the form of a scale-model, which is being developed in cooperation with Aselsan. **Karbox** will will presents at IDET an energy container for the SAWER system, which can be transported on Tatra 8 × 8 vehicles with a Marrel hook loader. A cross-section of the portfolio of small-caliber ammunition for small arms from **Kinetic Group** and **Fiocchi Munizioni** will also be on display.

Czechoslovak Group

Heart. Heritage. Horizon.

The Czechoslovak Group (CSG) is a global industrial and technological group, with key manufacturing companies primarily in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the USA. CSG's main sectors include engineering, automotive, railway, aerospace, and defense industries. Thanks to our strong export orientation, products from CSG companies can be found on all continents, and the customer base continues to grow.

TATRA
DAKO-CZ BRAKE SYSTEMS
EXCALIBUR ARMY
TATRA DEFENCE VEHICLE
MSM GROUP
ZVS
VOP NOVÁKY
FMG ranada
MSM GROUP
TATRA DEFENCE SLOVAKIA
VÝVOJ Martin INNOVATION SPECIALISTS
14. OKTOBAR
THE KINETIC GROUP
CCI
FEDERAL
HEVI•SHOT
Remington
SPEER
Perazzi
FIOCCHI
B&P Baschieri & Pellagri
LYALVALE EXPRESS
ELDIS RADAR SYSTEMS
RETIA
ES-SOFT
ATRAK
job air technic
UPVISION SERVICES | DEFENCE
POCKET VIRTUALITY
TSG TRUCK SERVICE GROUP
KARBOX
MANUFACTURE PRIM 1949
Excalibur International

CSG Czechoslovak Group

czechoslovakgroup.com

PANDUR 8×8 EVO

The New Generation of Armoured Vehicle Made in the Czech Republic

Tatra Defence Vehicle (TDV) specializes in armoured combat and special wheeled vehicles. A key pillar of TDV's production is the Pandur 8×8 family, manufactured under license from General Dynamics European Land Systems (GDELS). This license enables TDV not only to produce and deliver Pandur 8×8 vehicles to selected territories, but also to carry out modernization projects and, crucially, to develop new technologies and versions of the platform.

The Pandur 8×8 EVO is the result of collaboration between TDV designers and engineers and experts from the Austrian GDELS-Steyr company, the manufacturer of the Pandur 6×6. The new Czech eight-wheeler is technically related to the latest Pandur 6×6 EVO platform developed for the Austrian Armed Forces. Both vehicles integrate cutting-edge technological trends and solutions, preparing them for the digital battlefield of the future. During development, TDV kept in mind the evolving needs of both the Czech Army and allied forces abroad.

Modern combat vehicles must be capable of deployment in a wide range of global environments. That's why the Pandur 8×8 EVO has a highly adaptable design, allowing it to be equipped with a variety of advanced systems tailored to the user's operational requirements. It's a new-generation vehicle that fully aligns with current technological demands. It offers both high passive and active protection for the crew and vehicle, top-tier electronic and communication systems, a range of combat turrets with powerful weaponry, advanced target detection and acquisition systems, and a high-performance powertrain. Thanks to its lightweight yet armoured hull and turret, the vehicle provides high survivability, which can be further enhanced with modular armour of NATO Level 4 protection standards.

The new Pandur 8×8 EVO infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) variant will be equipped with the UT30MK2 unmanned turret from Israeli company Elbit Systems. This turret will also be produced at TDV, with the Israeli partner transferring all necessary technologies and know-how for full local production. The turret's main armament is a 30 mm Mk.44 Bushmaster II cannon with electric stabilization. In line with modern trends, the turret is designed to allow for future upgrades to heavier-calibre weapons. A separate launcher houses two Spike-LR/LR2 anti-tank guided missiles, manufactured in Europe to ensure supply chain security and avoid complications associated with distant suppliers.

Inside the turret, the crew benefits from advanced electronic targeting, detection, and communication systems, significantly enhancing the Pandur 8×8 EVO's combat effectiveness for the digital battlespace of the coming decades. Both the commander and gunner have access to fully stabilized electro-optical sights with automatic target tracking and "hunter-killer" capabilities—allowing the commander to designate targets for the gunner while continuing to scan for new threats. The sights include high-resolution day cameras and thermal imaging for night or adverse weather conditions, with the commander's station also offering a panoramic view.

Additional onboard systems include a laser warning receiver that alerts the crew to the direction and type of laser threat targeting the vehicle. The UT30MK2 turret is also fitted with the Iron Fist active protection system, featuring two twin-tube launchers for defensive munitions. Iron Fist creates a protective bubble around the vehicle using radar sensors with electronically scanned beams, which can be augmented with infrared detectors or laser jamming systems.

The Pandur 8×8 EVO is powered by a high-performance powerpack built around the Cummins ISL 540 six-cylinder turbo-diesel engine, delivering 405 kW at 2,200 rpm and a torque of 1,900 Nm at 1,400 rpm. Paired with a ZF Ecomat 6HP902 S six-speed automatic transmission, the vehicle reaches a top speed of 110 km/h and has a minimum range of 600 km.

TATRA
DEFENCE
VEHICLE

PANDUR EVO 8x8

Protect Parts

protective solutions

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

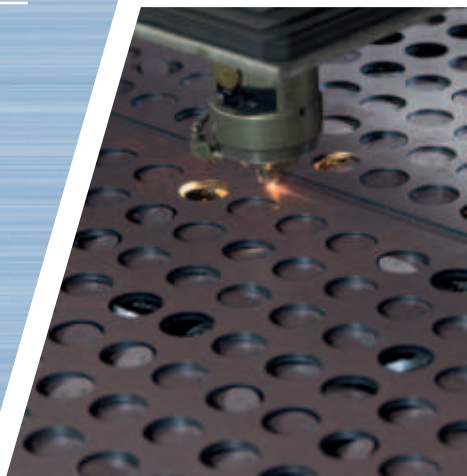
DILLINGER

DIFENDER 400
DIFENDER 450
DIFENDER 500
DIFENDER 600

MARS

INDUSTEEL

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



SELF-PROPELLED
HOWITZERS

ARMORED
COMBAT VEHICLE

EXCALIBUR ARMY

ENGINEERING
VEHICLES

**PROTECT
YOUR WORLD**

Member of CSG Defence

www.excaliburarmy.cz

INTERVIEW WITH ENFORCE TAC MARKETING DIRECTOR

In the first issue of our Review for the defence and security industry, we brought you a brief report from Enforce Tac 2025 along with feedback from exhibitors and visitors. In this follow-up edition, we're continuing where we left off — with an exclusive interview with the trade fair's Marketing Director, Luisa Seibt, and a second installment of "Through the Eyes of the Exhibitors."

Dear Director, could you briefly introduce the history of this exhibition to our expert readers?

The history of Enforce Tac dates back to its origins as a segment within IWA OutdoorClassics, focusing on law enforcement and operational equipment for security authorities. Over time, the growing demand for a more private and secure environment for specialized product presentations led to the establishment of the first Law Enforcement Workshop by NürnbergMesse in 2005. This was followed by the launch of the European Police Trainers Conference (EPTK) in 2006, which laid the foundation for the future development of Enforce Tac.

In 2012, the Enforce Tac was established as an independent, closed trade fair in the congress area of NürnbergMesse. The exhibition, initially held in parallel with IWA, grew rapidly over the years, moving to different halls as its popularity and exhibitor numbers increased. By 2024, the exhibition expanded to three days, with additional halls dedicated to the growing needs of the sector. As the security landscape evolved, so did the focus of Enforce Tac. Since 2024, the exhibition has broadened its scope to include not only internal security but also external security, reflecting the changing political and societal circumstances. We are excited to continue building on this legacy and to take Enforce Tac to new heights, fostering further collaboration and innovation in the security and defence industries. Today, Enforce Tac is a leading exhibition for internal and external security that focuses on innovation, technology, and networking within the security and defence sectors. Since its inception, the event has evolved into one of Europe's most significant platforms for showcasing state-of-the-art law enforcement and defence solutions. The exhibition primarily caters to professionals from law enforcement, military, and governmental security agencies. Our goal has always been to provide a space for high-level exchange and to strengthen the collaboration between police, defence forces, and security authorities. Over the years, the exhibition has grown, reflecting the increasing relevance of security and defence technologies in today's complex global environment.

How do you evaluate this year's edition? What stood out to you the most? What did the accompanying programmes include?

This year's edition of Enforce Tac exceeded our expectations in many ways. We saw a remarkable increase in both the number of exhibitors and visitors, highlighting the growing importance of the event. The level of innovation and technological advancement displayed by our exhibitors was particularly impressive. One of the key highlights for me was the successful integration of new formats, such as the Ammo Symposium and the Enforce Tac Stage, which fostered intense discussions and networking among our experts and stakeholders. This year, the overall atmosphere of collaboration and the drive towards developing solutions for current security challenges stood out the most.

What also stood out to me was the incredible level of engagement and the diversity of topics covered through our forums and symposia. We were able to provide a platform for high-level experts to discuss some of the most pressing issues in the security and de-

fence sector. A highlight for me was definitely the *German-Nordic Defence Dialogue*. It offered an invaluable opportunity to strengthen the security collaboration between Germany and Scandinavia, focusing on the challenges and opportunities we are facing in the industry today.

Another great success was the *Ammo Symposium*, powered by RWS GmbH. It was a great debut, and the discussions on ammunition supply, procurement challenges, and new logistical approaches were highly insightful. It's clear that these forums, which continue to grow in importance, are setting new standards for professional exchange in the sector.

On a more personal note, I was also thrilled to see how the *Enforce Tac Stage* was embraced by visitors. It truly became the heart of the event, offering a space for presentations and discussions on cutting-edge solutions and the latest technological developments. Live demonstrations of innovative technologies in the *Enforce Tac Village* were another key highlight, providing a hands-on experience for our attendees to see product innovations in action and explore their real-world applications.

What was truly inspiring was the clear support from the political side. With such strong political backing and the growing relevance of our event, we're more motivated than ever to continue developing Enforce Tac as a central hub for security and defence professionals to come together, share knowledge, and find solutions to today's challenges.

Could you highlight some of the most significant exhibitions or exhibits?

Among the most significant exhibits this year, we had impressive presentations of cutting-edge technology in areas such as sensor systems, advanced communication tools, and hybrid warfare solutions. One of the key highlights was the demonstration of new military vehicles and defence technologies, which received strong interest from both exhibitors and visitors. Additionally, the presentation of modern materials and control systems showcased the continuous advancements that are shaping the future of security and defence. These exhibits emphasized the ongoing need for technological innovation to address the evolving security challenges we face today.

The Czech Republic reportedly had the third-largest exhibition this year. How do you assess the cooperation with the CzechTrade agency and AOBP Czech Republic, as well as with the Czech defence and security industry, in the preparation and execution of the trade fair?

The cooperation with the Future Forces Forum and the Czech defence and security industry has been invaluable, and I truly believe that it reflects the growing importance of European unity in the field of defence and security. Now, more than ever, the collaboration across Europe is critical, and we see the Enforce Tac as a strong partner in promoting synergies within the European security landscape. Each partner brings its own strengths to the table, and the Czech Republic's third-largest exhibition at this year's event is a testament to their significant role and commitment to innovation in the sector. The partnership is characterized by a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration, something that I deeply appreciate. We engage in a very constructive and supportive way, with a shared goal of strengthening security across Europe. Through this partnership, we are able to create meaningful opportunities for dialogue, exchange, and growth. I am excited about the continued collaboration and the future opportunities it will bring.

Whats next?

Looking ahead to Enforce Tac 2026, we expect the exhibition to continue its impressive growth trajectory. The event will expand to cover six halls, offering more than 56,000 square meters of exhibition space, which is a clear reflection of the increasing demand for high-level discussions and cutting-edge security solutions. We are thrilled to introduce the Frankenhalle, which will host the Enforce Tac Village and additional program activities, further enhancing the experience for both exhibitors and visitors. We have already received strong interest from exhibitors, with 85 % of the exhibition space for 2026 already booked, further confirming the growing appeal of the event. Our focus will continue to be on strengthening the collaboration between law enforcement, military forces, and security authorities, while also addressing emerging topics like hybrid warfare and resilience. New formats, such as the Ammo Symposium and the Enforce Tac Stage, will be expanded to offer even more opportunities for in-depth discussions and networking among industry professionals. Our mission remains to develop Enforce Tac in line with the current security needs of Germany and Europe, and to offer a platform where the latest innovations and technological advancements can be explored, shared, and applied. Enforce Tac 2026 promises to be another landmark event, bringing together key players from the security and defence sectors to shape the future of safety and defence in Europe.

Author: Miloš Soukup
Photo: Enforce Tac and Eva Soukupová

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE EXHIBITORS & VISITORS

We visited Czech companies and asked 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?

DASTA – Lukáš Staněk

1. At this year's EnforceTac fair, our company presented itself with a wide variety of products, including gun cases, equipment parts and tactical vests. We have also presented a series of new products including etuis for concealed carry or cases for medical bandages and tourniquets. We offer our customers high-quality products made from materials coming mainly from our suppliers based in the Czech Republic.

2. This year's exhibitors have increased significantly compared to last year. The participation at the fair bears high importance to our company DASTA for many reasons. Most importantly meeting with existing and new customers, but also the presentation of our new products and the assessment of trends in our industry. Everything went according to our expectations and we are looking forward to next year.

INSTITUTE OF BLAST & IMPACT PROOF CONCRETE
Pavel Bělohradský, CEO and David Chrobok, Executive Director

1. We brought to the EnforceTac exhibition the basic construction segment of the Bunker safety element, which was exposed to a shrapnel test of a 120 mm mortar shell and a 20 kg TNT explosion from five meters during the RMI certification tests. The modularity to assemble bunkers and shelters at tactical, operational and strategic levels, along with the high durability with dimensional stability of the element, has gained the attention of dozens of interested parties across the continent. At the same time, we presented Sting restraint elements; the police version was of interest to representatives of companies west of our border, the anti-tank variant to officials from the Baltics, Poland and Ukraine.

2. We are convinced that the intention to present the IBIPC range of safety elements at a major international trade fair has been fulfilled. The level of interest confirmed the assumption that in the category of modular bunkers with resistance according to NATO STANAG 2280-2016, and assigned NSN, we are the only qualified NSPA supplier with such quality products, including complete turnkey equipment. We evaluate the participation in the event positively.

ENFORCE TAC

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE!

23–25.2.2026

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DEFENCE

NUREMBERG, GERMANY I ENFORCETAC.COM/EN

Only for members of official security agencies and the armed forces.

NÜRNBERG MESSE

PUBLI MANAGES AND CONTROLS DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE LIFECYCLE OF AN EQUIPMENT

The perspective on creating and developing documentation is undergoing a significant transformation nowadays. Where printed materials, PDFs, emails, or web-based updates once sufficed, today's information is delivered through sophisticated online information systems. The digitization of development and production processes, along with the rise of automation in manufacturing, demands quick and easy access to information. Modern requirements call for this data to be available not only in office environments but also in the field, in specific situations where access to data networks may be unavailable.

Requirements for today's documentation

In today's competitive and security-conscious environment, working with documents requires coordinated teamwork, built in part on robust access control and security measures.

Modern documents should be easily readable on all current devices, including mobile phones, and accessible to all users regardless of their technological platform. They should include tools that clearly convey information and provide timely support to the reader. If such tools are not embedded directly in the document, they should be made available through the accompanying application or device.

The documentation accompanies the equipment throughout its entire lifecycle – from development, production, and testing, through sales and usage, to maintenance, repairs, and ultimately disposal.

The Publi Platform

Publi is designed to support the comprehensive management and controlled distribution of documents throughout all phases of the equipment lifecycle.

We have created optimal conditions for the creation of interactive, responsive documents (editor), systematic organization (database system), access control (user permissions), secure and managed distribution (online delivery), and document viewing both on the web (online) and in dedicated apps (offline readers). Documents are also protected through encryption to prevent potential misuse.

A key feature of these documents is responsiveness, ensuring comfortable readability across all devices regardless of screen size. Using documents with interactive elements (such as fillable fields), it is possible to efficiently gather data from selected respondents (e.g., mid-level managers, employees) without organizational overhead, and process it according to pre-set algorithms, for example, generating graphical outputs. A standard modern document in the Publi environment can include not only text and interactive

fields, but also videos, audio tracks, animated 3D objects, virtual reality elements, and more.

Standardization and Cataloguing

When a new equipment is first delivered to the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, it is essential to meet the requirements for materiel cataloguing according to the NATO standards. In this phase, the manufacturer is required to provide original documentation about the product entering the materiel cataloguing and identification process. This primarily involves documentation that clearly describes the product and defines its properties. Based on these documents, the product is, in simple terms, assigned a catalogue number, or an NSN (NATO Stock Number). It is evident that the materiel cataloguing and identification process demands strict consistency in the provision and subsequent processing of input information (documents), clear documentation tracking, and controlled distribution to the relevant processors (so-called materiel item managers).

API

Publi can be implemented as a standalone system on the customer's hardware. Naturally, it also supports integration with other enterprise information systems or the customer's document management system. The API provides an environment for identification, authorization, bidirectional data exchange, and other functionalities required for integration with additional applications. As the platform evolves, the API is extended based on the specific needs of individual customers. These enhancements may involve communication between the platform and the information system, or between the document and the information system. The flexible development approach enables capabilities for working with data that go far beyond what is typically possible with traditional document distribution formats such as PDFs.

Examples of Publi Integration with Other Systems

Efficient logistics saves costs. By integrating applications and sharing operational manuals, repair procedures in various formats, descriptive characteristics of materiel items, and other documents through Publi, it is possible to enhance the item description in

a catalogue. The materiel codification tool MC CATALOGUE from AURA combined with the Publi platform offers advanced capabilities for accessing catalogue items.

Another example is the integration of Publi with LIS (the next-generation Logistics Information System from AURA). Through LIS, users can access supplementary documents in Publi, such as manuals, training materials, descriptions, directives, and more. Both systems enable seamless mutual access based on synchronized user authentication.

A practical example of connecting an interactive Publi document with a customer's information system is the Spare Parts Catalogue (items of supply). The document on a mobile device contains a complete list of equipment items, including graphical representations. The user can navigate from an overview to individual components, select an item, add its data to a cart, and create a purchase request in the system for further processing. The electronic catalogue on the mobile device can also work in offline mode, making it a valuable tool for managing and distributing documents throughout all stages of the equipment lifecycle.

Code Creator

The company Code Creator, s. r. o.

The company specialises in the development of mobile applications and information systems based on server solutions combined with mobile applications. It creates customised applications and develops and operates the Publi platform – a platform for the creation, controlled distribution and sharing of documents, including sensitive content, with encrypted storage and both online and offline access.

Publi

We warmly invite you to visit AURA's booth during the IDET 2025 trade fair in Brno, where we'll be happy to demonstrate all the features mentioned above, and much more.

Text and photos: Pavel Hanousek, Jaroslav Řeha, and the Publi Team

GRENADES FOR THE ARMED FORCES: CZECH PRODUCTION

As a traditional Czech manufacturer of ammunition and pyrotechnics, ZEVETA AMMUNITION a. s. is constantly developing new products and innovating existing ones. It has currently completed development work on the modernization of hand grenades, including the development of a new igniter so that the user receives a modern means of tactical use that meets all current trends in the field of hand grenades.

Emphasis is placed especially on ZEVETA's ability to produce all parts of a hand grenade, including the initiation chain, self-help and under its own direction, thus providing the Czech Republic with the opportunity to bring back to life the independent and original production of hand grenades after a long time. Mastering the production of all parts of the hand grenade by ZEVETA without the need for subcontracting from abroad means that it is a purely Czech product produced by a traditional Czech manufacturer with more than 86 years of tradition and experience in the production of ammunition, including hand grenades. ZEVETA is once again able to offer a competitive hand grenade, which will also compete with foreign manufacturers in terms of its price.

Structurally, the new igniter consists of a lever-type throw fuse, which is secured by a transport safety pin. The igniter has a time function with a standard delay interval of 3 to 5 seconds, which can be set at the factory at the customer's request, thus preparing a customized igniter. The removal of the switch and impact mode greatly simplified the entire igniter and thus the use of the hand grenade. Hand grenades are intended to be thrown from the user's hand and are therefore designed in such a way that manipulation with them meets the normal handling and safety standards for this type of ammunition, i. e. security against unwanted initiation during handling and at the moment of readiness for use.

The new hand grenade is marked as HG-22/3.5 and will be produced in several basic variants:

- **The HGF-22/3.5 fragmentation hand grenade** is a hand-thrown infantry grenade intended for use during offensive operations against soft targets. HGF is an assault grenade with a plastic outer shell with ridges for better grip. The body of the grenade is filled with an explosive charge that is surrounded by steel balls. When the grenade explodes, it creates an overpressure and a shock wave, which are combined with the effect of small steel balls acting as shrapnel.

- **The HGO-22/3.5 assault hand grenade** is a hand-thrown infantry grenade intended for use during assault operations in built-up areas. HGO is an assault grenade with a plastic outer shell with ridges for better grip. The body of the grenade is filled with an explosive charge. The grenade creates overpressure and a shock wave.

- **The HGT-22/3.5 thermobaric hand grenade** is a hand-thrown infantry grenade with an increased pressure and heat effect, intended for use during offensive operations in built-up areas. During development, the effect of the thermobaric grenade filling was tested and tested against standard TNT, which is commonly used for the production of hand grenades, and the result is a composition with an effect of 170–180 % of the equivalent amount of TNT, i. e. almost twice as much as TNT.

The portfolio of hand grenades is also supplemented with reduced, training and practice versions so that the user is provided with a complete program for training and using these devices.

VOP CZ

will present the Bushmaster armoured vehicle and a development model of the medical version of the CV90 at IDET

The Military Repair Enterprise will present attractive exhibits at this year's IDET international defence and security technology fair, which symbolise its strategic transformation to Western-made technology. The main attraction of the exhibition will be the Bushmaster armoured vehicle, which VOP CZ will present in cooperation with the European company Thales. Another important point of the programme is the presentation of a development model of the medical version of the CV90 vehicle, which the state enterprise is developing for the Czech Army.

Strategic alliance agreement with Thales

On the first day of the fair, the state enterprise will sign an important cooperation with THALES in the form of a so-called alliance agreement, which will include VOP CZ in the global chain of suppliers and service providers of Bushmaster vehicles beyond the eventual delivery to the Czech Army.

The military repair company will thus gain an extraordinary opportunity to develop also in the field of Western armoured vehicles.

Bushmaster – battle-tested, ready for the future

The Bushmaster armoured vehicle has already proven itself in harsh combat conditions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Mali and recently also in Ukraine. This platform is used by nearly a dozen armies around the world, including two NATO member states. Approximately 1,500 units have been produced to date in various modifications and specialised variants.

The unique monocoque chassis design provides exceptional protection for the crew against IED and other improvised explosive device blasts. Another significant advantage of the vehicle is its easy transportability – whether by modern C-390 Millennium aircraft or CH-47 Chinook transport helicopters. VOP CZ has ambitions to become the future production and service centre for this platform for the CEE region.

Development medical version of the CV90 – on display for the first time

Another attraction will be a unique prototype of the medical version of the CV90 armoured personnel carrier, which the state-owned enterprise is developing for the Czech army. This year's IDET will be an extraordinary opportunity for the general and professional public to take a look under the hood of the CV90 development project. The Czech Army will receive a total of 247 vehicles, 16 of which will be in this medical version. VOP CZ plays an important role of vehicle integrator in the whole project. The first armoured personnel carrier will leave the company's gates at the end of 2026.

Logistics equipment: CAP 16M1

In addition to armoured equipment, VOP CZ will also present an important element of military logistics in cooperation with the Czech Army – the CAP 16M1 tanker designed for transporting fuel. This type of tanker is a practical example of specialised support equipment that is actively used by the army.

Transformation and the future of VOP CZ

"We have conceived the entire exhibition as an expression of a new vision and the future of our company. We want to show that VOP CZ is undergoing a fundamental transformation – from servicing older equipment towards modern Western technology that meets today's standards. This is best illustrated by the projects we are currently working on," said Vlastimil Navrátil, director of VOP CZ.

VOP CZ confirms its growing role in the defence industry not only in the Czech Republic but also in the European context.

The VOP CZ exhibition can be found traditionally in Hall P.
We look forward to seeing you

Vojenský výzkumný ústav, s. p.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS ENGINEERING OF THE MILITARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (VVÚ)

The activity profile of this Department of the Military Research Institute

The Military Research Institute (VVÚ) based in Brno is a state-owned company established by the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic. Its research base consists of three specialist departments – the Department of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Protection, the Department of Electronic Warfare and Camouflage and the Department of Materials Engineering. An important part of the Institute is the Centre of Testing – an accredited testing laboratory.

The domain of the Department of Materials Engineering is research, development, testing and expert activities in the field of materials and technologies necessary to ensure the protection and security of the Czech Republic and to fulfil the obligations arising from the Czech Republic membership in NATO and the EU.

The Department's core area are passive and active systems and the technology of ballistic and blast protection. Its activity is focused on ensuring and increasing the resistance of military equipment, critical military infrastructure against projectiles, shells, fragments, and the effects of blasts on the basis of the current and future needs of the Army of the Czech Republic and NATO. Within the framework of the given specialisation, the Department deals with the projects of protective research and development for the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Technological Agency of the Czech Republic and VaV international projects within the European Defence Agency and the European Defence Fund. The Department cooperates closely with defence industry companies of the Czech Republic and the EU. A number of developed solutions is introduced into the armament of the Army of the Czech Republic or other NATO armies.

The set of modular panels OCHRAINFR recently introduced into the Army of the Czech Republic provides protection of important stationary structures (e.g. points of command, shelters, containers, depots of ammunition and POL, military equipment, and firing points) according to STANAG 2280. The advantage of this set is a high protective capability, small space requirement, low weight of its structure, the use of local materials for the structure filling, easy assembly and disassembly, high modularity. All components can also be manhandled.

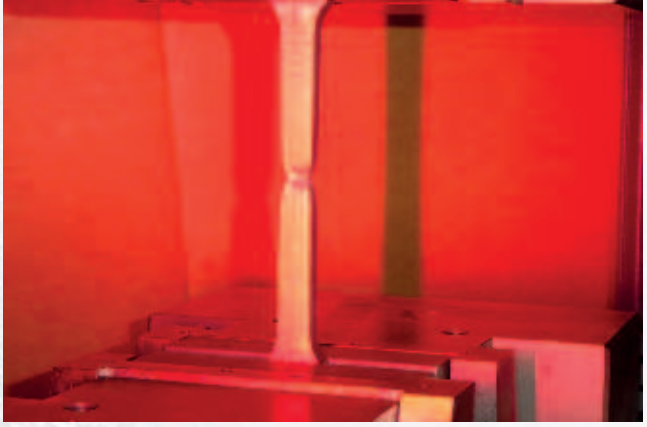
Within the framework of the development project of the Ministry of Defence, the prototype of PAO system (Advanced active ballistic protection of vehicles against RPG's and ATGM's attacks) was developed. It is designed to protect the crews of military equipment against cumulative warhead missiles. The system efficiency consists in the detection of attacking means and its liquidation prior to its impact on a protected vehicle. After the threat has been eliminated, the system transmits to the crew of the protected vehicle and other vehicles of the unit data on the location of the source of threat for its subsequent liquidation. The PAO system is designed to protect a vehicle from all directions (including the ceiling) and is also applicable to light and medium armoured equipment. The PAO system prototype has been integrated on IFV Pandur II 8×8 CZ vehicle and verified by combat testing. The PAO system was subsequently introduced for use in the Army of the Czech Republic.

The Institute successfully developed the certified improvement of ballistic protection on IFV Pandur II 8×8 CZ vehicle by means of ceramic additional armouring and furthermore SLAT type protection against RPG attack was developed and tested here. The vehicles with enhanced protection developed in the Institute were deployed successfully in a foreign mission. The advanced additional ceramic armouring was also used in wheeled armoured radio vehicle Pandur II CZ and in wheeled armoured vehicle for command and staff Pandur II CZ.

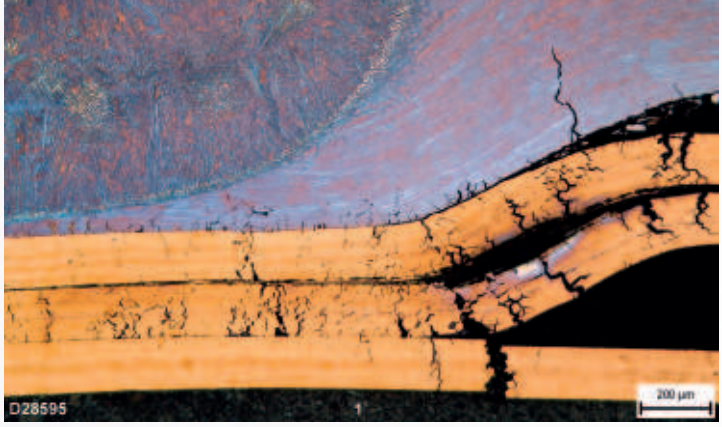
The Department of Materials Engineering participates, on long-terms basis, in the solution of international projects within the framework of the European Defence Fund.

Anthropomorphic test device (instrumented dummy) in vehicle before explosion test

Technical evaluation of the IVECO LOV vehicle



Tensile test



Expertise on cracking of spot welds of a stainless steel vehicle part

The Institute is a member of the research team for the project "COMMANDS" (Convoy Operations with Manned-unMAnNeD Systems) which's aim is to provide comprehensive protection of logistics convoys by means of the integration and synchronisation of modern manned systems, either semi-automatically or fully autonomously. Another solved international project is "FMBTech" (Technologies for existing and future Main Battle Tanks) that aims to specify innovative technologies within the modular architecture of a future European tank (MBT).

The most important profile field of the Department are progressive material and technological solutions of armoured protection of military equipment. Special areas of interest are metal, ceramic and composite armour materials. The workshop is equipped with the technology of armour welding and the technology of vacuum foil bonding for the manufacture of development test samples, prototypes and final composite armours on the scale of small batch production. The developed solutions of armour protection are used on ground military equipment of the Army of the Czech Republic and allied armed forces.

Technical evaluation of light armoured vehicles IVECO was performed for special forces of the Army of the Czech Republic. The purpose of the technical evaluation of vehicles was to improve the situation and spatial awareness, to enhance the combat capability by increasing firepower and crew protection by the installation of ballistically protected body at the rear of the vehicle, to improve the driving capabilities under reduced visibility by IR LED installation and to ensure the ability to transport the injured on a stretcher with the possibility of providing medical assistance during the ride. The vehicles passed successfully the control and combat tests after which they were deployed in a foreign mission.

The significant part of the Department of Materials Engineering is testing and certification of ballistic and blast protection of vehicles according to STANAG 4569 for the Army of the Czech Republic, allied armies and industrial sector. The comprehensive performance of the tests of ballistic and blast resistance is provided by own technical equipment, like e.g. high-speed camera used in the vehicle exterior and interior, instrumented test dummies representing the vehicle crews that make it possible to evaluate the degree of threat to lives of combat vehicle crews as a result of extreme dynamic loads, recording devices for data collection, sensors for acceleration and pressure measurement during the explosion, DJI Mavic 2 Zoom drone, and others.

The experimental base of the Department of Materials Engineering also includes the Materials Testing Laboratory and the Testing Laboratory of Climatic and Corrosive Resistance. These testing facilities fall under the Centre of Testing – testing laboratory No. 1449 accredited by the Czech Accreditation Institute. Both testing laboratories are the members of the Association of Czech Testing Rooms and Laboratories.

The Testing Laboratory of Climatic and Corrosive Resistance performs the tests of metal materials, and metal and non-metal inorganic coats, coatings and coating systems, engineering, electro-technical and electronic products, and the systems of temporary protection of products (conservation devices, coating materials, etc.). It performs, on long-term basis, two important tasks of technical assistance for the Ministry of Defence – Coating systems for the protection of ground military equipment and Temporary protection of ground military equipment and materials.

Within the task Coating systems for the protection of ground military equipment, the testing laboratory verifies the parameters of coating systems with climatic, corrosive and chemical resistance with camouflage effect for ground military equipment and the material offered to the Army of the Czech Republic. The parameters are verified in accordance with Czech standards ČOS 801001, ČOS 801007, ČOS 801006 and ČOS 801008. Part of this task is a regular annual update of catalogue sheets for the verified coating systems, hardeners and thinners for the document "Permitted means for the storage of armament, equipment and materials of the Army of the Czech Republic".

Within the task Temporary protection of ground military equipment and materials, the testing laboratory performs the test of anticorrosive protection of the means of temporary protection for military equipment and material of the Army of the Czech Republic. The part of the task is a regular annual update of the list of permitted means for the storage of armament, equipment and material of the Army of the Czech Republic in the POL catalogue according to ČOS 999923, including the update of relevant catalogue sheets.

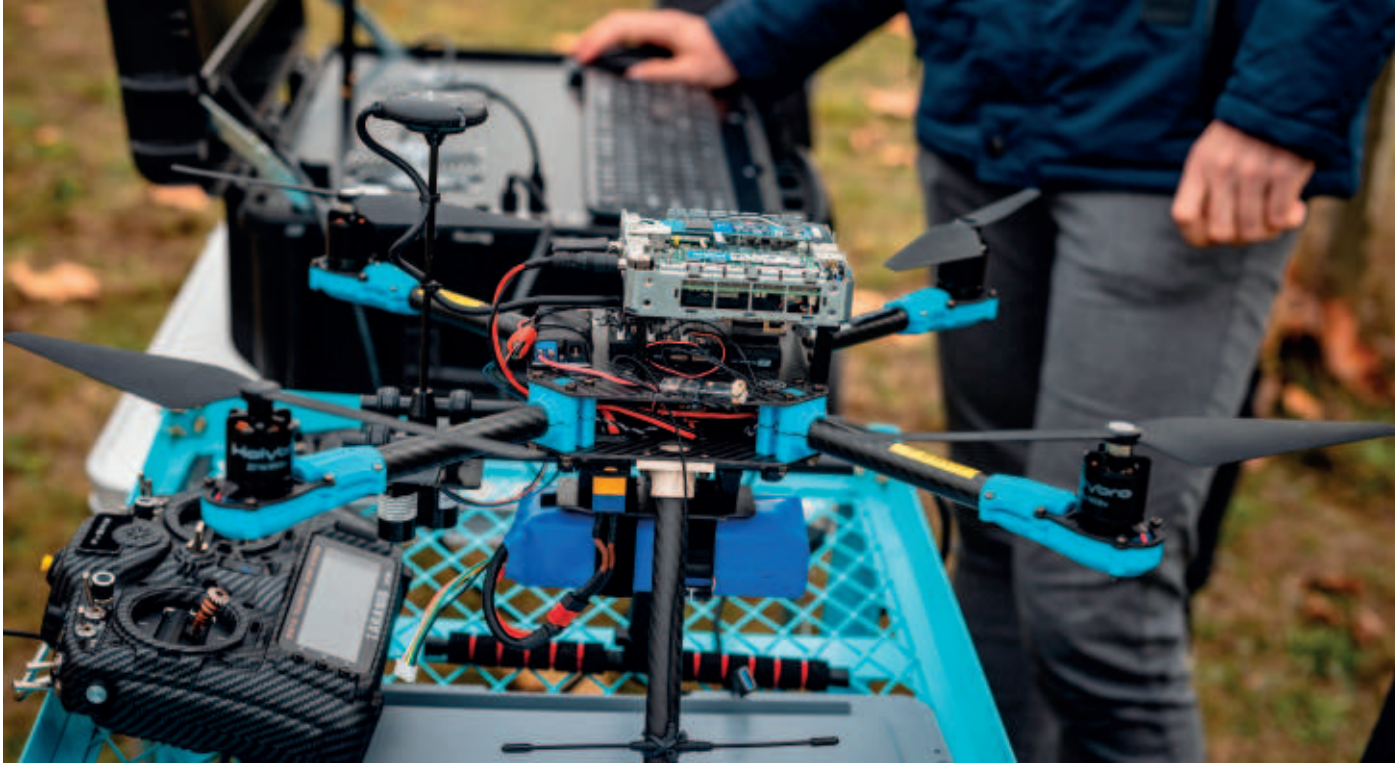
The Material Testing Laboratory is focused on mechanical and structural testing of metal, ceramic and polymeric materials used in military equipment.

These are, in particular, tensile tests, flexure tests, flexural impact tests, fracture toughness tests, hardness and micro-harness determination by Brinell, Rockwell, Vickers and Shore, metallographic analysis, fractographic analysis, surface micro-morphology analysis, scanning electron microscopy and others.

The Institute holds the certificate to perform the function of the National Authority in various fields of the implementation of alliance standardization, specifically STANAG 2836, 2920, 4360, 4370, 4569, 4686 in the Department of Materials Engineering.

If you are interested, you can visit us at IDET 2025, Pavillon P, stand No. 126.

Author: Ing. Jan Křesťan, Ph.D.
Note: the owner of all photos is VVÚ, s. p.



In September, the functions of the multiagent system will be demonstrated in the military area of Březina for the Czech Army.

MULTI-AGENT SYSTEM OF DRONES AND ROBOTS CONTROLLED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WILL ASSIST THE ARMY

A swarm of drones equipped with imaging technology will ascend into the sky, while robots set out for ground reconnaissance. The multi-agent system controlled by artificial intelligence will assist the Czech Army in detecting enemies in the field or exploring areas contaminated by radiation. Researchers from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Communication at Brno University of Technology (FEEC BUT), in collaboration with the University of Defence, have been working on its development since 2022. This year, the project is reaching its successful finale – experts have managed to develop new types of robots, increase their level of autonomy, and secure the system against interference.

"Originally, we had only one type of reconnaissance ground robot. Currently, we have three – Orpheus-XR, Scout-mini for terrain imaging with an RGB camera, and Hermes – a small reconnaissance robot that can be transported to inaccessible locations by the largest drone in our swarm," explains project leader Petr Marcoň from FEEC BUT.

Experts are developing the multi-agent system primarily for the Czech Army, which can use it in cases such as a chemical plant accident, a dirty bomb attack, or a military strike. However, other security forces could also utilize the system for chemical, biological, and nuclear defence. It enables a fast and detailed reconnaissance of areas that pose risks to humans.

The drones are equipped not only with standard and thermal imaging cameras but also with radiation detectors. In the event of radioactive material leakage, they can remotely measure radiation levels. The information is then sent to the command center, which directs robots to investigate specific GPS coordinates with increased radiation risk. Ground robots immediately move to the location to obtain more precise measurements.

"The entire swarm can automatically explore the terrain without manual control. If one of the drones fails – whether due to enemy interference or adverse weather conditions – the system autonomously resolves the task using automatic reconfiguration and artificial intelligence algorithms, which adjust the routes of individual drones and complete the mission," adds Marcoň, noting that the level of autonomy is much higher than initially expected.

The work on the Czech Army project has also yielded scientific benefits – it led to the development of improved metaheuristic artificial intelligence algorithms. These could be used for planning trajectories of airborne transport vehicles.

The researchers at FEEC BUT modified and upgraded purchased drones with CBRN sensors, infrared cameras, and programmed microcomputers that enable swarm flying. However, they encountered obstacles. *"The drone designed to transport small robots repeatedly crashed to the ground after flying just*

half a meter. It flew well with a payload, but without the robot, it was too light and unstable. It was challenging to set parameters so that it would fly stably and always reach its destination," notes Marcoň.

A major advantage was the opportunity to test the entire system directly in military zones. Using the STARKOM vehicle, army specialists disrupted the electromagnetic environment in which the drones and robots operated.

Project leader Petr Marcoň from FEKT BUT shows one of the drones.

"This gave us feedback on how the system would behave in a jammed area, which was a huge benefit," says the expert. While the original swarm design relied on local wireless network communication, researchers have now started using the MANET MESH network and MPU5 radio, which is also used by NATO and is more resistant to electromagnetic interference of communication channels.

The project, which researchers from FEEC BUT and the University of Defence have been working on since January 2022, will be completed by the end of 2025. In September, the multi-agent system's functionality will be demonstrated to the Czech Army at the Březina military training area.

"We will be testing two potential scenarios. The first involves the use of a dirty bomb in a populated area. We will measure radiation levels to determine whether the environment is safe for soldiers and civilians. The second scenario will focus on military reconnaissance – determining whether enemy troops and armed equipment are present in a designated area. The system will be tested on both camouflaged and non-camouflaged soldiers," Marcoň plans.

Although the swarm was originally intended solely for the military, police, firefighters, and other emergency services have shown interest in it from the beginning. *"We have been contacted by prison service representatives to see if the system could be used for facility security. Similarly, it could assist in guarding ammunition depots, nuclear power plants, or other critical infrastructure. We would like to continue developing and expanding the system with additional functionalities. That is why we have applied for a follow-up project under the PRODEF program announced by the Ministry of Defence,"* concludes Marcoň. The BUT team aims to collaborate on this project not only with the University of Defence but also with experts from the Czech Technical University (CTU).

Author: Hana Marko
Photo: Václav Koníček, Jakub Rozboud

WILL WE EVER WIN THE DEEPFAKE DETECTION RACE?

As audio deepfakes threaten global security, Phonexia, a Czech innovator since 2006, empowers government agencies with cutting-edge voice biometrics and industry-leading deepfake detection. Renowned for on-premises solutions and a legacy of excellence in NIST evaluations, Phonexia tackles this challenge head-on.

"Audio deepfakes pose a significant risk, from impersonating officials to spreading disinformation," says Jiří Nezval, Head of Product at Phonexia. *"For law enforcement and military, verifying audio authenticity is critical to maintaining trust, security, and an operational edge."* With deepfakes increasingly used to deceive, the stakes are high for government operations requiring uncompromised integrity.

"It's no longer a question of if someone will impersonate another via state-of-the-art voice cloning, but when," he continues. *"It's akin to the relationship between viruses and antiviruses. Technological advancements can't be stopped, but they can be mitigated by staying at the forefront of breakthroughs while pushing voice biometrics further."*

Can we win this deepfake detection race? *"We must accept that there's no turning back with deepfakes. The nature of our world has shifted, and we need to adapt to this new landscape,"* Nezval explains. *"For that reason, Phonexia is advancing both speaker recognition and audio deepfake detection. Our Authenticity Verification technology, currently the industry's leading solution for detecting audio deepfakes, marks a significant step forward, continuously evolving to keep pace with deepfake advancements."*

Phonexia supports governments with easy-to-integrate voice biometrics and speech recognition technologies, accessible through the Phonexia Speech Platform. Discover more at **www.phonexia.com**.

Partners of the company SWORDFISH s. r. o.:
Jaroslav Pecháček, Dušan Jamný

REFLECTIONS ON THE PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL JOURNEY OF DUŠAN JAMNÝ

Among the long-standing members of the Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic (DSIA) is undoubtedly SWORDFISH s. r. o., a logistics company whose core business is the transportation of goods for the defence and security industry, particularly military and dual-use materials. The company has made long-term contributions to the development of logistics and service support not only in the Czech Republic but has also played a role in improving the unified EU transit transport system. One of its founders is Ing. Dušan Jamný, who also ranks among the pioneers of the Czech defence industry.

A former naval officer with the Czechoslovak Ocean Shipping company, Dušan Jamný has led a remarkably diverse and dynamic life. This year, as he turns sixty, we are giving him the opportunity to share stories not only about his professional journey but also about his personal experiences and reflections. Today, Dušan Jamný serves as **Chairman of the Board of CZECHOSLOVAK OCEAN SHIPPING a. s. (COS Group)**, under which SWORDFISH s. r. o. operates.

We've previously come across his name in the article *"SWORDFISH – A Company with a Special Mission and Focus"*, which also featured his business partner **Ing. Jaroslav Pecháček, CSc., Colonel (Ret.)**, until recently the Vice President of the DSIA. He holds and guarantees the "arms license" that authorizes the entire COS group to conduct specialized transport operations, including military cargo.

Since its founding, Dušan Jamný and Jaroslav Pecháček have built a company whose services are widely used by Czech defence industry companies and recognized at defence and security exhibitions, conferences, and trade fairs worldwide.

It's also worth noting that **Ing. Jaroslav Pecháček Jr.**, who previously gained experience at global corporations like Adidas and Specialized, now works for the company. Since 2023, he has followed in his father's footsteps, serving as Vice President of the DSIA with responsibility for special projects across the COS Group.

Dušan Jamný has played a crucial role in integrating SWORDFISH s. r. o. into the **CZECHOSLOVAK OCEAN SHIPPING** group, which has been active in the transportation market for over 25 years. Drawing on his extensive experience, Jamný laid the groundwork for a logistics business model that unites several companies into a single, efficient operational structure. The COS Group maintains branches in Prague, Poděbrady, Ostrava, and Strážnice, as well as in Bratislava and Košice. It also has contractual agents in European ports and other global transport hubs.

While the group continues to monitor innovation and modernization trends in logistics, its core business remains **international goods transport**—by container, sea, rail, and multimodal transport. In recent years, **air freight** has been gaining momentum. The group handles both standard and oversized cargo, charters ships and aircraft to meet customer needs, and organizes the tailored transport of complete investment units.

COS's integrated structure allows it to offer customers packaging, handling, temporary storage, transshipment, customs clearance,

Board of Directors of COS a. s.: Dušan Jamný, Roman Češka, Jan Poláček

transit permits, and a range of additional services. This makes it capable of handling transport projects across the **energy, chemical, healthcare, food, and general commercial sectors**.

At the head of COS, **Dušan Jamný leads and continues to develop a team of over sixty highly skilled and multilingual professionals** dedicated to a field that often knows no weekends or holidays—cargo keeps moving.

Within COS, SWORDFISH s.r.o. remains focused on transporting military goods under licensed conditions, typically through combined transit across neighboring and other countries, and further by sea or air. Due to its narrow and highly specialized scope, the company relies on a team of the most experienced logistics experts in the market.

Looking back at Dušan Jamný's career, it's clear his contributions go far beyond logistics. His impact spans multiple fields that complement and build upon each other. Below, he shares insights into his journey in a special interview.

How did your time with the Czechoslovak Ocean Shipping company influence the operations of COS a. s.?

The **Czechoslovak Ocean Shipping Company (ČSNP)** was split in 1993 into Czech and Slovak divisions. The Slovak side was compensated with ships, and ČSNP became the **Czech Ocean Shipping Company**, owned solely by Czech firms.

Together with fellow graduates from the Maritime University in Szczecin, we established our own freight forwarding company, which became the personnel foundation of what is now COS. In addition to container sea transport, we also use multimodal solutions and ship chartering—hiring entire vessels for our cargo. Our core strength lies in providing expert logistics services, a skillset we developed during our time with ČSNP.

What did we carry over from that experience? Most importantly, we drew on the traditions and know-how we learned at ČSNP. A key difference was that we didn't own any ships—we operated purely as **freight forwarders**, intermediating goods transport, initially exclusively by sea. So, what remains our common ground today is **maritime trade**—preparing cargo for third-party vessels. In summary, **Czech Ocean Shipping and COS are bound by the same mission: the transportation of goods.**

Our aim was not only to assume the role of a national freight operator but also to **preserve vital know-how** within the Czech Republic—how to manage these operations locally, with local resources. That means not depending entirely on foreign freight companies, who may have experience but don't provide the long-term strategic value of maintaining domestic logistics capabilities—like how to charter entire ships or handle oversized cargo.

It's worth mentioning that **containerized shipping** has developed significantly since our student days. It now accounts for the majority of cargo previously transported in bulk. Goods that were once loaded individually are now shipped in containers whenever possible.

What's your take on this evolution in maritime transport?

Today's systems allow cargo to move safely and reliably. Figuratively speaking, what you load in China is exactly what you unload here. Smaller goods that once required complex

packing—bags, boxes, pallets—can now be **efficiently and uniformly shipped in containers**. From the shipper's perspective, the cargo type hardly matters. **Rates are standardized** for containers regardless of what's inside, under clear transport conditions.

This means we can calculate transport costs with far more certainty—typically, they should remain within **10% of the cargo's value**.

Yachts in Croatia, Adventures in Antarctica, and the Passion for Uncharted Paths: A Conversation with Dušan Jamný

You own three yachts in Croatia—where did the idea come from and how are they used today?

The whole idea began back in 1985, when my classmates and I spent time aboard a large Polish school sailing ship, the *Darmo Diži*. We even visited the port of Rijeka on that trip. We spent nearly two months living in cramped quarters—twenty of us to a cabin—and we were up at 4 a.m. for work every day. You can imagine we came back pretty worn out. Around us, we saw beautiful private yachts—similar in size to the ones we now have docked in Zadar. Even back then, I remember thinking: maybe I won't always work as a sailor on big ships, but one day I *will* own a small yacht.

Ship ownership is something that runs in our history. We even attempted, for a time, to take the path of becoming global shipping operators—like the Greek magnate Onassis—by building a fleet and combining it with trade. But after a few attempts in Bulgaria, it became clear this wasn't the wind meant to fill our sails. There's a traditional rule in maritime trade: to run a successful shipping business, you need to start with *a large volume of cargo*, and only then acquire vessels—not the other way around.

Our yachts in the port of Zadar are, in a way, preparation for the transition from an active managerial career into a lifestyle centered around operating vessels for leisure—our own, as well as that of others. At the moment, we charter the yachts through a local company, but we bought them with the intention of eventually offering yachting services according to our own standards—for customers and friends in both business and industry circles.

Through our subsidiary, **COS Crew Management s. r. o.**, we also operate a certified training center where we train new sailing enthusiasts who, one day, might skipper these yachts themselves. In doing so, we're building a new network of people who may be interested in chartering our vessels in the future.

What's your connection to Antarctica, and what are you working on now?

To start, let me briefly describe the current Czech presence in Antarctica. There's the **Czech polar station** on James Ross Island—**Masaryk University's Johann Gregor Mendel Station** in Brno—as well as another Czech facility, more of a small cabin really, on Nelson Island. Since we were involved in building the university station, we've been responsible for its ongoing support. I've personally spent a great deal of time there—handling both the logistics of construction and the transport of people and materials. Thanks to these efforts, the Czech Republic is among the countries that have a say in the future use and governance of Antarctica.

Unfortunately, alongside these scientific efforts, there's also a considerable amount of tourism in the region. Massive cruise ships sail by without letting passengers disembark, while smaller ships and yachts sometimes allow limited landings—if accepted by one of the polar stations.

I've been to Antarctica three times, sailing with Polish friends aboard their 20-meter yacht *Selma Expedition*, until the captain stumbled across something extraordinary. He discovered a break in the ice shelf south of Hobart, Australia, near the **Whale Bay** in the **Ross Sea**. This was the launch point for

polar explorers Shackleton and Amundsen in 1912, where the land ends and the ice extends about 20 meters into the sea. About ten years ago, our captain realized that a significant piece of ice had broken away—enough to justify sailing there and rewriting the record for the **southernmost point ever reached in human history**. And that's exactly what we did—no one had been there since Amundsen. That was how I celebrated my 50th birthday in 2015.

I'm now planning another expedition with my friend and fellow adventurer, **Jirka Kolbaba**, to follow in Shackleton's footsteps. On Nelson Island, where we have the small cabin I mentioned earlier, we hope to **erect a statue of Saint John of Nepomuk**. As the patron saint of water, he is well-known across the globe. In South America alone, you'll find monuments to him in at least ten locations. Antarctica is the last continent without a statue in his honor.

Another expedition is in the works with **Ladislav Jelínek, the rector of Brno University of Technology**. We've decided it's time to rise to the challenge. On one of our Antarctic trips, we encountered a group of young Danes attempting to **recreate Shackleton's legendary journey**. After Shackleton's ship, *Endurance*, became trapped in the ice, he led a rescue mission in small lifeboats across the **King George Island** and further east, sailing for 14 days until they reached civilization. It's a journey I'd like to experience in a similar fashion—only this time aboard a proper sailing ship like the *Selma Expedition*.

Looking back on your career, what stands out the most? What has stayed with you?

To this day, I'm proud of the fact that after finishing secondary school, I didn't choose the simple or familiar path—but instead opted for an adventure. I entered a field that was quite unique at the time—hardly anyone thought to earn a "driver's license" for ocean-going ships by going to university in Poland. After all, in Czechoslovakia, transportation and logistics were handled by just one company, **Čechofracht**. And working on an ocean vessel wasn't exactly a dream job—there were only about 1,500 sailors in the whole country selected for such work.

As it turned out, after the **Velvet Revolution**, logistics and IT became two of the fastest-evolving industries. Thanks to my maritime education, I had a strong foundation for maritime trade, which I first used as an officer, and later in building my own company. Sure, I might have succeeded in business as an economics graduate too—but it wouldn't have brought the same sense of fulfillment.

Today, our company has **extensive experience in both conventional logistics and more complex operations**—from transporting the largest cryogenic tank made in the Czech Republic to Sweden, to moving an entire power plant. Time and again, our path has taken us into unique, unexpected situations—and that's what keeps our passion and motivation alive to this day.

The professional and personal journey of **Dušan Jamný** doesn't end with the areas we've discussed—it continues to grow. A native of **Strážnice in South Moravia**, he was "raised on Moravian fruit," blessed with a talent for singing and a naturally warm, friendly personality. He has seen the world—by sea and also on land, including from the saddle of a motorcycle.

He's a true enthusiast for community and connection—bringing people together at work, in sports, and through cultural events, such as hosting gatherings in wine cellars with good folk music.

If we've titled this piece *"A Look Back at the Professional and Personal Life of Dušan Jamný,"* then it's clear that his journey is far from over. In fact, it's expanding with new energy and vision for the future.

We wish **Dušan Jamný** continued health and strength on the occasion of this important milestone—and we look forward to what comes next.

Author: Lauren Imari Cooková
Photo: author and Swordfish

HOW CAN AN OUTSIDE PARTNER HELP THE DEFENCE INDUSTRY?

The questions I often hear – and my answers

Companies in the defence industry often ask themselves whether it is even possible to entrust any part of development or project management to an outside partner. And if so, on what terms? Below I answer the most common questions I encounter in negotiations. It might help you look at cooperation from a slightly different angle.

Isn't an outside contractor to the defence industry too much of a risk?

I understand the concern. The defence sector is extremely sensitive, regulated and demanding – both in terms of security and quality. However, an experienced outside contractor does not become a threat – rather a reinforcement. When cooperation is set the right way, the control always remains in your hands, and the contractor naturally respects and takes on the processes you employ to maintain data security.

Won't our know-how get out?

That's a very common argument, but a quality contractor is not an anonymous agency. It's a partner with whom you have contracts, a NDA, control mechanisms, and clearly set boundaries for sharing information. At Akkodis, for example, confidential information is handled entirely professionally. We protect it at least as carefully as do our clients – and often above and beyond the basic requirements. This is an underlying premise of our work, and the data always remains the property of the customer.

Can an outside partner adapt to our processes and standards?

Yes – and I consider this to be one of the greatest benefits of cooperation. An experienced contractor will adapt to your methodologies, internal workflow, the tools you use, and your documentation standards. At Akkodis, we routinely work in line with our clients' internal rules – whether safety protocols, the quality management system, or standards such as ISO 9100 and others.

At the same time, we have a wide range of software and a ready infrastructure so that cooperation gets going very quickly and is effective and clear in all respects. If the customer is not sure what needs to be prepared at the beginning of our work together, we take them through this process too and help them set up everything in-house so that they can get started with outside cooperation, or make full use of it.

So, where can an outside partner actually help the most?

There are many uses, but we most often provide help in four areas:

- Product development – supplementing the team with experts or providing a complete part of development for both physical products and software solutions.
- Project management – when the team needs the support of an experienced project manager who knows how to deal with complex supplies.
- Testing and validation – help with verification, simulations, or security analysis.
- Digitalisation and PLM systems – for companies that want to take their engineering processes to the next level.

What does cooperation look like in practice?

As required – sometimes we provide the customer with experts, sometimes we work offsite or hybrid. Respect for the client's environment is always essential. We have teams that have integrated into existing processes so seamlessly that they function as in-house colleagues. Regular reporting, transparency, and compliance with agreements are all a matter of course.

And why should I choose Akkodis?

- Because we have real experience in the defence and aerospace industries.
- Because we have our own engineering team in the Czech Republic and abroad.
- Because we don't sell *'people'*, but solutions – with added value and responsibility.
- Because we have been working in different fields for decades and are able to transfer functional process solutions from one area to another, and in doing so support its development.
- And, above all, because we enjoy working with technology, development, and innovation, and take it seriously.

What about the history of Akkodis?

Our company was founded in 1996 as a subsidiary of Mercedes Benz. Since around 2012, our client portfolio has expanded significantly beyond Mercedes, focusing now on more than just the automotive industry, but on other segments such as aerospace and defence, industrial equipment, and rail transport too. We have also been active in the defence sector since the founding of the company: first and foremost in an area close to the automotive industry – special vehicles – and later in other areas. Today, we have more than 400 experienced technicians whose experience means they are able to provide support in product development, for example, at all stages and in almost all areas of competency.

What to say in conclusion?

Outside cooperation means fortifying your capacity, flexibility, and resilience. It frees your hands to deal with the "core business", letting you externalise surrounding activities.

Interview provided by Petra Suchá, Vice President Akkodis CZ s. r. o.

WORKWEAR SERVICE INCLUDING CERTIFICATION FOR EVERY INDUSTRY

Elis is an **international** service provider, offering **rental and service solutions** for workwear, mats, industrial wipers and Cleanroom. The company already operates in **30 countries** on three continents with more than **470 locations**.

Providing quality **workwear** with the necessary certifications to **protect all employees** according to the requirements, while ensuring a **safe working environment**, is a priority for any company, whatever the industry is.

OUTSOURCING IS THE RIGHT WAY TO ENSURE EMPLOYEES' SAFETY WITHOUT HIGH ENTRY COSTS WITH RESPECT TO THE REQUIRED STANDARDS.

Leave the worries of **workwear** sourcing, cleaning, repair and maintenance to a stable partner so you can **focus on your business**. Every week, we will arrange a **regular exchange** directly at your plant in harmony with the defined rules of our **cooperation**.

WE WILL GLADLY BECOME YOUR STABLE PARTNER IN THE RENTAL SECTOR AND SERVICE OF WORKWEAR, OIL WIPERS, CLEANROOM AND MATS.

elis.com

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS: IN LINE WITH THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

elis
Circular services at work

The Tatra fire truck is both the most modern technology and a complete classic

OVERWHELMED BY EMERGENCIES – and How to Keep the Integrated Rescue System Fit for Duty

The Act on the Integrated Rescue System (IRS) defines an emergency as ”harmful effects of forces and events caused by human activity, natural effects and also the accidents threatening life, health, property or environment, requiring rescue and relief work“. Due to their negative impacts, emergencies are considered threats, and by nature, they are complex and dynamic. The line between an emergency and a crisis situation is mostly determined by scale and duration—however destructive, an emergency should remain limited in scope, whereas a crisis can affect nearly everything and last a long time.

This distinction is essential in terms of the response required. Emergencies are handled through the routine operations of administrative authorities, regional and municipal bodies, IRS components, or critical infrastructure entities. Crisis situations refer to those emergencies, infrastructure disruptions, and other threats for which regular measures are insufficient and that require the declaration of a state of emergency—be it a state of danger, a state of emergency, a state of national threat, or even a state of war.

That’s the theory. In practice, IRS components are literally overwhelmed—not only by traditional incident response in the field, such as police deployments to crimes and public disturbances, paramedics attending to accidents and injuries, and firefighters responding to fires and other technical emergencies. Thankfully, the number of these ”micro“ incidents has not increased in recent years and has even slightly declined in some regions. However, long-term operations and large-scale deployments are becoming more common—a trend that began with the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024 alone, we faced severe floods across much of the Czech Republic, extensive support operations during the previous two years to manage the wave of immigration from Ukraine, wildfire interventions at home and abroad, and emergency responses to attacks on soft targets.

The scope of operations keeps expanding. Operational command and situational awareness demands are on the rise. At the same time, the structure of settlement in the country is changing slowly but noticeably. Large metropolitan areas and surrounding urban zones continue to grow, and recently there’s been renewed population density in inner cities as more infill development takes place. Meanwhile, the countryside is quietly, though steadily, emptying out, and even

many smaller towns—with generally high quality of life—are stagnating.

Interestingly, small towns can offer optimal conditions for emergency response: quick reach, low traffic density, easier navigation, and a relatively stable frequency of incidents, accidents, and interventions.

But the current state of the IRS is better illustrated by a figure published in April 2025: the Czech Republic spends 0.67% of its GDP on internal security, of which the IRS is a major part. That is significantly and deeply below the defence budget, which now stands at 2% of GDP, with projections to reach 3% in the medium term.

Back in 2022, following the historic wildfire in Bohemian Switzerland, Fire Rescue Service Director General Lieutenant General Vladimír Vlček proposed indexing the internal security budget to GDP. So why should the state consider increasing and securing funding for the IRS, crisis management, fire protection, and public order? Here are a few reasons.

While drones have become commonplace—for aerial operations, inspections, and critical infrastructure perimeter monitoring—their use in automated or fully autonomous systems is still in early stages. This is a global trend, not just a local one, although the Czech drone industry is among the most advanced.

Other areas of robotics are also gaining traction. Ground-based robotic platforms for firefighting, reconnaissance, casualty evacuation, and general logistics show enormous potential. These systems are even manufactured here in Central Europe—not overpriced "toys" imported from afar, but mature equipment suited for high-risk environments.

Another major development in the IRS is the new air rescue service concept, which will overhaul the system starting in 2028. Key changes include an additional base in Karlovy Vary to cover western Bohemia and a state-operated backbone of bases in Prague, Brno, and Ostrava managed by the Police Air Service. A significant cost factor is the switch to heavier, more powerful helicopters to meet growing demands for payload and cabin space. The current Airbus H135s excel in maneuvering into tight urban spaces, but future priorities will focus more on capacity—for crew, equipment, and potentially more than one patient. The H145, also from Airbus, appears to be a strong candidate for this role.

Robotic assets are already entering operational use

A welcome, though not cost-neutral, development is the successful modernization of firefighting equipment even for voluntary fire units (JSDHO) in categories II, III, and V. The vehicle fleet renewal for area coverage units, which often operate in difficult terrain, now rests on a solid foundation—the Tatra 815-7 chassis, better known as the Tatra Force. With rising production in Kopřivnice and specialized fire body manufacturers in Polička and Slatiňany, volunteer fire brigades are gaining access to top-tier, fully Czech-made equipment.

The September 2024 floods demonstrated how effective and high-performing the IRS has become since the devastating floods of 1997. At the same time, it remains a rather lean system. The question is whether this high-intensity, no-reserve operation mode would hold up in a broader crisis—especially one unfamiliar, unlike a flood, which the system knows how to handle.

As defence spending moves toward 3% of GDP, it's worth opening a serious discussion about whether the IRS and its core and supporting units don't deserve a similarly ambitious approach to funding, investment, and development.

Author: Libor Stejskal
Photo: Tatra Trucks; Libor Stejskal

EGO ZLÍN

WE ARE YOUR RIGHT PARTNER IN EMERGENCIES

WWW.EGOZLIN.CZ

export@egozlin.cz
sekretariat@egozlin.cz

CHEMPROTECT SK

FIRST AID AUTOINJECTORS

MONOTHERAPY

AUTOINJECTOR FOR APPLICATION OF ONE ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENT

DUALTHERAPY

AUTOINJECTOR FOR APPLICATION OF TWO ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS

TRIPLE THERAPY

UNIQUE TECHNOLOGY FOR APPLICATION OF THREE ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS IN ONE DEVICE

DURABLE DESIGN

FOR USE IN HARSH MILITARY ENVIRONMENT

QUICK APPLICATION

EFFECTIVE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

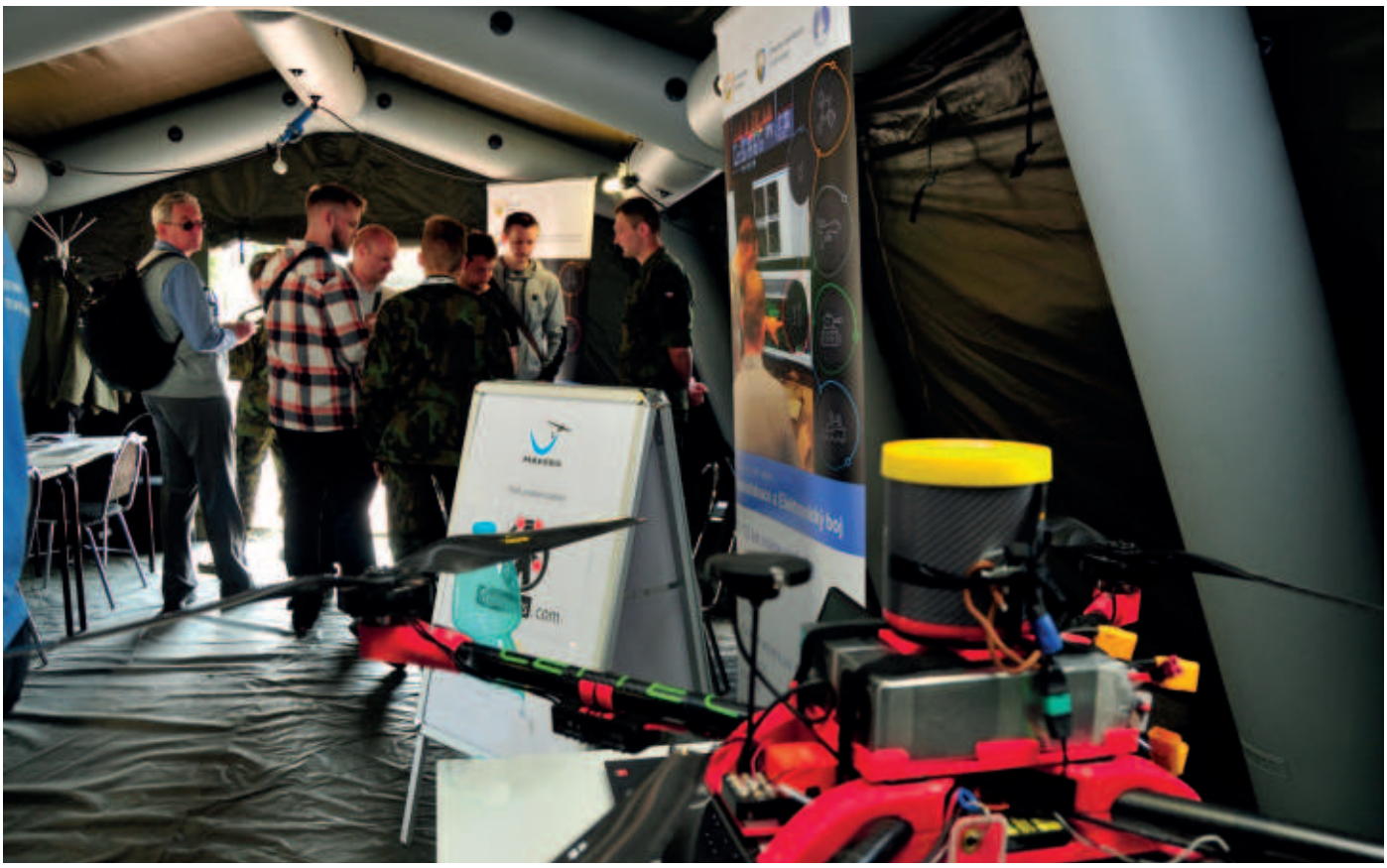
RECOGNITION SYSTEM

FOR EACH KIND OF AUTOINJECTOR

NERVE AGENT INTOXICATION

PAIN | BLEEDING

WWW.CHEMPROTECT.SK



UNIVERSITY OF DEFENCE AT IDET 2025

In the designated outdoor area near Pavilion Z of the Brno Exhibition Centre, a convoy of military vehicles makes its way across challenging obstacles designed to simulate rough terrain. These dynamic displays highlight the vehicles' capabilities to operate effectively under demanding field conditions. After exiting the arena, a group of soldiers enters the space to execute a simulated ambush on a passing lone vehicle. Once the mission is completed, the unit retreats from the danger zone to a predesignated rally point, ready to undertake their next task.

Not far away, next to Pavilion P, an outdoor tent hosts a demonstration of unmanned aerial systems. While some of the models are commercially available drones, the spotlight falls on those developed through scientific research—drones that have proven their worth in international competitions in countries such as Egypt and the United States. Inside Pavilion P, unmanned ground vehicles designed to support a wide range of battlefield operations draw considerable attention. Another part of the exhibition showcases telemedicine, a revolutionary approach in military healthcare, which enables remote consultations and procedures through advanced digital technologies.

All of the activities on display at this year's IDET fair share a common denominator—they are the work of students and faculty from the University of Defence, the Czech Republic's only state-run military university. The University prepares military professionals and highly qualified specialists in the field of defence and national security. In addition to education, it is deeply involved in research and expert activities, contributing on both national and international levels to the transfer of knowledge between academia, the armed forces, and the defence and security industries.

For the University of Defence, participation at IDET is not only a platform to showcase its academic and research achievements but also a valuable opportunity to establish new collaborations, gather feedback for improving its education and research efforts, and engage directly with experts and potential end users of its innovations.

The University maintains long-term partnerships in higher education, research, and expert cooperation with a wide range of domestic and international organizations. These include state-owned enterprises and other members of the Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic. On the international stage, the University collaborates with partners in both defence technology and military education. Another key group that plays a significant role in strengthening the Czech Republic's defence capabilities are other universities and research institutions, which regularly engage with the University of Defence and the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic.

Defence research is receiving increasing prioritization, especially in light of recent lessons learned from the war in Ukraine. Many participants at IDET 2025 bring extensive experience in defence research, having worked with various research institutions both at home and abroad. Domestically, a significant portion of the Czech defence industry collaborates with local universities, and their experimental projects often intersect with the work of the University of Defence. The University offers valuable expertise in military technology, tactics, leadership, and military medicine. Many of its research projects are carried out in cooperation with other Czech universities and defence industry partners.

Key themes expected to resonate throughout IDET 2025 include emerging and disruptive technologies (EDTs). Concepts such as artificial intelligence, unmanned and autonomous systems, 3D printing (additive manufacturing), quantum technologies, and cryptography are gaining increasing emphasis. This year, the University of Defence became a major player in the field of quantum technologies, joining forces with the Czech Technical University and seven other academic and research institutions, along with the Czech Armed Forces, to participate in quantum computing and quantum-based cryptographic initiatives.

IDET and other international defence and security exhibitions offer an invaluable platform to communicate this knowledge and these capabilities. These events are not just showcases of cutting-edge technologies—they also serve as key hubs for professional development, providing participants with essential insights, opportunities for networking, and awareness of emerging industry trends. Through its presence at such exhibitions, the University of Defence ensures the continuity of its growth while advancing national and international defence and security progress.

At IDET 2025, the University of Defence will present state-of-the-art defence technologies and the outcomes of its scientific projects—demonstrating its ability to link theory with practice and vice versa. The University's exhibition area will feature military hardware alongside innovative approaches aimed at developing autonomous systems and tackling challenges related to robotics and the military use of AI. Live demonstrations will simulate combat operations in difficult terrain, underscoring the practical skills and readiness of its students to operate in complex and unpredictable environments.

Military medicine will also be highlighted, with the University presenting its achievements and ongoing projects in telemedicine. In addition, the University's Centre for Security and Military-Strategic Studies will host the international Defence and Strategy 2025 conference, focused on modern defence challenges in the context of hybrid warfare, technological transformation, and global security threats.

Colonel General Staff Jan Farlík, Rector-Commander of the University of Defence, summarized the anticipated impact of IDET 2025: *"I am confident that our participation at IDET 2025 will significantly contribute to the development of military education—not only in the areas of military art and technology but also military medicine. The demonstrations of our capabilities and the practical applications of our work clearly show how the academic sphere contributes to advancing military excellence, modernization, and innovation. Without exhibitions like IDET, academia would struggle to respond effectively to the current and future needs of the armed forces."*

Author and photo: UNOB

INVITATIONS TO EXHIBITIONS

IDET ISET PYROS

Aveo is a leading aerospace company, contributing to NASA's Artemis mission with our Nubion Camera-Assist Lights on the Moon. With over 450,000 sq. ft. of facilities, we focus on sustainable innovation, operating with a low-carbon footprint and hosting the world's first carbon-negative aerospace building in Aveo Florida. Privately held and debt-free, Aveo has been profitable for 24 consecutive years. Thanks to our vertically integrated operations—from design and engineering to production and sales—we maintain full control over every stage of the process. All components used in our lighting systems are manufactured in-house, allowing highly flexible and efficient customization.

We specialize in advanced lighting systems, avionics, NVIS optics, cameras, UAV solutions like BladeRunner™, and cutting-edge technologies like AveoJolt™ Rocket tech. We also produce Aveo Conforma™ winglets and wingtips. Certified globally by EASA, FAA, CAA, as well as AS9100 from Lloyds Register in all locations Operates a fully equipped, aviation-certified light laboratory. We are recognized as a global leader in Dual Mode NVIS lighting for aircraft, UAVs, and helicopters.

Contact person: Ing. Petra Dragounová, international sales

AVEO ENGINEERING

Aveo Engineering Group, s. r. o.
Příbram Airport – LKPM
Drasov 202
261 01 Drasov
Czech Republic
Phone: + 420 605 399 001
E-mail: petra@aveoengineering.com
www.aveoengineering.com

Visit us: **Pavilon P, Stand No. 113**

Blades s. r. o. was founded in 2023 as a start-up focused on the development and production of professional self-defence training tools. The first product, which will be presented at the IDET 2025 exhibition, is SHOCKBLADE — an electric training knife designed for self-defence training against edged weapon attacks.

New in the EU: ShockBlade – Electric Training Knife for Realistic Self-defence

ShockBlade is a modern training tool for armed forces, security agencies, and combat instructors. It enables the simulation of a knife attack with an authentic physical and psychological effect — without the risk of injury.

Upon contact with the body, ShockBlade delivers a high-voltage discharge that creates an adequate pain response, forcing the trainee to react instinctively and with proper respect to the threat. The product is certified for use within the EU.

Key Benefits:

- Ideal for training police, military, self-defence instructors, and martial arts clubs
- Helps develop reflexes, stress resistance, and correct response to a knife attack

Contact person: RNDr. Jiří Schejbal, Development & Marketing Division

SHOCKBLADE®

BLADES s. r. o.
Argentinská 32
170 00 Praha 7
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 775 629 093
Email: info@shockblade.com
www.shockblade.com

Visit us: **start-up Pavilon**

ERA (a member of OMNIPOL Group) is a leading company in multistatic surveillance and reconnaissance technology. It implements systems for military and civil purposes, deployed in 70+ countries on 5 continents with 24/7 operations.

At IDET ERA will exhibit its unique passive medium range surveillance sensor PET (Passive ESM Tracker) for defence and electronic warfare purposes, known as VERA-NG, and the Over the Horizon Direction Finding long-range sensor known as PLESS – both tailored for air, maritime and land target surveillance and reconnaissance.

Contact person: Milan Starý, Marketing Manager

era

ERA a. s.
Průmyslová 462
530 03 Pardubice
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 467 004 116
E-mail: info@era.aero
www.era.aero

Visit us: **Outdoor Area P, Stand No. 002**

LAC, s. r. o. | Advanced Heat Treatment Solutions for Defence, Aerospace & Industry
Trusted manufacturer of industrial furnaces, dryers & thermal processing systems since 1992

Core Expertise
- Custom heat treatment solutions for artillery shells and weapon components
- Defence/Aviation: NADCAP-accredited furnaces compliant with AMS 2750
- Crucible melting furnaces, continuous furnaces, automatic lines, chemical-thermal processing

Key Applications
- Metals: annealing, tempering, surface hardening (ferrous/non-ferrous), composite aging
- Advanced materials: polymer drying, additive manufacturing sintering, lab furnaces
- Foundry & ceramics: investment casting, non-ferrous metal casting, industrial ceramics

Why LAC?
30+ years of innovation | 18,000+ installations worldwide
Bespoke & serial production | Automotive to military proven reliability

Contact person: Václav Hnaníček, Sales Director

LAC | ART OF HEATING

LAC, s. r. o.
Topolová 933
667 01 Židlochovice
Czech Republic
Sales Department:
Phone: +420 547 230 016
E-mail: sales@lac.cz
https://www.lac.cz/en/

Visit us: **Hall P, Stand no. 064**

The OMNIPOL Group is a Czech based industrial group with, more than ninety years of experience, in the domestic and international markets. It focuses on the development, production and export of unique hi-tech technologies in the aerospace and defence sector.

The group consists of Czech daughter companies Aircraft Industries, ERA and MESIT, which have a wide product portfolio. These include the L 410 NG, VERA-NG and PLESS passive surveillance systems, as well as tactical communication systems. The OMNIPOL Group is also a partner to Czech aircraft producer, Aero Vodochody, in particular it's L39NG Skyfox.

Contact person: Kateřina Gereková, Deputy marketing director

GROUP OMNIPOL

OMNIPOL Group a. s.
Nekázanka 11
110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 224 011 111
E-mail: omnipol@omnipol.cz
www.omnipol.cz

Visit us: **Outdoor Area P, Stand No. 002**

PBS GROUP represents a significant pillar of Czech industry with a tradition spanning more than two centuries. The company combines proven manufacturing processes with cutting-edge technologies and has established itself as a respected global player in aircraft engines and components.

A historic milestone in the company's development is its collaboration with American giant Lockheed Martin on the development of the F-35 fighter jet. Recent expansion into the US market includes an investment of up to $20 million in a new facility in Roswell near Atlanta, which will create at least 95 jobs.

PBS GROUP excels in advanced aircraft engines for the defence industry. Its portfolio includes jet engines such as the PBS TJ40, PBS TJ100, PBS TJ150, and PBS TJ200, which are used in unmanned systems and other applications.

The year 2025 is significant for the company as it celebrates 75 years since the establishment of its plant in Velká Bíteš. PBS GROUP consistently demonstrates excellent economic results and, thanks to high demand, has secured orders for years to come.

Contact person: MgA. Monika Hrubalová, Marketing Director

PBS GROUP

PBS GROUP, a. s.
Krakovská 583/9
110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 234 094 424
E-mail: info@pbs-group.cz
www.pbs.cz/en/

Visit us: **Hall P, Stand No. 064**

Ray Service with its headquarters in Staré Město, Czech Republic is an international innovative manufacturer of **cable harnesses, electromechanical assemblies, electronic equipment and cable components** as well as distributor and integrator of such products and systems. More than 30 years of experience and intensive development have resulted in a strong, modern enterprise, a **reliable and sought-after partner** on an international level. In the Czech and Slovak markets, it is significantly involved in development programmes and modernisation of the equipment of the armed forces of both countries.

Contact person: Dalibor Mikuš, Sales Manager

RayService

Ray Service, a. s.
Huštěnovská 2022
686 03 Staré Město
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 572 434 311
E-mail: info@rayservice.com
www.rayservice.com

Visit us: **Hall P, Stand No. 052**

Rohde & Schwarz is a global technology group striving for a safer and connected world with its Test & Measurement, Technology Systems and Networks & Cybersecurity Divisions. For more than 90 years, the company has been developing, producing, and marketing electronic products for professional applications on the world market. Rohde & Schwarz has an extensive sales and service network and is present in about 70 countries, primarily with its own subsidiaries. The Rohde & Schwarz brand has been known in the Czech Republic for nearly 40 years.

Present activities of the Rohde & Schwarz group are focused on the following fields:
- Test & measurement
- Aerospace l Defence l Security
- Broadcast & Media
- Cybersecurity & Networks
- Critical Infrastructures
- Governmental Security

Contact person: Ing. Pavel Kotyk, Sales Engineer

ROHDE&SCHWARZ
Make ideas real

ROHDE & SCHWARZ – Praha, s. r. o.
Hadovka Office Park
Evropská 2590/33c
160 00 Praha 6
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 234 749 129
E-mail: office.rscz@rohde-schwarz.com
www.rohde-schwarz.com

Visit us: **Hall P, Stand No. 113**

Siemens' portfolio covers solutions for industry, distributed energy systems, public infrastructure, and building technologies. More information @www.siemens.com.

We support customers in the aerospace and defense industries on their journey to a digital enterprise. We offer customized solutions for structure manufacturing, assembly, robotics, and composite materials. We help companies offer their customers maximum quality, productivity and flexibility, despite potentially limited resources.

We are ready to welcome you to our booth No. 87, Hall P during the IDET 2025 fair.

Contact person for Siemens Czechia: Vlastimil Loskot

SIEMENS

Siemens, s. r. o.
Siemensova 1, 155 00 Praha 13
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 800 909 090
E-mail:
aerospace-defense.cz@siemens.com
www.siemens.cz/aerospace-defense

Visit us: **Hall P, Stand No. 087**

LED simulation of sunlight

Patented circadian and regenerative lighting with biological effects of natural solar radiation. Supports vigilance, concentration and cognitive performance. It reduces stress and improves mood, overall health and vitality.Supports visual functions and features top colour-rendering fidelity of CRI 95+.

Spectrasol lighting applications

Suitable for duty rooms, dispatching offices and control centres, training rooms, offices, laboratories, development and production facilities, and other interior spaces where mental or physical activity takes place.

Contact person: Dr. Daniel Jesenský, Managing Director

SPECTRASOL
PROCOGNITIVE LIGHTING

Spectrasol, s. r. o.
Jeseniova 2769/208
130 00 Praha 3
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 602 205 059
E-mail: info@spectrasol.cz
www.spectrasol.eu

Visit us: **Hall P, Stand no. 010**

VOP CZ, s.p. is a state enterprise established in 1946 and wholly owned by the Ministry of Defence. The company primarily focuses on the repair and modernisation of military equipment and engineering production. The enterprise employs around 550 employees and is located in Šenov near Nový Jičín, another part of the enterprise is in Bludovice near Nový Jičín. Among the important projects implemented by the state-owned enterprise were, for example, the modernisation of the T-72M4 CZ main battle tank, the assembly of fuel tanks for the Czech Armed Forces, the production of armoured cabins for NIMR Automotive and the servicing of heavy combat equipment for the Czech army. Currently, VOP CZ is working on a large project of new infantry fighting vehicles, where it is responsible for the final assembly of the vehicles.

What will we be exhibiting at the fair?

The main attraction at our stand will be the Bushmaster armoured vehicle, which VOP CZ will present in cooperation with the European company Thales. In the future, the state-owned enterprise has the ambition to become the centre of production and service of these vehicles for the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Another attraction will be a unique 1:1 development model of the CV90 ambulant version of the armoured vehicle that the state enterprise is developing for the Czech army.

Contact person: Rostislav Rožnovský, PR and Marketing manager

VOP CZ

VOP CZ, s. p.
Dukelská 102
742 42 Šenov u Nového Jičína
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 603 249 152 | +420 556 783 536
e-mail: roznovsky.r@vop.cz
www.vop.cz

Visit us: **Hall P, Stand no. 127**

MESIT

GROUP OMNIPOL

M20 Tactical Communication Headset

Integration with military radios /intercoms

Battle-tested passive noise reduction

Situational awareness

Wide range of accessories (PTT units, cables etc.)

Robust design

www.mesit.cz

Reliable communication and hearing protection on every mission.

FROM BATTLE CREEK TO BRNO

NCS College

Since 2018, NCS College has established itself within the codification community as the largest national training institution in the world. It has trained and prepared more than 170 students from 33 countries across 5 continents in courses tailored for managers, logisticians, and codifiers. Their training is conducted using a real codification software – MC CATALOGUE – developed and implemented by the aforementioned company AURA. This codification information system is currently the most widely used of its kind globally.

Genius loci

The training takes place at the University of Defence in the beautiful Moravian capital – Brno – which rightfully boasts a remarkable history and heritage, a vibrant cultural and student life, and charming surroundings. The genius loci of NCS College is framed by renowned lecturers and moderators, many of whom have spent the majority of their professional careers in prominent national and international codification roles. Successful students receive a certificate of completion, signed by the Rector-Commander of the University of Defence, which is recognised in all countries participating in the NATO Codification System (NCS).

NCS College 2025

For this year's NCS College, in addition to the usual participants from government institutions and organisations around the world, we are expecting a higher number of attendees from commercial companies, mainly multinational firms involved in the defence industry. Our lecturers will also partly address codification according to American standards. It is highly encouraging that representatives from the Property and Economic Section of the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic are also taking part in the training, as their presence significantly contributes to a deeper understanding of the links between acquisition processes and cataloguing of military production in our country.

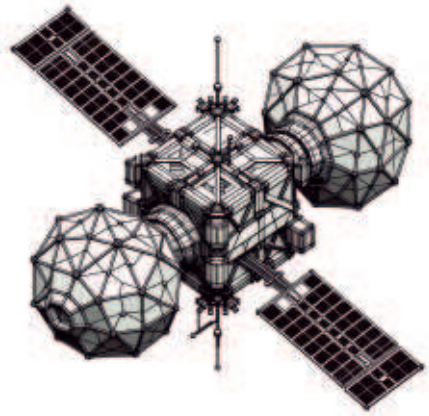
This year's course for managers and logisticians will be designed mainly for students who, through a proper understanding of the codification processes and NCS principles, will learn to understand cataloguing data and the purposes of codification, which includes also the establishment and operation of National Codification Bureaux. The course for codifiers is designed for students who require in-depth knowledge of NCS, including the International Data Exchange (NDER). Students will learn how to accurately create NATO Stock Numbers (NSNs) on real codification software and understand the importance of codification in logistics. The course also aims to deepen their proficiency in maintaining quality codification standards.

By Antonín Svěrák

DECENT CYBERSECURITY: PIONEERS IN POST-QUANTUM CYBERSECURITY

Decent Cybersecurity has established itself as a leading provider of advanced cyber solutions with emphasis on post-quantum security. With National Security Authority certification at "Secret" level for national, EU, and NATO projects, the company offers comprehensive cybersecurity services.

The firm specializes in four key areas: post-quantum security, blockchain technology, Space Traffic Management (STM), and unmanned systems protection. These specializations reflect the growing need to secure critical infrastructures in an era where digital threats are becoming increasingly sophisticated.



"Our vision is a secure, interconnected world. We provide cutting-edge, quantum-resistant cybersecurity solutions that protect vital information and assets," states the company in its mission.

Decent Cybersecurity holds ISO 9001 and ISO 27001 certifications, confirming the quality of business processes and information security management. These certifications, verified by independent TÜV SÜD audits, guarantee a systematic approach to sensitive data protection.

The product portfolio includes solutions such as CryptoSleuth Pro for blockchain security, SpaceShield STM for space traffic management, DroneCrypt UTM for drone security, and QuantumProof Protocol for decentralized systems.

The company actively collaborates with organizations including NATO, the European Space Agency, and national security authorities. It maintains registrations with the European Space Agency and European Commission, with identification codes for Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, United Kingdom, and Ireland.

Decent Cybersecurity operates offices in five European countries – Slovakia (Piešťany), Czech Republic (Karlovy Vary), Poland (Lublin), Ireland (Athlone), and United Kingdom (London).

In an era where cyber threats pose increasing risks to organizations of all sizes, Decent Cybersecurity offers solutions prepared to face future challenges, including those associated with the advent of quantum computing.

MZ LIBEREC PRESENTS THE MOBILE SOLUTION FOR INTENSIVE CARE IN CRISIS CONDITIONS

MZ Liberec continues a long-standing tradition dating back to 1957, when it began specializing in the distribution of medical and technical gases. Today, it is one of the leading companies in the field, designing, manufacturing, and supplying complete solutions for healthcare facilities worldwide, from operating rooms and intensive care units to standard hospital wards. The company is dynamically developing and actively responding to the ever-changing market needs and specific customer requirements. It has recently expanded its presence beyond its traditional markets to Scandinavia, India, and the Balkans. In addition to standard projects, it also offers flexible solutions for mobile healthcare units, further demonstrating its ability to adapt to challenging conditions and push the boundaries of modern healthcare infrastructure.

Let us introduce our mobile source column MSR that is suitable as part of compulsory equipment for an intensive care unit. Namely in the field or at a temporary workplace, deployed for example under a tent. The only matters needed for its operation and commissioning, are gas cylinders and an electrical power supply. Therefore, this model has found its wide application in Kenya, Ukraine, Zambia and Senegal.

Of course, it is worth highlighting its use in case of natural disasters (floods, earthquakes), war conflicts or riots as well. It is easily movable with a high degree of stability.

A CURRENT TOPIC WITH THE PRESIDENT

of the Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic

Just under two months before the General Assembly of the AOBP CR, we spoke with the association's president, Jiří Hynek, about the current state and future of the Czech defence and security industry, as well as the need to strengthen the country's defence capabilities.

Defence has become an increasingly discussed topic in the media due to the current global situation, and you personally are now a frequent guest in interviews and panel discussions. How do you perceive this heightened attention? Do you see it as an opportunity for AOBP and the entire defence and security industry?

Above all, it's an opportunity for our entire European civilization to preserve the future of the next generations. Security threats are multiplying around us, and long-term ignorance—or rather, unwillingness to acknowledge their existence—has placed European countries in a very complicated situation. When Russia invaded Ukraine, we found ourselves in a "five minutes to midnight" moment. And what concrete steps have EU countries taken over the past three years to strengthen their security? Very few. The European Commissioners' calls for defence manufacturers to produce more artillery ammunition for Ukraine resembled the proclamations of Czechoslovak Communist Party officials before 1989. What have the commissioners actually done to increase production? It's the Commission's role to create conditions for such production, not to use the media to boost the visibility of its president and individual members. European bureaucrats should focus on administrative work, not interfere with political direction—that's the role of the European Council. It's certainly a positive step that strengthening the defence industry has finally become an European priority. Less encouraging is the fact that decarbonization, long promoted as a top priority, remains equally important. It's like a hiking guide pointing in two directions at once and saying, *"We go this way."* Still, the defence and security industry has far better prospects now than it did just a few years ago.

The AOBP Presidium recently held a meeting. Could you outline the main priorities for 2025?

The priorities are laid out in the *"AOBP Strategy for the 2021–2030 Period,"* approved by the General Assembly in 2021. It appears to be well-prepared, as we haven't needed to revise it so far. But any strategy is just a piece of paper without concrete tasks to bring it to life. We define these tasks at the beginning of each calendar year. Let me give an example. One of the strategic goals in the second pillar of the Strategy reads: *"Address export regulation of military and dual-use materials and work to simplify it."* To support this goal, we've committed to enabling the issuance of export licenses in digital rather than paper form, as is currently the case. This concerns 4,500 printed documents per year. Implementing this idea would simplify life for both exporters and licensing office officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The Presidium functions as a supervisory body overseeing the work of the AOBP office. The first item on every Presidium meeting agenda is reviewing the tasks outlined in the *"AOBP Task Fulfillment Plan"* for the calendar year. Additional tasks may be added during the meetings, but they all align with the approved Strategy. A recent example is the agreement signed with the Dutch association NIDV, fulfilling the Strategy objective to *"cooperate with other similar industry associations across Europe to enhance the competitiveness and self-sufficiency of European defence and security companies and their supply chains."* Nothing in the AOBP office happens spontaneously—everything aims to strengthen the position of the Czech defence and security industry.

The AOBP General Assembly will take place in June. What can we expect from it? Has the membership base changed? And what concrete benefits does membership offer to defence and security companies?

As every year, the General Assembly will review and approve the Activity Report since the last Assembly. The report is structured according to the key thematic areas of the Strategy, so each member can see what progress has been made in each field. I also plan to propose that our Association join the Confederation of Employers' and Entrepreneurs' Associations of the Czech Republic. I'm pleased to say that the Confederation's leadership has approved our membership. Joining the Confederation will allow us to retain full independence while also giving us the ability to comment on key legislation and advocate for our interests at the tripartite level. The Confederation is a mandatory stakeholder in consultations and holds a seat at the Council of Economic and Social Agreement of the Czech Republic (tripartite), where representatives of unions, employers, and the government strive to reach consensus on fundamental economic and social development issues. When it comes to, say, preventing the imposition of a special tax on defence companies, there's no more appropriate platform. Regarding our membership base, we've seen a significant increase in interest. Since the start of 2024, membership has grown by 40%. We take this as confirmation that we are doing our work well—and most importantly, in the interest of our members.

The IDET, ISET, and PYROS trade fairs are coming up soon. What can visitors expect from the Association? Last year, a memorandum with Ukraine was signed—can you describe its benefits? And is anything planned for this year?

I'd like to invite all visitors to the Brno defence fair not only to our stand but especially to those of our member companies—there will be many. I won't give away everything they can look forward to, but I encourage everyone to attend in large numbers—they won't be disappointed. The cooperation memorandum with the Ukrainian association allows us to continue deepening our collaboration—and that's exactly what we're doing. We're working to expand beyond military material deliveries to include civil protection and industrial cooperation.

How would you assess cooperation with other international associations? What is the significance of this kind of international collaboration?

In today's globalized world, international cooperation is absolutely essential. That's why we've signed a number of agreements with our foreign counterparts—almost twenty so far, and more are in the works. These agreements aim to support the development of joint projects that could be funded, for example, by the European Defence Fund (EDF). In this context, it's especially important that our Vice President, Kristýna Helm, serves as the National Focus Point for EDF and, together with her colleague Václav Syruček, participates in numerous international meetings. The more active we are on the international stage, the more opportunities we create for contracts that benefit Czech defence and security companies.

What can the Czech defence and security industry expect in the context of current national and international developments? There's talk of increased defence spending, and the European Commission recently introduced the so-called Readiness 2030 White Paper (ReArm Europe)—a new strategic framework for European defence. What is your opinion on these steps?

The intentions are, overall, very good. I just worry that it might all end up on paper and go no further. I'm someone who's seen a few things, so I only believe in what has actually been done. That said, I do feel a sense of cautious optimism.

In your view, how should public funds for defence be most effectively invested?

The answer is simple: buy primarily from domestic producers. Why? Because for the state to invest in its own defence, it needs to be wealthy—and that wealth can only come from domestic industry. And I don't mean just the defence sector, which creates jobs in many related fields: chemistry, metallurgy, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, IT,

textiles, mining, as well as research and development centers, including universities. Aside from the economic aspect, we must also consider supply chain security. The COVID crisis showed how international cooperation breaks down in emergencies—and how foreign deliveries of critical equipment can be paralyzed. In wartime, the situation would be even worse. If something isn't made domestically, we may not get access to it at all. Of course, in a globalized world, not everything can be produced locally. For such products, the state must ensure industrial cooperation with foreign manufacturers. It's not wise to purchase foreign technology and only afterward look for ways to involve domestic firms. Czech companies must be included in international projects already during the development phase. That way, we build mutual dependence and strategic value—also for times of crisis. That's how a responsible steward should act.

Support for the defence sector is increasing both in the Czech Republic and across Europe. Yet certain limitations and regulations remain—for example, the approach banks take toward defence companies, which you've frequently spoken about. Has there been any progress in this area?

Let me put it somewhat bluntly: we're on the right track, but we're far from the finish line. Until defence and security companies are guaranteed the right to basic banking services, we won't ease up in our efforts.

In media appearances, you've said Czech defence and security companies must be ready to respond quickly to new threats. What would you recommend to them today? What steps should they take? And what role can the Association play in this?

Open communication between users—that is, the defence and security forces—and producers is absolutely essential. Users need to understand the technical and technological capabilities of industry, and industry needs to know the requirements and specifications. Only constant dialogue and information exchange will allow us to move forward. And to those who resist such communication and see only problems in everything, I'd respond with a quote: *"There are no problems, only solutions."* The Association will always be here to help find those solutions.

Author: Adriana Jesenská
Photo: Author and AOBP CR

AOBP

We Work to Make the World a Safer Place

Since 1997
Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic has been a Significant National and International player.

www.aobp.cz

TITULAR SUPPORT

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Moravian-Silesian Region

MAIN SUPPORT

OSTRAVA!!!

GENERAL PARTNER

LOCKHEED MARTIN

MAIN STRATEGIC PARTNER

ORLEN

EXCLUSIVE PARTNER

SKODA

SPECIAL PARTNERS

CSG Czechoslovak Group

TATRA

MAIN PARTNERS

Aero

LET Aircraft Industries

CZ

era

MESIT

OMNIPOL

Zevela AMMUNITION

OFFICIAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT

audiopro

MARKETING PARTNER

algeco MODULÁRNÍ STAVBY

MEDIA PARTNERS

ACE AEROSPACE CENTRAL EUROPE

atm

CZDEFENCE

natoaktual.cz

RADIO ČAS

Future Forces
EXHIBITION & FORUM

21 – 23 OCT 2026 | PRAGUE

International gathering
of experts, presentations
of technologies and solutions
for security and defence

FUTURE FORCES FORUM

www.FFF.global

General Partner

CSG Czechoslovak Group

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

Issue 2/2025 is out now

IDET

We look forward to seeing you in Pavilion P, Stand No. 010

Review

IDET NEWS
Official media partner of the IDET trade fair for the Czech Republic
Media partner of the Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic (AOBP CR)

Published on the occasion of the IDET, ISET, and PYROS 2025 trade fairs 28–30 May 2025

IDET NEWS

Security & Defence Technologies Catalogue

The 14th edition of the printed SDTC 2025–2026 maps the capabilities and competitiveness of the Czech defence and security industry.

NEW: A mobile application that allows users to search for companies by sector classification.

For information on how to feature your company in the mobile app, please contact Šárka Cook at: scook@msline.cz
or +420 773 990 626

You can access the PDF version of the catalogue here:

MS LINE MILITARY SYSTEM s.r.o.

MS Line, s.r.o., Vykáň 82, 289 15 Kounice, Czech Republic
e-mail: scook@msline.cz | en.msline.cz

FOCUSED ON SECURITY

28–31/5/2025

VÝSTAVIŠTĚ BRNO

BRNO EXHIBITION CENTRE
CZECH REPUBLIC

ISET

MEZINÁRODNÍ VELETRH
BEZPEČNOSTNÍ TECHNIKY A SLUŽEB

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES FAIR

Více informací zde:
More information here:

www.iset.cz

PYROS

MEZINÁRODNÍ VELETRH
POŽÁRNÍ TECHNIKY A SLUŽEB

INTERNATIONAL
FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES FAIR

Více informací zde:
More information here:

www.pyros.cz

CONCURRENTLY HELD WITH:

IDET

GENERAL PARTNERS OF THE FAIR

DSIA

BRNO

Central European Exhibition Centre

BVV Veletrhy Brno

www.vtusp.cz

ZS-M

12.7 mm Remote Weapon Station (RWS)

ZS-M Weapon Station

The ZS-M weapon station is a remote-controlled weapon system featuring a mounted 12.7 mm M2HB-QCB machine gun, built on the MS3M manipulator platform. It is suitable for integration into light armored vehicles, armored personnel carriers, and other support platforms, and can also be installed on various commercial platforms such as pickups, flatbed vans, and similar vehicles. The ZS-M consists of two main components: the external mount and the operator's control station.

The core of the external mount is the weapon manipulator, optimized for targeting not only in standard ground operations but also for counter-drone engagements. Additional components include the cradle with the mounted, recoil-buffered machine gun, equipped with an electro-magnetic trigger, an automatic weapon cocking system, and a shot counter. Ammunition is supplied from a fixed high-capacity container holding 600 rounds, which, once emptied, can be replaced with smaller 200-round containers.

For observation and targeting, the ZS-M is equipped with a sensor unit featuring fast, high-performance image sensors with MIPI interface.

Purpose of the ZS-M Weapon Station

The ZS-M is a remote-controlled weapon system designed for installation on tracked or wheeled armored vehicles, particularly armored personnel carriers and combat vehicles. It is primarily intended for surveillance and reconnaissance of areas of interest, vehicle and crew protection, and providing fire support in combat situations. The station is equipped with a 12.7 mm M2HB-QCB machine gun and its modular design allows for customization of components and features according to user requirements.

FOCUSED ON SECURITY

IDET

INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES FAIR

28–30/5/2025
BRNO CZ

More information **here:**

CONCURRENTLY HELD WITH:

ISET PYROS

GENERAL PARTNERS OF THE FAIR

DSIA

BRNO

Central European Exhibition Centre

BVV Veletrhy Brno