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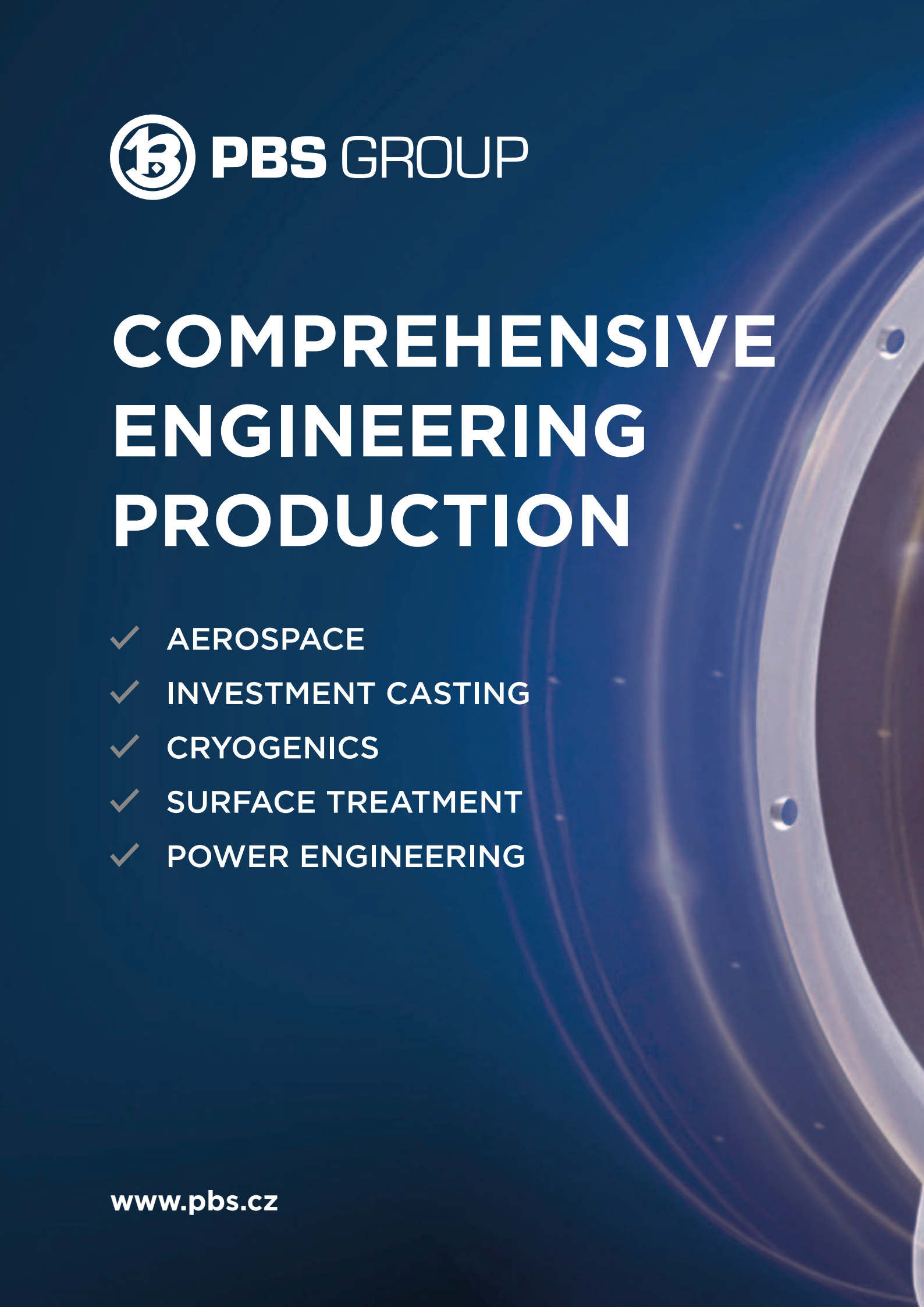

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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The fourth issue of Review for the Defence and Security Industry is being released at the turn of the year—a time when, over the past twelve months, virtually nothing has changed. War continues in Europe, serious regional conflicts persist across much of the world, and the planet is experiencing unprecedented climate change. As a result, humanity is increasingly confronted with the consequences of major floods, fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.

As I noted last year, I must repeat once again that our magazine, too, continues to go through an extraordinary period. Our association now comprises more than 240 member companies, which has naturally led to a significant increase in interest in presentation and visibility. Today, the content of Review reflects an unusually broad spectrum of information, covering virtually all areas and themes related to current defence and security priorities—not only in the Czech Republic, but globally. This is also one of the reasons why this issue once again exceeds 100 pages.

MS Line Publishing and the editorial team greatly appreciate the fact that the opening interviews were provided by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Austria, the Consul of the Czech Republic in Poland, and a prominent representative of Lithuania's political scene. This issue also features a number of additional interviews with leading figures from the defence and security community.

As the year draws to a close, I would of course like—on behalf of both the editorial team and the publisher—to thank the member companies of AOBP ČR, the distinguished Editorial Board, and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic, as well as their executive bodies, for their support and active involvement in the creation of our publication. Our sincere thanks also go to the Presidium and the Board of Directors of AOBP ČR, SSHR ČR, the management of Brno Trade Fairs and FFF in Prague, and many others for their excellent cooperation throughout 2025.

Once again, I must emphasize that it is an honour for us to have been able—even in a small way—to contribute to the success of the Czech defence and security industry over the 30 years of MS Line Publishing, 30 years of IDET NEWS, a quarter-century of the Catalogue of Czech Security and Defence Technologies, and, of course, 25 years—also a quarter-century—of this Review.

Dear Readers,

this is my final editorial, and I must admit that it brings a tear to my eye. Nevertheless, I am immensely grateful that after thirty years, together with the entire editorial and publishing team—as a traditionally continuous family business and a purely Czech publishing house—I can wish you, in 2026, good health, a peaceful family life, and professional success above all in peace, which today is no longer merely a phrase.

Your former editor-in-chief

Miloš Soukup
Editor-in-Chief

FROM THE CONTENTS

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CZECH–AUSTRIAN RELATIONS THROUGH THE EYES OF THE AMBASSADOR

Austria is one of the Czech Republic's closest neighbours and at the same time an important partner in the fields of European security, the economy, and regional cooperation. Although Austria traditionally emphasises its neutrality, it actively participates in European initiatives in defence, civil protection, and crisis management. For the Czech defence and security industry, Vienna represents both an important market and a partner for joint projects. We discussed the current state of Czech–Austrian relations, opportunities for cooperation in the defence and security sector, and future prospects with Jiří Šitler, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Austria.

Mr. Ambassador, how would you characterise the current level of Czech–Austrian relations in the field of security and defence?

At present, relations are excellent, although this was not always the case. In the past, they were burdened by historical issues related to the Second World War or nuclear energy, to which the Austrian side had reservations. In recent years, however, this has changed quite radically. Today, relations are very good not only at the political level but also at the interpersonal level, which enables open communication on all issues, including the defence industry.

Dialogue between our ministries of defence and other institutions is regular, substantive, and constructive. Joint military exercises continue to take place, for example at the Allentsteig training area in the Waldviertel region or in the Czech Republic, involving Czech and Austrian soldiers. Relations between Austrian institutions and, for instance, the Military Academy in Vyškov—specialised in training related to protection against weapons of mass destruction—are also very strong.

Our relations have not only a contemporary but also a remarkable historical dimension. Looking back, the Habsburg Monarchy took great care to ensure that its officer corps included Czechs and that all Austrian officers were able to speak Czech. Czech was taught as early as 1751, with cadets studying it for two hours a day, four to five times a week.

Today, this interconnectedness is reflected in a number of concrete projects and practical cooperation. In the field of security, a successful example is the Mikulov–Drasenhofen Police Cooperation Centre, as well as the cross-border medical centre in Gmünd in the healthcare sector. We face shared challenges and cooperation also functions in defence and cyber threats.

We observe a growing willingness on both sides to seek concrete forms of practical cooperation. As an example, I would mention LOM Praha, which is currently offering Austrian partners—via the Embassy's Trade and Economic Section—a newly established test polygon in Moravské Budějovice. This is a technological and training facility for testing unmanned aerial vehicles.

During the interview

I must also mention the Czech–Austrian agreement from 2016 in the field of emergency services—the so-called *Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Cooperation in Emergency Medical Services*, signed on 21 January 2016 in Znojmo. This "pioneering" agreement enables cooperation between emergency services on both sides of the border, significantly strengthening mutual trust, and has served as a model for similar agreements between other countries.

What role does the Czech Embassy in Vienna play in supporting cooperation in the defence and security industry?

Our embassy acts as an active intermediary between the Czech defence and security industry and Austrian partners—both within public administration and the private sector, as well as through participation in professional events. The main customer is, of course, the state, but we also make every effort to support the Czech defence industry.

Among regular events, on the Austrian side I would mention Airpower in Zeltweg, Styria, and on the Czech side the IDET trade fair in Brno and the Future Forces Forum (FFF) in Prague. The embassy is often represented in person by a commercial diplomat at these events and supports them by specifically inviting Austrian entities to participate.

We organise expert presentations, assist in establishing contacts, and facilitate the exchange of information. In cooperation with the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, we aim to create space for long-term partnerships rather than one-off deliveries. We participate in meetings at the Federal Ministry of Defence (BMLV)[1] to promote Czech products and support the establishment of cooperation.

We are also in long-term contact with the ARGE Sicherheit & Wirtschaft working group at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO), which represents Austrian companies operating in the security and defence sector and is interested in exchanging information with the Czech side.

In recent years, strengthening defence capabilities has been intensively debated in Europe. How does Austria, as a neutral country, approach this debate, and how does Czech diplomacy respond?

Austria understands its neutrality as an active, not a passive stance. Despite its neutral status, it participates in selected defence initiatives within the European Union, such as Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)[2]. It places particular emphasis on civilian aspects of security—such as civil protection, cybersecurity, and humanitarian assistance.

Czech diplomacy perceives this as an opportunity for cooperation. We respond pragmatically—where we share common goals, we cooperate, while also respecting Austrian specifics. Since 2022, the Austrian Armed Forces have been allocated significantly increased funding from the state budget under the "Aufbauplan ÖBH 2032+" for investments in infrastructure and equipment. Recently, due to the rapid development of drone technologies and the tense geopolitical situation, Defence Minister Klaudia Tanner even requested a special budget of EUR 4 billion for air defence.

What concrete opportunities do you see for cooperation between the Czech Republic and Austria in crisis management, civil protection, or cybersecurity?

All these areas offer strong potential. For example, this March six fire engines produced jointly by TATRA Trucks (Czech Republic) and Rosenbauer AG (Austria) were handed over under a contract for the Vienna Fire Brigade. In crisis management, we cooperate within European structures such as the rescEU system. In civil protection, there is an exchange of experience as well as joint exercises.

Cybersecurity is a chapter in itself. Here we see opportunities for cooperation both between institutions and between companies.

Handover of modern TATRA fire engines to the City of Vienna

Both countries are investing in strengthening their digital defence, and sharing know-how is crucial.

At the beginning of this year, at Austria's initiative, a joint meeting of Lower Austrian and Czech police officers, firefighters, and emergency responders took place. Both states realise that we can be mutually beneficial to each other, and that this cooperation is not only about high-level politics but primarily about the everyday citizen.

Can the Czech Republic and Austria complement each other within EU cooperation and other European initiatives?

The Czech Republic offers industrial capacity, mission experience, and a strong technological base. Austria has a tradition of civil–military cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and crisis management. In this respect, we complement each other well.

Both countries also participate in certain UN peacekeeping missions, including in the Golan Heights and Kosovo. Within PESCO projects, for example, both countries contribute to training and enhancing operational readiness. The Austrian Armed Forces participate in EU Battlegroups—crisis intervention forces preparing for international deployment in humanitarian assistance, evacuation and stabilisation operations, or peacekeeping missions.

At the EU level, there are also opportunities for Czech–Austrian cooperation within numerous projects of the European Defence Agency (EDA) and calls under the European Defence Fund (EDF).

How do you perceive the potential of Czech–Austrian industrial cooperation in defence and security?

The potential is considerable. Both countries have strong industrial traditions and technological ambitions. The armed forces of both states operate similar types of weapons and equipment, which increases the potential for commercial cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence (BMLV), for example in military and utility vehicles, their modernisation, and maintenance.

From the work of the Embassy's Trade and Economic Section, we know examples of success where Czech companies, thanks to the quality of their services and flexibility, have become suppliers to the ministry. Czech industry is able to offer modern and competitive solutions, both in hardware and software. Austria is a high-quality market with an emphasis on reliability and long-term relationships.

Joint projects, research, and development can be a path towards deeper cooperation. It is also interesting that both the Czech Republic and Austria are expanding their air transport fleets with C-390 aircraft from the Brazilian manufacturer Embraer.

A real example of Czech–Austrian corporate cooperation is the supply of TATRA fire engines for Germany, where the Czech company delivered the chassis and the Austrian company the equipment. I hope that over time TATRA vehicles will also be supplied to the Austrian Armed Forces, similar to the contract for the Vienna Fire Brigade that I mentioned earlier.

Czech Start-Up Day 2025 – a day dedicated to Czech innovation, technology and business opportunities

From a lecture on compensation for Czech and Slovak citizens after World War II

Are there areas where Czech companies can offer technologies or know-how attractive to Austrian partners?

Absolutely. These include, for example, passive surveillance systems, advanced communication technologies, cybersecurity solutions, equipment and armament for special forces, or technologies for protection against chemical, biological, and radiological threats. Czech companies have an excellent reputation in these segments and can offer a favourable performance-to-price ratio.

From the Czech perspective, there is also potential in expanding cooperation in the training of the Austrian Armed Forces—an option that was discussed at the highest level in 2023 during the meeting between President Pavel and Federal President Van der Bellen. Czech companies also have much to offer within the European Sky Shield Initiative, particularly in the integration of unmanned systems and the development of capabilities in the space sector.

On the other hand, Austria can offer high quality and experience in mountain warfare training, for example through the specialised international training centre Jägerschule Saalfelden in Salzburg.

Do you perceive interest on the Austrian side in Czech defence and security products?

There is certainly interest, and it must be seen in the context of overall relations. Twenty to twenty-five years ago, Czech products were viewed with some suspicion, but that is long gone. Today, Czech products are perceived very differently in Austria—proof of this is, for example, that the Austrian police operate Škoda vehicles.

Austria no longer views us as a neighbour from behind the former Iron Curtain, which is very important for our companies entering a more favourable environment. The Austrian market is highly selective and places high demands on quality, long-term service, and technical support. Czech companies that understand this and can offer more than just a product—such as training, maintenance, or localisation—have a good chance of success.

In recent years, demand for specialised solutions has been growing, where Czech technologies often keep pace with global competition. On the one hand, there is the tradition and good reputation of many renowned Czech industrial companies; on the other, the Czech Republic is attracting increasing attention thanks to innovative technological start-ups, for example in IT system integration and data services.

Steyr Arms in Kleinraming, Upper Austria—a specialist in long firearms—has been under Czech ownership since 2024 and plans to introduce two new pistol series to the market this year.

Cooperation within the V4 and the wider Central European region—what significance does it have for Czech and Austrian security policy?

Cooperation within the V4 has always existed and has never ceased. The Visegrad Group is an important platform for regional coordination for the Czech Republic, and collective security is one of its main priorities. Austria, although not a V4 member, participates in many activities within the wider Central European context, for example in migration and border protection.

The largely unified stance of the Visegrad Group and Austria creates good conditions for addressing the protection of the EU's external borders. In defence and security, we also cooperate within the Central European Defence Cooperation (CEDC)[3] initiative, which further demonstrates that our region shares common challenges and interests. Austria is also a very active investor and financial and trade partner in all four Visegrad countries.

Debate between the Czech and Slovak ambassadors with students on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution

How does Austria respond to current security threats in Europe, and how can cooperation with the Czech Republic develop in this area?

Austria pays extraordinary attention to these threats. It is strengthening digital defence, modernising security forces, and increasing crisis-management capacities. The Austrian Ministry of Defence's official report *Risikobild 2025* identifies the necessary steps, particularly investments in modern technologies and stronger involvement in international security cooperation.

An important future topic will be Austria's participation in the EU-wide air defence system *Sky Shield*. Defence Minister Klaudia Tanner has recently reiterated the importance of this initiative for Austria. Cooperation with the Czech Republic takes place both bilaterally and within European structures, focusing on the prevention of hybrid threats, information sharing, and support for research into new types of security risks.

Austria, like the Czech Republic, is also involved in assisting and hosting Ukrainian refugees. Regarding the war, Austria has clearly condemned Russian aggression, even though due to its military neutrality it does not send weapons or military equipment to Ukraine. Austria considers itself militarily neutral, but not politically neutral—it stands with Ukraine, allows transit of military material across its territory, and has never blocked anything in Brussels. It is also worth noting that Austria has managed to eliminate its dependence on Russian gas. Since 2022, Austria's government strategy has defined Russia as a threat.

How do you perceive the role of Austria and the Czech Republic in relation to the Balkans?

The Balkans have always been a priority for Austria, both for historical reasons and due to the presence of Austrian companies in the region. Both states support European integration of the Western Balkans and are active in development projects, education, reforms, and security cooperation.

Formally, both countries participate in the *Friends of the Western Balkans*[4] group, initiated by former Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg. It serves as a platform for joint missions, expert exchanges, and economic projects. A stable Balkans region is in our vital interest.

What message would you like to convey to readers of our magazine active in the defence and security industry?

I appreciate everyone working in defence and security—whether in industry, public administration, or the field. In today's world of rapidly changing threats, we need people who can respond, find solutions, and protect others.

In times of growing uncertainty in Europe, we must not take good neighbourly relations for granted. We had to work hard to achieve them with Austria, Germany, and Poland. Let us value this and actively cultivate it.

Interview by Jaroslav Jonák
Photo: Czech Embassy in Vienna / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

1) ***Bundesministerium für Landesverteidigung (BMLV)*** *– Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence*
2) ***PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation)*** *focuses primarily on cooperation among EU Member States active in the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), including the synchronisation of national armed forces structures and the implementation of joint armaments projects.*
3) ***CEDC (Central European Defence Cooperation)*** *– a framework bringing together Central European countries: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia. Poland holds observer status.*
4) ***Friends of the Western Balkans*** *– a private initiative aimed at supporting dialogue, reconciliation, the peaceful resolution of open issues, economic development and the integration of Western Balkan countries into the European Union.*

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RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND POLAND HAVE LONG TRANSCENDED THE FRAMEWORK OF NEIGHBOURHOOD

We are partners who share responsibility for the stability of Central Europe

The war in Ukraine has deepened Czech–Polish cooperation in the field of defence and security. Coordination of military support for Ukraine, interconnection of defence-industrial capacities, and the sharing of experience in army modernisation are turning both countries into key security partners in Central Europe. Petr Jesenský, Consul of the Czech Republic in Poland, sheds light on the background of this strategic partnership. In the interview, he explains where the cooperation is heading, what the priorities of the Czech representation are, and above all what concrete opportunities are opening up for the Czech defence industry on the dynamic Polish market.

The Czech Republic and Poland have faced similar security challenges in recent years. How would you assess the current level of cooperation between the two countries in defence and security, both at the diplomatic and industrial levels? Is the current security environment also reflected in the work of the consulate?

Thank you for the question. In recent years, cooperation between the Czech Republic and Poland in the field of defence and security has reached a historically high level—both at the governmental and diplomatic levels and in the defence industry.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, both the Czech Republic and Poland have positioned themselves as active members of NATO and the EU and among the key advocates of support for Ukraine. The two countries coordinate closely on military assistance, logistics, and strengthening NATO's eastern flank. Shared interests are also reflected in cooperation within regional formats such as the Visegrad Group, the Bucharest Nine (B9), and the Three Seas Initiative. Although political priorities may occasionally reflect differing political orientations, the core strategic direction—strengthening regional defence capabilities and deterring Russia—remains shared, rooted in historical experience.

Cooperation in the defence industry has also been gradually deepening. Czech and Polish companies are forming partnerships in the modernisation of ground equipment, ammunition production, unmanned systems, and

the repair of military equipment of Soviet origin. Joint projects, for example between the Czech CSG and Polish companies within the PGZ Group, confirm that both countries are seeking to interconnect their manufacturing and technological capacities. The shared objective is to strengthen regional self-sufficiency in supplying NATO armed forces.

Czech–Polish relations can therefore be described as strategically partnership-based, founded primarily on agreement on fundamental goals: strengthening NATO's eastern flank, defending democratic values, and ensuring regional stability.

The current security situation also affects the work of consulates. Their agenda has expanded to include elements of crisis management—for example, assisting not only in cases of consular emergencies but also in situations of heightened security alert or disruptions to transport and energy networks. In border regions and consular-active areas, new forms of cooperation are emerging in civil protection, cybersecurity, and information sharing. Consulates often act as information intermediaries between local authorities and central institutions during extraordinary situations.

Do you see scope for deeper coordination of Czech and Polish policy towards the eastern neighbourhood, particularly within NATO and the European Union?

Yes, absolutely. At present, the fundamental building block is a shared approach to Ukraine within NATO and the EU. Although both countries are among the most active advocates of military and political support for Ukraine and often act in parallel, full alignment is still lacking. Deeper coordination could bring a stronger regional voice within the EU in debates on long-term financing of Ukraine's defence—for example through the European Peace Facility or the EU's ammunition production plans—as well as a more coherent policy within NATO or in negotiations with partners who take a more reserved stance, such as Hungary, Slovakia, or parts of Southern Europe.

Poland's geographical position makes it a key logistical hub, while the Czech Republic possesses strong capabilities in the repair and modernisation of military equipment. Connecting these strengths would also bring practical benefits for allied defence.

Both countries could further jointly define a new concept of the Eastern Partnership,

reflecting the reality of the war and potential future EU enlargement to the east (Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia), or at least continue defining and coordinating policy towards these countries—for example in the areas of security sector reform, institutional resilience, and energy independence—at the Brussels level. This would give Central Europe greater influence over the future shape of Europe's security architecture.

At the same time, cooperation within NATO on the eastern flank could be strengthened, including coordination of spending and infrastructure investments or joint projects in air defence and cybersecurity, where both countries could share know-how and jointly draw on Alliance funds.

Finally, diplomatic and strategic communication could be enhanced—for example through better coordination of positions ahead of EU and NATO summits or joint appearances at international forums. Deepened coordination would bring strategic advantages to both countries, including a stronger position within EU and NATO structures, more efficient use of resources, and a greater ability to shape policy towards the eastern neighbourhood.

Given current tensions in Europe, resilience of the state and society is frequently discussed. Which Polish approaches in this area could, in your view, inspire the Czech Republic? And how is this debate reflected in consular practice, for example in cooperation and communication with Czech citizens or preparations for crisis scenarios?

Societal resilience is today a key issue—not only from a military-security perspective but also in terms of the modern functioning of the state and society as a whole. In many respects, Poland is ahead in this area, particularly thanks to its long-term experience with threats from the east and a tradition of strategic culture that emphasises the integration of civilian and military components, including broad-based civic education.

The Czech Republic could, for example, better interconnect the activities of the relevant ministries—especially the Ministries of the Interior, Defence, Industry and Trade, and Foreign Affairs—and institutionalise cooperation between the armed forces, local governments, and the non-profit sector, for instance within regional crisis plans and volunteer initiatives akin to "reserve components" of civil defence.

The Polish model shows that resilience is not merely a military concept but also a cultural and educational one. Consulates can communicate directly with local communities and expatriate organisations, using local knowledge and modern communication channels, not only during crises. This could make the Czech crisis management system more dynamic, increase public trust, and strengthen timely crisis communication.

What role does the Czech Embassy in Poland play in supporting cooperation in the defence and security industry?

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Poland plays a key, though often understated, role in this area. It is not merely a representative institution but an active facilitator of cooperation between defence institutions, companies, and expert communities in both countries.

The first area is diplomatic and political-strategic facilitation, where the embassy acts as a liaison between the ministries of defence, industry, and foreign affairs of both countries. It helps prepare and implement bilateral consultations or memoranda of understanding and ensures political support for industrial projects with a military or security dimension. A significant contribution is also made by the presence of defence attachés, who serve as a direct channel between the armed forces and defence ministries, as well as representatives of the CzechTrade agency.

Another area is support for economic diplomacy and the defence industry. This includes, for example, organising and supporting Czech companies' participation in defence exhibitions—especially MSPO Kielce, which is a key forum for the regional defence industry—connecting Czech manufacturers with Polish partners (such as Excalibur Army, Tatra Defence Vehicle, Retia, Česká zbrojovka, and Meopta), and facilitating B2B contacts. The embassy also assists in obtaining information on Polish public tenders in defence and security and in facilitating contacts in the civilian security sphere, such as ICT security, drones, and critical infrastructure.

The embassy is also very active in presenting Czech security policies and innovations through seminars, debates, and networking events, cooperating with think tanks such as the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), the Casimir Pulaski Foundation, or the Centre for European Policy Analysis, and ensuring participation of Czech experts and companies in joint conferences on defence policy, cybersecurity, and strategic communication. Last but not least, it supports academic and technological projects, such as exchanges between technical universities and research centres in areas like AI, simulations, and detection technologies.

Poland has been investing heavily in military modernisation in recent years. Does this, in your view, create new opportunities for the Czech defence and security industry? Are there areas where Czech companies can offer products, technologies, or know-how that are attractive to Polish partners? How does Czech diplomacy respond to this?

This is a very well-targeted question. First, it must be noted that since 2022 Poland has been implementing the largest rearmament programme in Europe. Defence spending exceeds 4% of GDP—approximately EUR 35 billion annually—and more than EUR 200 billion is to be invested in the modernisation of all branches of the armed forces between 2023 and 2035.

This is not only about foreign acquisitions (such as K2, K9, FA-50, HIMARS, Abrams, F-35, Patriot, Narew, CAMM, etc.), but also about developing domestic industry (PGZ) and expanding cooperation with regional allies—including the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

This scale of investment creates space for Central European subcontractors, particularly where Poland needs to rapidly expand capacity or complement Western technologies with local know-how. The Czech defence industry has a long tradition, proven export capabilities, and in some areas top-tier expertise that complements Polish capacities.

Opportunities exist not only in ground systems and the modernisation of tracked and wheeled platforms—such as servicing heavy equipment, the attractiveness of Czech Tatra 4×4 and 8×8 chassis for artillery systems or air

defence platforms, or the modernisation of Soviet-origin IFVs and tanks still used by Poland or donated to Ukraine. The Czech Republic is also one of the few EU countries that still maintains active artillery ammunition production capacity (Sellier & Bellot, STV Group).

Companies such as Retia, ERA, and Meopta can offer radars, command-and-control systems, optics, and sensor technologies for air defence modernisation, and Polish PGZ companies are interested in cooperation with European firms in these areas to enhance technological sovereignty.

The Czech Republic also enjoys an excellent reputation within the EU thanks to NÚKIB and a well-developed cybersecurity ecosystem (e.g. Avast, ESET, ThreatMark), strong drone manufacturers (Primoco UAV, NewSpace Technologies), and detection technology companies (Oritest, Gumotex). These technologies are currently a priority for the Polish armed forces, especially for reconnaissance, logistics, and CBRN protection.

As can be seen, the Czech Republic has much to offer. Czech diplomacy—particularly through the Embassy in Warsaw and CzechTrade—actively supports these opportunities through economic diplomacy, political backing of industrial projects in cooperation with the Ministries of Defence and Industry and Trade, which is crucial in Poland given the state-owned nature of many companies (PGZ, HSW, Mesko, WB Group), and through strategic communication presenting the Czech defence industry as part of allied solidarity—not a competitor, but a partner strengthening collective security.

You personally have many years of experience in the diplomatic service, including postings in Moscow and Astana and a short-term assignment in Delhi. What do you consider the greatest challenge of your current mission in Warsaw?

From my perspective, the current mission in Warsaw is one of the most dynamic and at the same time one of the most demanding. Initially, this was due to the extremely challenging situation during the coronavirus crisis, when our embassy—because of economically favourable flights to and via Poland—was among the most heavily burdened in repatriation missions of Czech citizens.

This was immediately followed by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Due to geographical proximity, we largely had to compensate for the temporarily impaired Czech diplomatic presence in Ukraine—not only in visa matters but also through very active cooperation in humanitarian, medical, and other forms of assistance to Ukraine. With slight exaggeration, we would have sincerely welcomed weeks with at least a 25/8 format.

Poland is also a strong security player in the region—geopolitically confident, with an ambitious policy, strong ties to the United States, and a clear stance on Russian aggression. Despite the Czech Republic's traditionally more moderate, consensus-oriented, and multilateral approach, Poland views us as a strong partner. The long-term challenge is to maintain a balanced relationship—being a reliable partner that understands Poland while also bringing our own perspective: European, pragmatic, and sometimes calming.

In Moscow, I learned how fragile security balance can be and how important it is to read not only words but also signals. In Central Asia, I learned that stability is not a given but the result of patient balancing of interests. I now try to apply these experiences in Warsaw, where the pressure for decisiveness and solidarity is enormous.

How would you describe the main priorities of the Czech representation in Poland in 2026? And which areas of defence and security cooperation do you want to focus on over the next 5–10 years?

We proceed from the conviction that Czech–Polish relations today—especially thanks to shared positions and activities regarding Ukraine—constitute one of the pillars of stability in Central Europe. It is therefore essential to continue regular political and security consultations, not only at the level of governments, parliaments, expert institutions, and armed forces, but also to focus on development and coordination within NATO and the EU, particularly regarding the Alliance's eastern flank, support for Ukraine, and strengthening regional defence preparedness.

From an economic perspective, in the defence and security industry the emphasis will remain on expanding Czech companies' participation in Polish modernisation programmes,

supporting joint research, development, and production in ground systems, ammunition, electronic systems, and cyber defence. An important priority will also remain consular cooperation in crisis communication with citizens and coordination during extraordinary events.

What message would you like to convey to readers of our magazine who operate in the defence and security industry?

During my now six-year diplomatic mission, Poland has undergone a profound transformation—not only in consular matters, linked to its growing popularity as both a summer and year-round tourist destination, but also, in the spirit of our discussion, as a major security actor within the EU and NATO. Frankly speaking, this long-term, everyday experience is very difficult to fully convey.

The new geopolitical reality—and from our perspective especially the security situation on the EU's eastern flank—brings and will continue to bring new challenges and opportunities. Historically, from Poland's perspective, we rank among the most positively perceived nations, and not only within the scope of this magazine's focus are we regarded as a solid and long-term partner.

Let us remain so and strengthen this position through active engagement. Relations between the Czech Republic and Poland have long transcended the framework of neighbourhood. We are partners who share responsibility for the stability of Central Europe. And the Czech defence and security industry is needed not only today, but will be even more essential in the reconstruction of Ukraine after the end of Russian aggression.

Thank you for the interview,
Adriana Jesenská

Photo: Petr Jesenský and the Office of the President of the Republic of Poland

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MILITARY AMMUNITION & PYROTECHNICS

INTERVIEW with Tomáš Kopečný

Tomáš Kopečný has served in state sector for 13 years. Since January 2023, he has held the position of Governmental Envoy for the Reconstruction of Ukraine. From 2020 to 2022, he served as Deputy Minister of Defence for Industrial Cooperation. In the past, he worked as Director of the Department of Industrial Cooperation, Head of the International Defence-Industrial Cooperation, and Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Defence. He is also a respected long-standing member of the Representative Editorial Board of the Review for Defence and Security Industry.
For three years, he led the Czech Republic's efforts in the reconstruction of Ukraine. He negotiated the first arms deliveries, helped connect Czech companies, NGOs and European institutions. Today, he speaks about the specific projects changing lives in Ukraine, the future of Europe's defence industry, and why it is crucial to care for soldiers' mental health.

You served as the Czech Governmental Envoy for the Reconstruction of Ukraine for three years. How would you summarise the evolution of Czech efforts in this field?

If I look back to the beginning, it was mainly about quick, crisis-driven assistance – the first weapons deliveries, humanitarian support, improvised solutions. Over time, however, we managed to build a framework that is far more systematic and long-term. Today, we are no longer talking about individual shipments, but about projects that change the everyday lives of people in Ukraine while also strengthening European security. The Czech role has evolved from immediate solidarity into that of a stable partner capable of delivering innovative and strategically significant solutions.

Which Czech projects do you consider the most significant today?

The scope is truly diverse. Of course, defence assistance has been and remains essential. But we have also managed to build a wind power plant, deliver cogeneration units to a number of cities, and secure drinking water for half a million people in Dnipro in eastern Ukraine. These are projects with tangible, immediate impact – they help large numbers of people quickly. If we add the work of Czech NGOs operating in some of the toughest conditions in Ukraine, it's clear that the Czech Republic has managed to link the humanitarian, civilian, and defence dimensions of its support.

Focusing on the defence industry – how have four years of Russian aggression changed the European and Czech defence sectors?

The war has shown that without a strong and flexible defence industry, we cannot ensure our own security. The emphasis on innovation has grown dramatically, and drones and unmanned systems have become crucial. Another key issue is capacity – not only production volume, but also the ability to manufacture systems tailored to specific types of

threats. For the Czech industry, this has been a major challenge, but also an opportunity to demonstrate that we can respond faster than many of the larger European players.

Unmanned systems are clearly gaining importance. What opportunities do Czech companies have in this area?

Ukraine is producing millions of units, but it faces challenges with scalability. That's where I see space for Czech companies – we have experience with technological development as well as with quickly transferring ideas into serial production. And it's not only about aerial drones. Ground and naval systems have also proven essential – for example, in weakening the Russian Black Sea Fleet. The Czech industry is well positioned to engage in these new domains and contribute value that goes beyond manufacturing – by integrating technologies and adapting swiftly to new tactics.

Staying with defence for a moment longer – what do you see as the strongest advantages of the Czech defence industry in the European context?

We have a unique combination of tradition and innovation. In large-calibre ammunition, thanks to companies like CSG or STV, we are among the few consolidated players on the market. We also excel in electronic warfare – the ERA company is known worldwide. But we shouldn't forget about armoured vehicle producers such as SVOS, or smaller high-tech

firms that can establish themselves quickly. The Czech industry is also compact enough to react with agility, and that's a huge advantage today.

On the international front, the EU is launching programmes like SAFE and EDIRPA. What can Czech companies gain from them?

The opportunities are vast – but it's not enough to just wait for them to arrive. I always say that luck favours the prepared. That means being present in Brussel, working with professionals, and actively contributing to shaping the rules. If we limit ourselves to merely drawing funds, we lose the chance to influence how these programmes are designed. And that would be a pity – Czech industry has enough credibility to be part of the creative phase, not just the implementation phase.

Beyond weapons – what do you consider a key area of support for the Ukrainian army?

People often forget about the human dimension of war. Mental health care is a huge topic, and we have know-how that Ukraine can benefit from. The Czech Republic is a European leader in psychiatric care reform, and people like Pavel Říčan and Jana Dvořáková are doing outstanding work in Ukraine – particularly in PTSD care and acute psychological intervention. Soldiers and civilians alike can't function without this kind of support, and I'm proud that we can be a partner in this area as well.

Over your three years in office, many things have happened. What was the most powerful moment for you personally?

I'll never forget the first days of the war and the first weapons deliveries. The gratitude we heard from Ukrainian defenders was incredibly moving. Other powerful moments came during visits to hospitals, where we saw the direct consequences of war but also the immense resilience of the people. And then there was pride – seeing what our NGOs or small companies managed to build and sustain in such difficult conditions. Those are the moments that convince you our work truly matters.

What achievements do you think have gone under the radar?

I'm glad that we managed to connect the state, industry and the NGO sector into a genuine partnership. The Czech Republic has shown that it can be fast, innovative, and fair. Thanks to that, we are now seen not only as a reliable ally of Ukraine but also as a country with something to offer on a European scale. That may be less visible than arms deliveries, but for the future, it's equally important.

The fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine is approaching. How do you see the conflict evolving in the coming years?

I don't believe this war will end soon. The threat will remain, and we must be ready. That means strengthening our own defence industry, making use of European resources, but also transferring battlefield know-how from Ukraine into our own environment. If we can process those experiences, turn them into industrial production, and support them with venture capital and private equity, we will advance – not only as the Czech Republic, but as Europe as a whole.

Thank you very much for this interview. I truly appreciate your exceptional energy and your willingness to actively support and cooperate not only with the Czech industry. I wish you much strength and success in your work!

Šárka Cook
Photo: MFA

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In the **Visit** section, you will find all the important information for visitors. When purchasing a ticket or registering an e-code, **proof of professional status must be provided**. An overview of accepted documents is available on the organizer's website. The trade fair organizer cooperates with the **AOBP** association. Its members can obtain an **e-code**, which allows them to register for a free ticket.

If you have any questions about the trade fair, please contact the organizer's exclusive representative in the Czech Republic, PROveletrhy s. r. o., info@proveletrhy.cz

INTERVIEW WITH TOMÁŠ KUCHTA,

Director General of the Section for Economic and Science Diplomacy and Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Let me begin with a question about your previous post as the Czech Republic's Ambassador to Serbia, where you served for six years. What did this experience give you, and how are you able to draw on it now as Director General of the Section for Economic and Science Diplomacy and Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

An ambassador is responsible for the overall performance of their mission — both toward the host country and toward institutions back home. They oversee the operation of the embassy, promote their country's good reputation abroad, ensure objective reporting and analysis, and handle a host of other tasks. It is essential for anyone in this role to respect the priorities of the state they represent — even when those priorities do not necessarily align with personal views or interests.

During my tenure I realized that, although economic diplomacy is one of my preferred and genuinely important tools, it is not the only one. Representing national interests requires a comprehensive approach and the ability to draw on the full spectrum of diplomatic instruments — while understanding that the emphasis varies from country to country. This is something I bring into my current role when communicating and setting cooperation frameworks with ambassadors and their teams. I try to understand the specific context of each country and adjust priorities and plans accordingly.

As for my concrete experience in the Balkans, I focused heavily on understanding what drives local actors and shapes their stances. This often required diving deep into not only political and economic dynamics but also historical and religious contexts. If I were to summarize the key lesson I carried forward, it would be this: very little in international affairs is simply black or white. Even indisputable facts can be framed or manipulated in ways that serve particular interests. In today's world, it is therefore crucial for everyone to approach information — often presented as the "only correct" version — with caution and critical thinking. The world is not binary, and simple solutions are not necessarily good ones.

Have you received any feedback regarding Czech-Serbian cooperation in the defence and security industry? What were you able to achieve?

Drawing on my previous experience at the Ministry of Defence, I began establishing contacts with Serbia's defence and security authorities immediately after arriving in

Belgrade. I must admit it was not easy at first; I had to overcome a significant degree of distrust rooted in reasons that are easy to imagine. Over time, however, we managed to convince our partners that while the Czech defence and security industry is in some areas a competitor to the Serbian one, there are many opportunities for cooperation.

This eventually created a very constructive atmosphere. We organized numerous presentations of Czech defence and security companies both at the embassy and at trade fairs, often with participation from Serbia's top decision-makers. Tangible results followed — in pilot training, ammunition production, technological cooperation and more — though most details cannot be disclosed. Several projects remain in progress. Serbian interest in the L-39 Skyfox, for example, has grown significantly compared to a few years ago. There is also interest in the maintenance and repair of Serbian helicopters of Russian origin, although no final agreement has yet been reached.

You were already familiar with our publishing house in 2012, when you served as Director of the Department of Bilateral Economic Relations and Export Promotion. How has economic diplomacy evolved since then?

I would say the progress has been substantial. Unlike thirteen years ago, today every diplomat at the MFA understands why economic diplomacy matters. They see its concrete results — it is a highly useful agenda and often a source of good news. As an open, export-oriented economy, supporting our companies abroad is vital. And outside Europe, business often opens doors to other agendas — cultural, political, or otherwise. Even countries far larger than ours rely heavily on economic diplomacy.

Our services for companies have also become far more professional. Over time, we have integrated nine additional ministries into economic diplomacy mechanisms. Most recently, for example, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of the Environment joined the effort.

Importantly, we have shifted from simply supporting exports to supporting long-term presence abroad. Many excellent Czech companies now expand internationally, invest, and acquire competitors — and for them, embassies are key partners.

What plans does the Department of Economic and Scientific Diplomacy have for 2026, and what long-term projects are you pursuing?

The emerging government's policy statement, which identifies economic diplomacy as a priority of foreign policy, gives us confidence that our activities will continue to grow.

We want to keep supporting companies abroad using all available tools, particularly through economic diplomacy projects (PROPED). As I mentioned, our Joint Instrument for Economic Diplomacy includes several sectoral ministries. The MFA has long cooperated with the Ministry of Defence — a relationship I helped build during my time overseeing industrial cooperation — and I am pleased that this cooperation remains strong and productive. We would also like to involve the Ministry of the Interior, given the potential in firefighting technologies, border protection and police technologies — areas that are highly relevant for many defence and security companies.

In parallel, we aim not only to seek new markets but also to support Czech investments abroad. A key long-term tool here is PROPEA, which helps companies establish and maintain a long-term presence in foreign markets.

Next year, we will continue providing businesses with information on foreign opportunities gathered from our economic diplomats and delivered through effective tools such as the Global Opportunity Map, territorial country briefs and daily reports available via export.cz.

We will also continue organizing territorial seminars in Prague and across the regions — highly valued by the business community for their practical insights.

A key annual event remains our consultations with firms and entrepreneurs during the Economic Diplomacy Conference, which brings

together businesses, economic diplomats and representatives of CzechTrade's foreign offices under one roof — a major opportunity for networking and information exchange.

Companies can look forward to a wide range of tailored events and seminars in the coming year. When we see demand, we react flexibly.

Scientific diplomacy is an integral part of our economic diplomacy. Research, technology and innovation ultimately determine how strong and competitive the Czech economy will be. One of our priorities is therefore to use the global network of embassies to create opportunities for Czech innovative companies and advanced technologies abroad.

In 2026, we aim to be even more targeted. We will focus on one or two key R&D sectors in selected countries and strengthen the involvement of Czech innovative firms and research teams. Special attention will go to fields where the Czech Republic has world-class potential — artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum technologies and biotechnology.

Among our long-term projects — coordinated with other ministries — is strengthening Czech participation in international programs such as Horizon Europe, ESA and EUREKA, and supporting talent mobility. Through our embassies, we also want to attract top students and researchers to the Czech Republic and raise the visibility of Czech science and universities worldwide.

What can the defence and security industry turn to you for, and what do you see as their most pressing challenges today?

Companies from the defence and security industry can always turn to the MFA when they need support, particularly in dealings with state representatives abroad (the B2G level), which is typical for this sector. The MFA and its embassies provide both individual support (facilitating meetings, presentations, lobbying, etc.) and information services (identifying contacts, sharing opportunities, tenders, strategies, etc.).

Every year, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, we carry out numerous PROPED projects that allow companies to present themselves to potential partners or invite them to the Czech Republic for on-site demonstrations. In selected countries, businesses can also use advisory and other services under PROPEA and PROPEA+. They regularly meet economic diplomats from around the world at our annual gathering in Prague or during export seminars. Companies can find an up-to-date overview of sectoral opportunities abroad in the Global Opportunity Map on Businessinfo.cz.

From our experience, the main challenge for defence and security companies is finding effective ways to present their offer to the right partners, reaching those with decision-making authority, and securing competitive financing solutions. In these areas, we — together with

other state institutions such as the Ministry of Defence and its AMOS agency, and financial-insurance institutions like EGAP, ČEB and the National Development Bank — provide essential support. As state institutions, we also encourage Czech companies to form integrated, comprehensive solutions tailored to client needs, which helps them succeed abroad. Increasingly important is also our support for companies investing overseas.

Thank you for the interview. Šárka Cook

Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

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ABOUT THE LITHUANIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY

and possibilities of cooperation with the Czech Republic

Although the Czech Republic shares a historical past with Lithuania at some point, Czechs don't know much about Lithuania. They don't even know anything about the Lithuanian arms industry. For this reason, we requested a short interview with Mr. Jaroslav Dvorak, Klaipėda University, Dept. of Public Administration and Poltical Sciences, Lithuania.

Can you briefly introduce your country and its arms industry?

I think many Lithuanians think that the relations between the two countries are more fragmented. But if we look at many important events for Lithuania, we can see the Czech footprint. Let's take one of the most important ones in Lithuanian history, the Battle of Grunwald, where the Grand Duke of Lithuania, Vytautas, defeated the Teutonic Knights under the command of two Czech commanders, Jan Žižska and Jan Sokol.

One of the most significant early connections was the establishment of the Lithuanian College at Prague University in 1397. It became a key center for Lithuanian studies for centuries and symbolized the academic and cultural exchange between the two regions. The Lithuanian Jagiellonian dynasty ruled Bohemia from 1471 to 1526, which significantly deepened the mutual ties between the two nations. That period was marked by strong dynastic and diplomatic cooperation. In 1422, Grand Duke Vytautas of Lithuania accepted the Bohemian crown from the Hussites. While this move was largely symbolic, it reflects the high level of engagement and influence Lithuania had in Central European politics at the time. And of course, there are also painful coincidences for both sides, for example. Adolf Hitler arrived in Klaipėda in March 1939 after the annexation of Czechoslovakia and the Klaipėda region.

Oh, the Czech Republic also doesn't know much about the fact that Lithuania was Hitler's victim. So even pre-war Lithuania must have had an arms industry.

Sure! Lithuania's military industry really began to develop after we regained independence in 1918. One of the first things the new government did was set up a military workshop in Kaunas, which was the capital at the time. At first, it was quite basic – they made things like carriages, sleighs, and mobile field kitchens for the army. By the 1930s, the production got more advanced. They started making ammunition, gas masks, and rifles. Then, in 1936, a big step was taken, the military opened an artillery workshop in Linkaičiai. This was a smart move because the area had secret airfields and major railway connections, which made it a good location for defence planning and logistics. Lithuania worked with several countries to build up its capabilities. One example is Czechoslovakia, we bought military equipment from them, including artillery pieces

made by the well-known company Škoda. These kinds of partnerships were important, especially because Lithuania didn't have a large arms industry of its own.

In comparison with Czechoslovakia that became a Soviet satellite, Lithuania became, unfortunately, a part of the Soviet Union. Did it mean the end of the arms industry in Lithuania?

During the Soviet period, Lithuania was treated somewhat differently compared to other parts of the USSR, largely due to its geographic position bordering Western countries. Instead of focusing on the production of weapons or heavy military vehicles like tanks, Lithuania specialized in manufacturing equipment and components that supported the broader military infrastructure. For instance, factories in Lithuania produced advanced radio and telecommunications equipment, aircraft black boxes, surveillance and listening devices. This more technical and electronics-focused profile was a strategic decision that aligned with the USSR's broader defence planning. Also, Lithuanian industrial companies repaired tanks and warships.

Czechoslovakia was the first post-communist country that recognized Lithuania as an independent country in 1991. Also, the MOD supported Lithuania with military equipment. Are there any Czech military products in service in the Lithuanian military?

Oh yes, one of the most famous examples of cooperation between Lithuania and the Czech Republic is the acquisition of L-39 Aero aircraft, which were purchased back in 1998, and several of them were operated for quite a long time for pilot training, but after the Russian military invasion of Ukraine began, Lithuania transferred the last one to Ukraine.

You come from Klaipėda bordering to Russian enclave in Kaliningrad. But you are also an expert on defence industry cooperating with Lithuanian Chamber of Industrialists. What is the current situation with the DTIB in Lithuania?

First, it should be noted that today Lithuania has three defence industry associations. One of them can be considered large due to the number of its members, while the others have a rather limited number of members, and it seems that there are also well-known clubs. Second, since what was inherited from the USSR, that is, factories, were privatized, and production suddenly became unprofitable, there were no serious beginnings for this industry since the restoration of independence in the early 90s. Later, the first state-owned enterprise was established in Lithuania, which was supposed to supply the local army with ammunition and also engage in commercial activities. Several other state-owned enterprises are engaged in logistics and the production of industrial explosives. Third, the outbreak of the war in Ukraine pushed the Lithuanian defence industry into the production of in-demand radio electronic components and drones. An even greater incentive was brought by the desire of the German Rheinmetall company to invest in Lithuania, which established a workshop for tank repair and the construction of a 155 mm ammunition factory. Of course, at the same time, the Lithuanian government committed to allocating more than 5 per cent of GDP to defence, which is expected to improve military infrastructure and bring investments through offsets.

If I good understand, Lithuanian military strategy merges with economic strategy. So, you are developing multilateral projects.

It should be noted that Lithuania was one of the successful coordinators of the PESCO project on cybersecurity, which is considered the best practice in the EU. Also, in the modernization of the Lithuanian army, one project with the German consortium ARTEC on the "Boxer" infantry fighting vehicles has already been implemented, and this cooperation is planned to be continued. In addition, since there is an ambition to establish a Lithuanian division, the acquisition of tanks and other equipment is planned. Is there a place for the Czech defence industry in this context? I think that it certainly is, especially since these can be joint projects with Lithuanian companies that are already participating and have experience in this market.

Miloš Balabán, security analyst, thanked for the interview.

Photo: Klaipėda University

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INTERVIEW WITH JIŘÍ PROTIVA,

President of the Czech Aerospace Industry Association

The Czech Aerospace Industry Association (ALKP ČR) is the leading professional organisation representing the entire Czech aviation and space sector. It currently brings together 58 members — major manufacturing companies, research institutes, universities and innovative firms — which collectively employ more than 13,000 people and generate an annual turnover of over CZK 41 billion.

The Association covers a broad spectrum of activities — from the development and production of aircraft, helicopters, unmanned systems, power units and avionics to the involvement of Czech companies in European and international space programmes. The goal of ALKP ČR is to strengthen the competitiveness of the Czech aerospace industry, support exports, research and innovation, and connect industry with academia and public administration. At the European level, it represents the interests of its members through ASD Europe (Aerospace, Security and Defence Industries Association of Europe).

After his election as the new President, we spoke with Jiří Protiva about his vision for the further development of the Czech aviation and defence industry, the challenges facing the sector, and the strategic priorities the Association will focus on in the coming years.

What led you to run for President of the Aerospace Industry Association?

In the previous term, I served on the Association's board, and aviation is simply something I enjoy — professionally and personally. I work at LOM PRAHA, so the aviation sector is part of my daily life. When the former President resigned, I was approached by the assembly to take over the role. Gradually, I decided to run, and I am very pleased that my colleagues elected me. The Association is teamwork. I believe that together we can advance the Czech aviation and space industry — and I must stress that we should definitely not forget the "space" part of our name.

What are your main priorities for your first term?

Our aim is to fulfil the adopted programme statement — a set of ambitions for the next three-year period.

We want to build on successful activities from the past, especially participation in international trade fairs in Farnborough, Paris, Dubai and Singapore. We also want to intensify member club meetings and work towards having

ALKP ČR recognised as a mandatory advisory body for legislation affecting the aerospace sector. Another priority is cooperation with the Ministry of Education on updating educational curricula. And, of course, export support — the Czech aerospace industry is highly export-oriented, with 85–90% of production going abroad.

In what condition did you take over the organisation, and what challenges does it now face?

The Association was stable, with more than fifty members and a history of successful missions and projects. Still, I see room for improvement, particularly in communication with the state and among the members themselves.

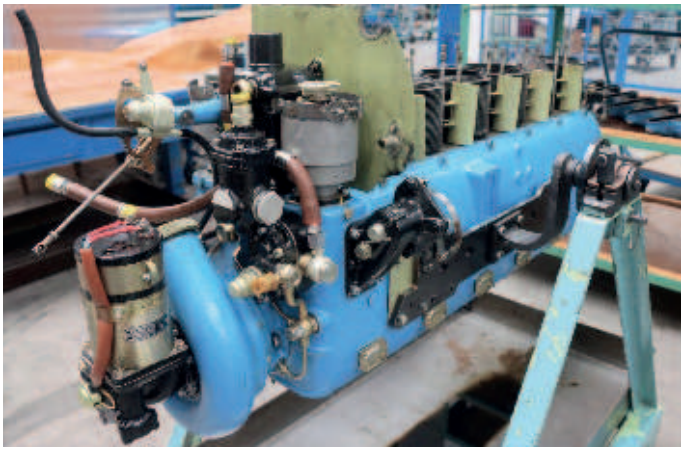
We want to support cooperation, seek synergies and develop joint projects — not only within the Czech Republic but also at the European and global levels. The Association should be open and actively collaborate with other clusters and professional chambers. Only then can we effectively defend the interests of the entire sector.

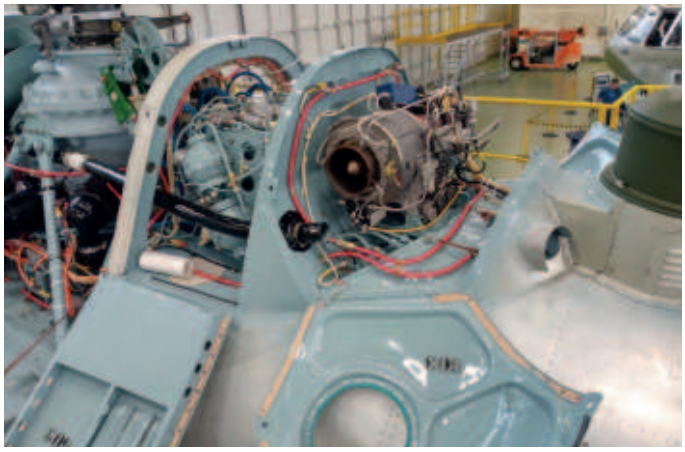
How do you plan to improve communication between the Association's leadership and its members?

Formal e-mails or newsletters are not enough. Personal contact is essential. I want to regularly visit member companies, learn about their work, needs and potential. At the same time, we must strengthen external communication — presenting the Czech aerospace industry as a unified whole. Personally, I've taken responsibility for the legislative agenda and communication, because both are crucial for the Association's development. Digitalisation can help, but nothing replaces personal meetings and direct dialogue.

What steps do you plan to support young professionals and the development of aviation education?

The industry needs skilled people — from aircraft mechanics to engineers and developers. We want to promote dual education, meaning greater involvement of students in hands-on practice. At the same time, we must protect key fields, such as aircraft mechanic training,





which is absolutely essential for the Czech industry. We will also actively comment on legislative proposals related to education so that the industry can influence school curricula and contribute practical experience.

How do you view cooperation with the Civil Aviation Authority?

The cooperation is very good. The Authority is, in my view, progressive and flexible, which is essential today. A good example is the area of drones — the Czech Republic is among the more active countries in their regulation. Even though defence is currently the main focus, we must not forget civilian aviation, ultralights and recreational flying, which are integral parts of our field.

And what about cooperation with the Ministry of Transport or the Army?

The Ministry of Transport is a key partner, especially in space activities — for example within Czech Space Week. The cooperation works very well. It's similar with the Army. From my experience at LOM PRAHA, I can say that the relationship is highly constructive. When Czech industry presents itself at international fairs together with representatives of the Army or the state, it has a tremendous impact. The presence of the Air Force Commander or the Minister sends a clear signal of support that opens doors abroad.

What are your priorities in pilot safety and training?

Safety and high-quality training are essential. At LOM PRAHA, we are currently modernising our training equipment — from new Zlín 143 and 242 aircraft to jet L-39 Skyfox aircraft. We also place great emphasis on simulation technologies, which allow pilots to train emergency scenarios without risk and enhance their preparedness. Quality equipment, experienced personnel and modern simulators — these are the three pillars of safe and effective training.

How can the Association help promote sport and recreational aviation?

The Czech Republic has a strong tradition and reputation in aviation. Our aircraft — from Morava to Zlín to L-39 — fly all over the world. We want the Czech aerospace industry to become as recognisable a symbol of the Czech Republic as beer or Karlštejn. The Association plays a key role in this — promoting Czech aviation technology and the capabilities of our companies, which can produce a complete aircraft, including the engine and avionics.

How do you intend to strengthen international cooperation and the presentation of Czech aviation abroad?

Aside from trade fair participation, close ties with public administration and embassies are crucial. Our diplomats should know the Czech aviation and space industry and actively help open doors to foreign markets. When the Association or its members head to a specific territory, it is essential that they already have contacts and support prepared.

How do you perceive the pressure for environmental sustainability in aviation?

It is a reality we must work with. The Association wants to be an active partner at the European level — for example in the transition from hexavalent to trivalent chromium in surface treatments. Ecology and sustainability are important, but they should be implemented sensibly — through evolution, not revolution.

What opportunities do you see in digitalisation?

Digitalisation offers great potential — whether in internal operations, communication with members or in the industry itself. In many areas of aviation, there is still space for digitalising processes. The Association wants to support companies in this transformation and help them move up the supply chain — from tier 2–3 roles to tier 1 direct suppliers of major players such as Boeing or Airbus.

Where do you see the Association in five years? What is your personal vision?

I would like ALKP ČR to be a respected and indispensable partner with a seat at every important discussion on aviation and space. The successes of our member companies will also be the successes of the entire Association. Our goal is to help drive the engine of the Czech aerospace and space industry so that it achieves an even stronger position both at home and abroad.

Author: Lauren Imari Cooková

Photo: LOM PRAHA s. p.

ASOCIACE LETECKÉHO A KOSMICKÉHO PRŮMYSLU

New ALKP CR Board

Elected on October 7th in Humpolec at the electoral membership meeting

President:
Jiří Protiva

Vice Presidents:
Viktor Sotona – Military Aviation
Alena Medová – Civil Aviation
Martina Tauberová – International Relations and Unmanned Systems
Milan Macholán – Aviation Systems
Luděk Nechleba – Space Industry

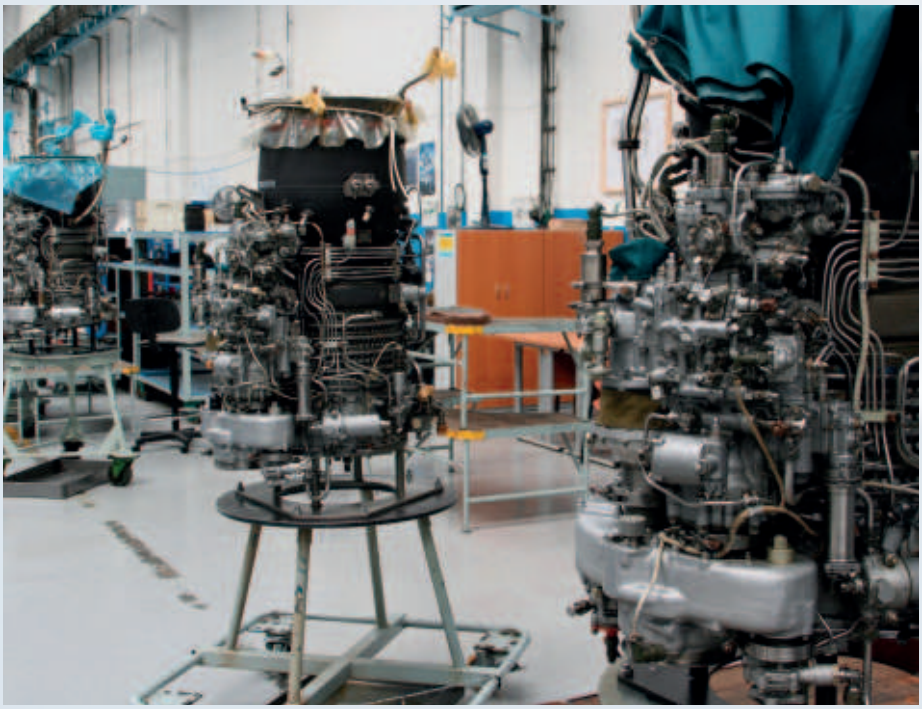
THE LOM PRAHA ENGINE PLANT PROVIDES TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO NATO ALLIED AND CIVILIAN PARTNERS

The Engine Plant, a part of the state-owned enterprise LOM PRAHA, has long established itself as a centre of excellence in the maintenance, overhaul and technical servicing of aircraft power units. The plant routinely carries out a number of major projects focused not only on general overhauls of engines and components for partners from the North Atlantic Alliance, but also on technical support and theoretical training for civil training organisations operating equipment originating from the former Eastern Bloc.

An example? The Bulgarian Air Force uses the capabilities of LOM PRAHA's Engine Plant for general overhauls of AI-25TL jet engines from the L-39 Albatros subsonic training aircraft.

Another area of activity supports the Croatian Air Force and involves the overhaul of TV3-117 helicopter engines and AI-9V auxiliary power units installed in Mi-171 transport and multi-purpose helicopters.

In this context, it is also worth mentioning the Polish Armed Forces, for whom LOM PRAHA performs overhauls of NR-3 fuel pumps and VR-14 and VR-24 helicopter gearboxes, which are essential for transferring power from the engine to the main and tail rotors in Mi-series helicopters. High-quality maintenance of these key assemblies significantly increases operational availability and flight safety.



Support for Civil Training Organisations

The LOM PRAHA Engine Plant also provides comprehensive technical and servicing support to civil training organisations in NATO partner states that operate L-39 Albatros training aircraft equipped with AI-25TL engines.

This support includes not only engine and accessory overhauls, inspections and acceptance procedures, but also diagnostics and test runs on modernised test stands, as well as training for civilian technicians and mechanics in maintenance and operational checks, together with consultations on extending component service life and optimising maintenance cycles.

Thanks to this support, civil organisations in NATO member states — including flight schools and training academies — can safely operate aircraft for both basic and advanced pilot training, thereby contributing to the development of pilot capacities across the Alliance.

Technical Personnel Training: Transferring Know-How Within the Alliance

In addition to the repairs and prescribed maintenance mentioned above, the Engine Plant also provides practical training and specialist courses for the technical staff of both military and civil operators. This specialised training covers areas such as adjustment, maintenance and operational diagnostics of AI-25TL, TV3-117 and AI-9V engines, assembly and disassembly procedures, operation of test equipment, interpretation of test-run results, lifecycle management of components, and the creation and updating of maintenance plans in accordance with NATO aviation regulations and the rules of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

These training programmes take place both at the Engine Plant in the Czech Republic and through mobile technical teams that operate directly at partner sites abroad.

NATO Support in Practice

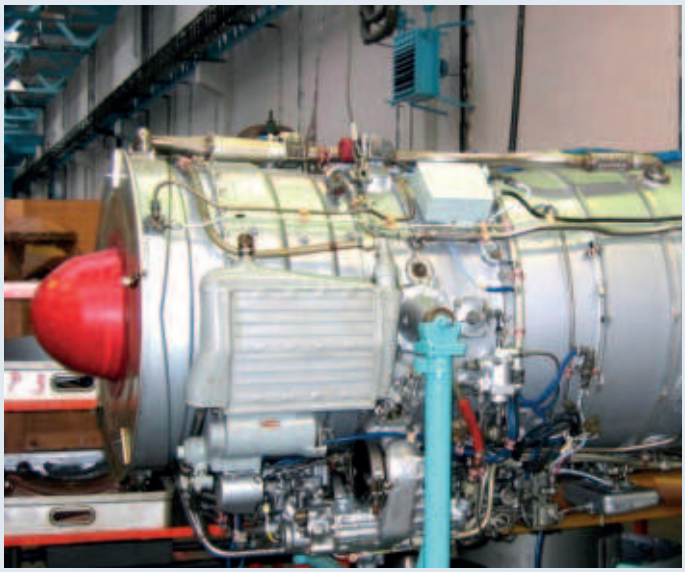
The Engine Plant's projects are an example of industrial cooperation within NATO that helps maintain the airworthiness of aircraft still operated by countries using equipment of former Soviet origin.

By extending its support to civil training organisations, the plant actively contributes to strengthening pilot-training capacity and technical preparedness across the Alliance. This demonstrates that LOM PRAHA, the state-owned enterprise, is a reliable partner not only for Allied armed forces but also for civilian entities connected to NATO defence structures.

"Our long-term goal is to contribute to the operational readiness of equipment and to technical interoperability within NATO. By expanding our services to civil training organisations, we strengthen defence cooperation as well as the necessary capacities and technical safety in support of the North Atlantic Alliance," says Michal Procházka, Director of the LOM PRAHA Engine Plant.

Author: Pavel Lang

Photo: LOM PRAHA Archive



LOM PRAHA CONTINUES THE MODERNISATION OF ITS FLIGHT TRAINING CENTRE

Another milestone in the basic pilot training of the Czech Armed Forces! On Wednesday, October 22nd 2025 — less than ten months after signing the contract — the new ZLIN Z-143LSi GENIUS and ZLIN Z-242L ZEUS aircraft landed on Pardubice's runway 09/27. They represent the first step in the major modernisation of the propeller fleet operated by the Flight Training Centre of the state-owned enterprise LOM PRAHA.

After twenty-one years of training military pilots on the Z-142C AF, the fleet is being renewed. The main reasons include the approaching end of the technical service life of the "one-forty-twos" and the need to transition to modern flight-training standards. Analyses have shown that the best solution is to continue training on the Zlín platform through the acquisition of new aircraft equipped with digital avionics, a long-life cycle and low operational costs.

The optimal solution selected for this requirement is a combination of two Zlín types: six Z-242L Zeus aircraft for basic and advanced military pilot training including aerobatics, and two Z-143LSi Genius aircraft with autopilot for training aircrew of transport aviation.

Delivery of the remaining Z-242L aircraft to the LOM PRAHA Flight Training Centre will be completed by the manufacturer — the company ZLIN AERO a.s., based in Otrokovice — by the end of March 2026.

However, the cooperation between LOM PRAHA and ZLIN AERO is not limited to the purchase of "Zeuses" and "Geniuses". With the signing of their Industrial Cooperation Agreement, the partnership has gained a much broader dimension. Joint interests include cooperation in aircraft and component maintenance and servicing, deliveries of aviation material and spare parts, as well as research and development of aircraft systems.

On October 22nd, both types of single-engine light training aircraft powered by piston engines for basic and advanced training (Z-143LSi fuselage No. 0541 and Z-242L fuselage No. 0543) naturally became the centre of attention at Pardubice Airport (LKPD).

The new generation ZLIN aircraft mark the beginning of the next chapter in the training of pilots of the Czech Armed Forces and students of the University of Defence. They meet the requirements for basic flight training, IFR training, night flying, basic and tactical formations, as well as aerobatic training in the two-seat version. They combine the proven tradition of the Czech aviation industry with cutting-edge technology and comply with international standards for modern flight training, including instrument flying (IFR).

"A modernisation consisting of two Z-143 aircraft and six Z-242 aircraft provides sufficient capacity to meet the increased training demands of the Czech Air Force. It preserves a familiar training platform and reduces implementation and operating costs. Replacing the aircraft brings significant progress in flight training, technical maintenance, operational economics and long-term sustainability — all crucial aspects of effective and modern pilot training. It also opens up opportunities for industrial cooperation between LOM PRAHA s. p. and ZLIN AERO a. s.," says Jiří Protiva, Director of LOM PRAHA.

It should be added that the modern equipment of the new "Zlíns" fully meets current training trends and will significantly expand the training capabilities of the Pardubice Flight Training Centre, including aerobatic training and screening for the further assignment of University of Defence students to different branches of aviation. The flight characteristics of both aircraft versions are identical or, in principle, very similar. Both are equipped with a modern "GLASS COCKPIT" avionics system with a unified control logic — one of the key conditions for their procurement.

Their structural similarity to the original Z-142C AF provides considerable advantages, such as the ability to use existing maintenance jigs and aircraft equipment, minimal need for additional personnel training and continuity in training in the context of the transition to the AERO L-39 Skyfox subsonic jet trainer.

A Brief Overview of the New Zlín Aircrafts ZLIN Z-143

The Z-143 is a four-seat, single-engine aircraft known for its versatility and durability. It is designed to handle a wide range of missions, starting with basic flight training. Its aluminium-alloy structure ensures low

weight, strength and long service life. The aircraft is powered by an American Lycoming IO-540-C4D5 piston engine with a maximum output of 186 kW, enabling a maximum speed of approximately 290 km/h. It can reach altitudes of 4,000–5,000 metres, providing flexibility for various types of training.

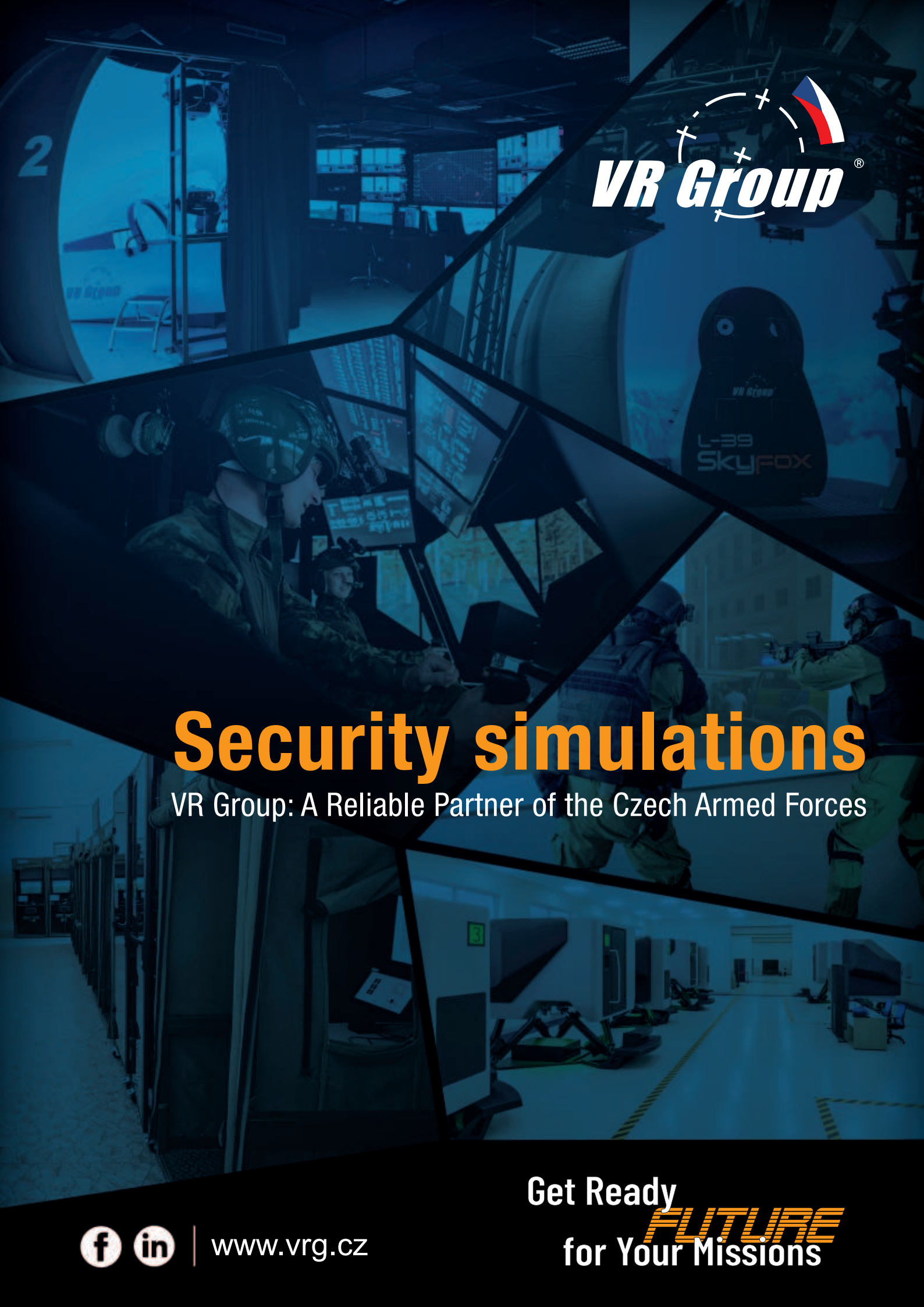
ZLIN Z-242

The Z-242 is a single-engine, two-seat training aircraft primarily intended for basic and aerobatic pilot training. The cockpit is equipped with dual controls, enabling effective instructor-led training. Its power plant is also a Lycoming engine, specifically the AEIO-360-A1B6 with a maximum output of 149 kW.

Both aircraft are equipped with a full glass cockpit built around the Garmin G500TXi avionics suite, integrating all essential flight and engine data into multifunctional touchscreen displays.

Both Zlín types being introduced into the LOM PRAHA Flight Training Centre form a modern and comprehensive pilot-training system that fully meets the current requirements of the Czech Air Force and international standards of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

Author: Pavel Lang
Photo: LOM PRAHA Archive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OSTRAVA AIRPORT:

A Regional Hub for Military and Civil Air Cargo Transport

Leoš Janáček Ostrava Airport is one of the regional airports that has long been involved not only in passenger transport, but also in cargo and special air operations. A significant part of the airport's activities consists of military cargo flights, which require enhanced technical support, strict security measures and a highly qualified workforce.

The airport holds all necessary authorisations and certifications to handle a wide range of dangerous goods. These include, for example, live animals, explosives, ammunition, weapons, toxic substances and radioactive materials. Staff are regularly trained in handling dangerous goods in accordance with international IATA and ICAO regulations. As a result, the airport is able to process highly specialised and demanding shipments that are not commonly handled at most regional airports.

In connection with the transport of military equipment, heavy cargo aircraft used for oversized shipments frequently appear at the airport. The most common types include the Antonov An-12 and An-124. A major event was the arrival of the Antonov An-225 Mriya in 2015, which at that time was the largest aircraft in the world. The airport also regularly receives aircraft such as the Ilyushin Il-76—often operated by Silk Way Airlines—as well as Boeing 747F, Boeing 777F, Airbus A330F and Airbus A300F freighters.

The types of transported materials cover a wide spectrum of military equipment and supplies. These include ammunition, weapons, components of armament systems, military vehicles, armoured equipment, tanks, howitzers, and specialised materials for foreign missions. Such flights are planned with strict regard to safety requirements and are carried out under heightened security measures both on the airport premises and during loading and unloading.

Military operations involve close cooperation with companies in the defence industry, logistics providers, and government institutions. These entities use Ostrava as a departure or transit point for transporting equipment abroad. The airport provides technical facilities, handling capacity and coordination among all units involved in the operation.

Alongside military flights, civil cargo operations continue to grow. Recently, regular cargo routes have been introduced, increasing the airport's international visibility and strengthening its logistics network. These include, for example, a twice-weekly connection with Tel Aviv, operated exclusively for commercial freight transport. Another route leads to Liège in Belgium, one of Europe's key cargo hubs, and operates four times a week. These services, handled by Supernova Airlines, primarily transport industrial and commercial goods. In addition, mail flights operated by UPS and DHL serve Ostrava on weekdays. An integral part of the schedule is also the activity of My Freighter, which, in cooperation with EGT Express, transports goods from Asia.

Ostrava Airport thus fulfills the role of a regional center of air logistics with an overlap in the military and civilian sectors. Thanks to its technical infrastructure and certifications, it is capable of handling cargo flights that are restricted or even impossible at many other airports. In the future, continued stable operations in the field of special and military transports can be expected, along with further development of regular civil cargo routes.

R&D EMPOWERING THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY INDUSTRY

Europe is undergoing a fundamental transformation in its approach to defence and security, accompanied by a redefinition of financing frameworks. Issues that only recently stood at the periphery have now become strategic priorities. This shift is creating significant opportunities for Czech companies and research organisations – from advancing modern defence technologies to developing the capacities that will shape long-term competitiveness. We discussed this topic with David Kotris, Managing Partner and CEO of the consulting company enovation.

What changes do you see in the perception of the defence sector in relation to public policy and budgetary priorities?

I would describe it as a shift in the normative and ethical discourse. The stigma associated with arms production and the defence industry is weakening. Companies that previously focused mainly on civilian applications now see defence as a legitimate part of their business. Industrial investment is flowing not only into the traditional defence sector but also into new technological domains (deep tech, defence tech, resilience, cyber, robotics). The discussion about "war economy" and the importance of defence self-sufficiency is becoming mainstream. As for the public budgets, we can speak of a relatively strong consensus on the need for higher defence spending, though these expenditures are simultaneously viewed as a potential fiscal-deficit risk.

Have the above-mentioned changes also manifested themselves within national and international funding policy?

There has been a significant increase – both at the national and European levels - in the willingness to fund projects with a defence or dual-use focus. In all plans for the next programming period (2028+), security and defence are among the priorities, both within Horizon Europe and the forthcoming European Competitiveness Fund. There is pressure to build long-term defence capacities, ammunition stockpiles, and strategic and tactical capabilities, etc. Demand for domestic defence supplies is growing, which supports the national industry. Investors who were previously sceptical about defence tech are now actively engaging. Grant opportunities are increasingly targeting support for start-ups in line with the European Startup and Scaleup Strategy.

What opportunities are currently relevant for companies in the defence and security industry on the domestic field?

The defence domain has just recently been incorporated into the supported areas of the *Applications IV Call (DEEP-TECH)* under the *Operational Programme Technology and Application for Competitiveness (OP TAK)*. Specific areas of support include modern defence systems and technologies in artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, advanced materials, and quantum security. Under this call, applicants can request support of up to CZK 100 million, and it is open until 19 February 2026. Within the Ministry of Defence, there is also the *PRODEF* programme, which focuses on defence research for the needs of the Czech Army. Another competition round is planned for the first half of 2026.

And on the international level?

The EU's main instrument for funding collaborative research and development is the *European Defence Fund (EDF)* which finances both research and so-called "capability development." The work programme with calls for 2026 is expected as early as 17 December 2025. There are high expectations for the *European Defence Investment Programme (EDIP)* as well, which—as the name suggests—aims not only to support investments that enhance the competitiveness of the defence industry and increase production capacities, but also to strengthen joint procurement of defence technologies across EU member states. Lastly, the NATO *DIANA* programme is also worth mentioning.

How successful are Czech companies in international programmes?

Unfortunately, the success rate of Czech companies is extremely poor. It can be said that it does not come close to reflecting the position and importance of the Czech arms and defence industry. Although we have a few successes in participating in EDF consortia, no Czech company has yet acted as a coordinator, nor do they actively contribute to shaping future calls. Czech companies are competing with large, traditional defence firms from other member states, which can be challenging for smaller Czech players. At the moment, companies are understandably focusing on expansion and often do not prioritise participating in projects whose tangible outcomes will only appear in five or more years.

However, it must be emphasised that from the perspective of future access to EU and NATO markets, participation in these programmes is not only a competitive advantage but a strategic necessity. I would therefore like to urge Czech companies not to be discouraged and to be more active in shaping the future of Europe-wide defence and security policy.

What advice would you give Czech companies to increase their chances of success in grant and funding projects?

In my experience, it is crucial to focus on topics where the EU is genuinely investing, emphasise the added value for the EU, build long-term partnerships, and increase international visibility within clusters and networks. It is also necessary to clearly define one's specific competence—successful consortia need unique, not generic, suppliers. End users should be involved early on—ideally already during the formulation of the project concept. And, of course, companies should not hesitate to use professional support—a skilled consultant and project manager can increase the chances of success by up to 50 %.

Thank you for the interview.
Šárka Cook

VARER CNC Production Plant –

Precision Engineering for Defence and Technology

A Legacy of Precision Driving the Future

Behind every OPTOKON solution stands our team of experienced specialists, together with our partners and customers, who continuously drive us forward toward higher levels of know-how, innovation, and quality.

One of our next partners is VARER Savunma ve Havacılık, a Turkish subsidiary of GOLDENJEST International Group, which supports OPTOKON's production by ensuring a stable supply of precisely machined metal components for our defence and industrial technologies.

With more than 63 years of tradition in the defence industry, VARER combines decades of experience with a modern CNC infrastructure and certified quality standards. The production facility is equipped with 22 advanced machining centers, including 3-, 4-, and 5-axis systems, complemented by coordinate measuring machines (CMM) to ensure precision and consistent manufacturing quality.

VARER holds a NATO CAGE Code certification and operates in compliance with strict ISO quality standards, guaranteeing that all supplied components meet the highest international requirements. This makes VARER a reliable manufacturing partner for OPTOKON's metallic components, strengthening our ability to respond swiftly to market demands and deliver robust technologies across our portfolio.

In addition to this partnership, OPTOKON has successfully launched its own in-house CNC production line at the company's manufacturing facility in the Czech Republic. The first components for our technologies are now being produced on a state-of-the-art MAKINO machining center, marking an important milestone in our strategic development. This investment allows OPTOKON to handle selected production orders internally, increasing our flexibility, responsiveness, and independence, while maintaining the option to collaborate with VARER for extended capacity or specialized support when needed.

Together, this dual production capability combining OPTOKON's in-house precision manufacturing and VARER's industrial excellence ensures maximum reliability, quality, and continuity across our defence and technology solutions.

LMRS –

Ruggedized Radiation Detector for UAVs

Proven in the air. Ready for deployment. On September 10, 2025, OPTOKON's LMRS completed a successful UAV integration and flight test in Turkey with ADT Aviation and Defence Technologies, confirming full operational readiness for airborne radiation monitoring and security missions. The compact, lightweight gamma detector delivers precise CPS (Counts Per Second—raw pulse counts per second from the detector) and calibrated dose-rate readings, integrates seamlessly with UAVs, manned aircraft, and ground platforms, and enables rapid radiation mapping, inspection tasks, and support for emergency services / integrated rescue operations. The scenario mirrored real-world use: step climbs from 1 up to 2000 m with 20-second holds, followed by a low-altitude 10 m / 15 km run. Data were streamed in real time over a secure radio link to the ground station, while being simultaneously logged onboard the UAV and mirrored on the ground system. The mission was recorded by UAV-mounted video, enabling synchronized post-flight analysis of environmental and positional data. Results: stable, error-free transmission with zero packet loss, full log synchronization, and measurement accuracy unaffected by altitude, latency, or vibration. Minor interface refinements for multi-sensor UAVs will be followed by another flight test in the Czech Republic before the end of 2025, expanding test scenarios and accelerating LMRS deployment in defence, environmental monitoring, and emergency applications.

OPTOKON LMRS – see the invisible. Fast, precise, airborne.

LMSP PANEL PC –

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In environments where there is no room for error, technology must perform without compromise. Developed precisely with this in mind, the OPTOKON LMSP-10.B is a compact, rugged 10-inch all-in-one unitdesigned for deployment in both aerial and ground systems, where reliability equals certainty.

The unit is engineered for long-term operation in demanding conditions. Thanks to its high-brightness display (1300 cd/m²) and capacitive multi-touch control, it remains fully readable and responsive even under extreme lighting or vibration. Twenty-eight backlit buttons and two rotary encoders enable intuitive control, even while wearing gloves or in low-visibility conditions.

The built-in computing platform is fully configurable according to customer requirements, allowing for customization of performance, memory, and software environment to meet specific applications. With Ethernet, USB, and CAN interfaces, the unit integrates seamlessly into control and communication systems.

The LMSP-10.B is consistently used by customers in the defence and industrial sectors, where it has proven long-term durability, reliability, and operational stability, even under extreme temperature and environmental conditions. As such, the unit has become an integral part of field-proven systems deployed in real-world missions and critical projects.

Technical Advantages

- Rugged all-in-one unit for airborne and ground systems
- 10“ high-brightness display with multi-touch functionality
- 28 backlit buttons and two rotary encoders
- Configurable computing platform tailored to user requirements
- Operating temperature range: –32 °C to +70 °C
- Connectivity: Ethernet, USB, CAN
- No forced cooling required
- Weight only 2.3 kg
- Proven performance in real-world applications

When the environment tests the limits — the LMSP endures.

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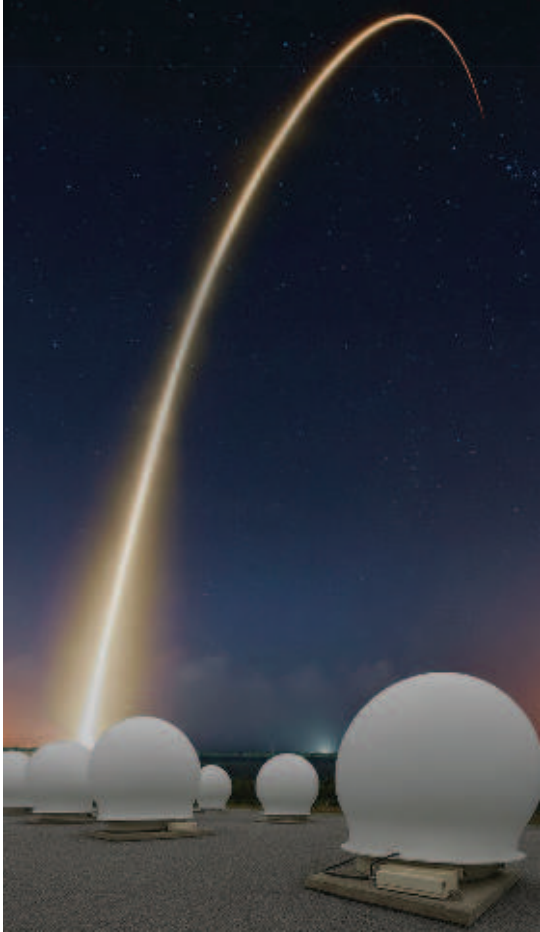
EXPANDING BEYOND EARTH

OPTOKON Group, in cooperation with Czech partners, has joined forces with SpaceX to develop infrastructure for advanced satellite integration, marking a significant step in global technological collaboration.



THE AVIONICS FROM MESIT
have met the stringent DO-178 DAL B requirements

Following several years of rigorous development and testing, MESIT asd (MEMBER OF OMNIPOL GROUP) has successfully completed the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) certification process for the ECU 2133 control unit this year. By categorizing this new product in the Development Assurance Level (DAL) B safety category, MESIT has established itself as a leading global manufacturer of aviation electronics, paving the way for deliveries to major aircraft manufacturers.

The ECU 2133 control unit is responsible for controlling the Auxiliary Power Unit (APU), a component commonly found in large aircraft and some helicopters. The APU generates electrical power for onboard systems and is often used in helicopters to start the main engine. The ECU 2133 control unit provides complete control over the operation of the APU – from take-off to speed regulation, including controlled fuel supply and temperature control.

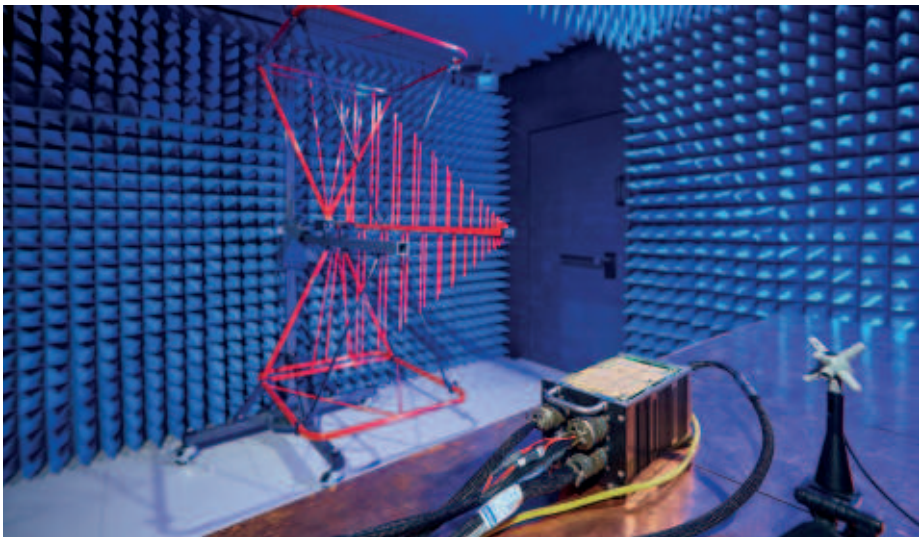
The civil aviation sector places an extraordinary emphasis on safety. Hardware and software development must comply with strict rules, and EASA certification verifies this process. This involves monitoring the entire development process and carrying out several audits in the presence of an agency commissioner.

Safety requirements

EASA safety requirements are divided into several levels. The most stringent of these is category A (catastrophic), which covers control of the aircraft's main engine, for example. Failure of this engine would inevitably lead to a crash and loss of life. The ECU 2133 control unit has been certified at category B (hazardous), the second most stringent category. Failure of systems in this category can have serious consequences for aircraft safety and performance, including an increased risk of serious or fatal injury to passengers and reduced controllability of the aircraft.

The certification was carried out in accordance with three fundamental aviation standards:

- **DO-160:** this summarises the requirements relating to environmental resistance, including extreme temperatures, vibrations, shocks, humidity, water, mould, dust, and electromagnetic compatibility. MESIT conducts around half of these tests in its own testing laboratories.
- **DO-254:** hardware safety requirements.
- **DO-178:** software safety requirements.



MESIT has its own EMC chamber for electromagnetic compatibility testing

Certification in the DAL B category

"Compliance with the DO-160 standard is a necessity and already common practice for us. Conversely, achieving DAL B for both hardware and software poses a significant challenge for many companies, one which they often fail to meet. It requires cutting-edge expertise from the entire team, special verification software and many years of experience — and MESIT has all of these capabilities," says Petr Kuneta, Technical Director of MESIT asd. Developing hardware and software in this safety category requires strict compliance with a large number of rules and analyses to verify functionality and safety in all operating conditions.

ECU 2133 control unit

Certification under EASA supervision is nothing new for MESIT; devices manufactured by its sister company, Aircraft Industries for the L 410 NG aircraft, have already undergone a similar process. However, the certification of the ECU 2133 control unit was significantly more complex and demanding.

"Our ability to develop and certify hardware and software in such a strict category puts us in a position to supply products to major manufacturers such as Airbus and Boeing," summarises Petr Kuneta. *"We are ready to supply these global leaders with cutting-edge technologies for the civil aviation sector."*

Thus, MESIT confirms its position as a world leader in avionics.

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ISL_MRO

– database for monitoring equipment reliability and life cycle

In order to effectively monitor the actual life cycle of equipment – whether as a whole or at the functional block level – it is necessary to have verified data from operation, maintenance, and repairs. These areas are covered by a data set known as Maintenance, Repair & Operation (MRO). In this context, I have to mention Professors Col. Šafr and Col. Stodola, who had a fundamental influence on my professional development during my studies at the Military University in Brno. At that time, the emphasis was placed primarily on the technical reliability and operational readiness of equipment – concepts that can now be linked to the principles of the later S4000P and S6000T standards.

Monitoring the life cycle during the ongoing rearmament of the Czech Armed Forces

The armed forces are currently in the preparatory phase of an extensive rearmament process. New acquisitions are made through public tenders and include both tactical and operational requirements as well as operational reliability requirements. In the area of maintenance, greater emphasis is placed on preventive procedures, and monitoring the life cycle of equipment, including the associated costs, is playing an increasingly important role.

The development of computer technology and the implementation of logistics information systems made it possible to process large volumes of data efficiently as early as the second half of the 20th century. In several previous articles, I have discussed the Information System for Logistics (ISL), which contains a significant amount of structured data. However, it is up to today's specialists to be able to use this data to manage the operational reliability of equipment. Although the current version of the ISL has extensive data at its disposal, advanced analytical functions are not yet embedded in it – mainly because the client did not request their implementation and gave priority to asset management.

Recording of operational data on operation and maintenance

In the context of today's emphasis on life cycle monitoring, it is important to note that the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces already have a unique database of MRO data. Operational data is recorded by the various levels of logistics, from battalions to workshops and repair facilities.

The database also contains comparative metrics for operations and maintenance management, from planning and recording measured indicators to evaluating them against set limits. These metrics – managed at the strategic level in the "standards, norms, and procedures" module – represent in practice the limits and conditions for the operation of equipment, for preventive or predictive maintenance, and also for implementation procedures. Essentially, these are outputs corresponding to the LSA logic according to S3000L.

Completeness and reliability of data – the basis for objective management

Continuously recorded data – based on the S5000F standard – make it possible to assess whether the equipment meets the parameters specified in the contractual and tactical-technical requirements. If the values are outside the defined tolerances, it is necessary to have available accurate and auditable data that can also be used in the complaint process.

It is also necessary to be able to assess the impact of changes in recommended maintenance procedures, the use of other operating fluids, or interventions in service intervals. Analysis of these changes can significantly affect the overall life cycle costs.

It is also important for the operator to have its own data. In practice, suppliers often seek

to obtain operational data for their internal research and analysis. If the operator did not have this data, they would be in a significantly weaker position when resolving any discrepancies. One solution is for the strategic level – as the owner of the data in ISL_MRO – to share this data according to clearly defined rules with both the manufacturer and internal specialist departments. Experience shows that many complaints originate from non-compliance with operational and technological conditions. In order for corrective measures to be taken, the operator must not only have the data, but also understand it.

ISL as a comprehensive logistics management tool

ISL is a comprehensive information system, whose important partner is the FIS economic information system. Together, they form the basis for calculating the total cost of equipment over its life cycle and over time.

ISL also has a robust database of material and spare parts stocks, broken down by purpose, location, and other parameters. This data supports key processes in the areas of supply, spare parts management, resource planning, mission preparation, and supplier management – all in accordance with S2000M standards. Material identification is standardized in accordance with ACodP-1. From my own experience, I can confirm that there are not many logistics information systems that are integrated in this way.

***

In 2025, the media reported about a planned increase in funding for the armed forces. However, the real economic situation suggests that increasing the efficiency of spending will be particularly important. The advantage of ISL is that it already provides extensive data that can be further used for life cycle management. Expanding the database or adding new data elements does not pose a significant problem for the system.

Users at the tactical and operational levels are familiar with it and use it extensively. Training is provided both by our own instructors and with the support of the supplier, which ensures consistency of processes and data flows across management levels. From the above, it is clear that ISL has the potential to fully support the implementation of S-series (Sx000) standards and is in line with the internal regulations of the Ministry of Defence and the Czech Armed Forces for asset management, operation, and maintenance of equipment.

The current supplier is prepared to cooperate on the addition of add-on modules for the management of the reliability of weapons and equipment and for the management of their life cycle.

Author: Jaroslav Řeha
Photo: AURA archive

BRNO ONCE AGAIN THE CENTER OF WORLD CODIFICATION

At the turn of August and September 2025, Brno became the meeting place for codification experts from around the world for the seventh time. The international codification courses known as NCS College, organized by the University of Defence in cooperation with the National Codification Bureau of the Czech Republic and supported by the AURA company, thus confirmed their long-standing position as the largest national training institution in the field of codification in the world. This year's edition was attended by 32 students from a total of 16 countries in Europe, Asia, and South America. A symbolic milestone was reached with the enrolment of the 200th graduate since 2012, when the Czech Republic took over the organization of the courses from the American NCB College in Battle Creek.

Codification courses

NCS College was held in two parts: a one-week course for managers and logisticians and a two-week course for codifiers. Participants learned about the principles of the NATO Codification System, the creation of NATO Stock Numbers (NSN), international

data exchange (NDER), and current trends in codification. The training was led by renowned current and former experts from the NATO Allied Committee AC/135, NSPA, national codification authorities, and industry partners.

Brno as genius loci

Brno is an ideal location for courses thanks to its strong background in military logistics. The University of Defence has long been involved in research and teaching of logistics and codification, and the city is also home to AURA, the supplier of MC CATALOGUE software, which is the most widely used codification system in the world. *"Thanks to the synergies between the University of Defence, the National Codification Bureau, and industry, course participants have the opportunity to learn in a unique environment where theory and practice meet,"* said Col. Petr Hlavizna, Vice-Rector for External Relations and Internationalization at the University of Defence. The importance of the Brno courses is also confirmed by feedback from participants. *"NCS College graduates are a key asset to the development of codification and logistical interoperability of our armed forces,"* said Neil Ledwith, Director of the National Codification Bureau of Ireland, which has been participating in the courses since their inception in 2012.

Community seminar

NCS College 2025 ended with a community seminar entitled "NCS College this year and next," at which the organizers announced that the next series of courses will again take place in Brno in 2027. The Czech Republic thus continues to confirm its position as an important centre of the international codification community.

Author: Antonín Svěrák
Photo: Viktor Sliva

TIYO DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY:
Responding to Growing EMC Testing Demands

Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) is the ability of electronic devices to operate reliably within their electromagnetic environment. Aerospace and defence applications include hundreds of electronic systems and components, for which thorough EMC testing during development is crucial to ensure flawless operation.

The team of the Tiyo development laboratory in Hořice builds on the company's thirty years of experience.

EMC testing is divided into two main categories. The first comprises immunity tests — evaluating a device's ability to resist interference from external electromagnetic sources. The second covers emission tests — verifying that the device itself does not emit electromagnetic noise that could affect other equipment. In both categories, tests include both radiated and conducted interference. EMC tests are almost always complemented by electrostatic discharge (ESD) testing.

"Our independent, accredited laboratory has been active in development and component testing for over twenty years. With an average of about 1,200 projects annually, we've seen quite a lot," says Vojtěch Kladívko, Team Leader of the EMC Group at Tiyo, based in Hořice, Czech Republic. *"We are well aware that EMC requirements are constantly becoming stricter — and rightly so, given the rapidly increasing demands for flawless functionality of interconnected systems operating under ever more challenging conditions,"* Kladívko adds.

To meet the growing demands of the aerospace, defence, and automotive industries, Tiyo has invested further in laboratory equipment and expanded its accreditation. As Jaromír Kejval, Technical Director and co-owner of the company, explains: *"By recently extending our accreditation to include EMC immunity and antistatic property testing, for example according to the PV 3977 standard, we have advanced our automotive testing capabilities and are now increasingly focused on the needs of the aerospace and defence sectors. We test in a semi-anechoic chamber measuring approximately 8 × 5 × 5 meters, equipped with a Rohde & Schwarz measurement system with a frequency range up to 26 GHz. We routinely supply components with AC power up to 400 V / 63 A or DC up to 1500 V / 300 A. Naturally, we also provide active cooling for tested devices and use an advanced monitoring system,"* adds Kejval.

Tiyo a.s., based in Hořice, is a privately owned Czech company with 160 employees and an annual turnover of CZK 360 million. It holds several quality certifications, including AS 9100, ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, and an information security system compliant with TISAX. The company is owned by its management team with the support of a Czech investment fund. Founded in 1993 (originally under the names SWELL and later Altran), Tiyo has built its expertise across development engineering, specialized production, and accredited testing — primarily serving the automotive industry. Today, the company's portfolio also includes numerous successful projects in aerospace manufacturing and space applications.

Author: Petr Havlík
Photo: Tiyo

The testing laboratory has recently expanded its accreditation to include EMC immunity testing.

The EMC chamber, measuring 7.8 × 5.3 × 4.8 m and equipped with a measurement system up to 26 GHz, enables advanced testing with active cooling of powered components or exhaust extraction.

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

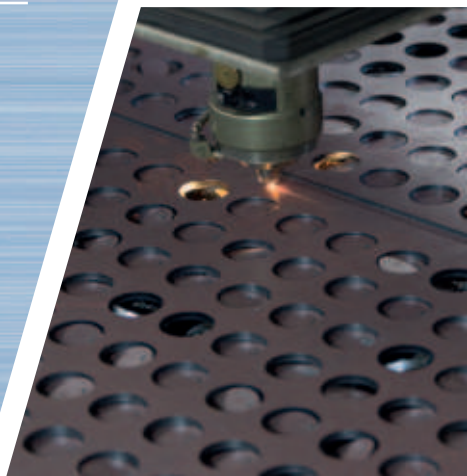
DILLINGER

DIFENDER 400
DIFENDER 450
DIFENDER 500
DIFENDER 600

MARS

INDUSTEEL

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



AKKODIS STRENGTHENS EUROPE'S DEFENCE READINESS

with Advanced Tactical Technology

As Europe navigates an increasingly complex and unpredictable security landscape, the demand for resilient, secure, and technologically superior defence capabilities continues to accelerate. Akkodis, a long-standing engineering and digital partner to leading defence manufacturers across the continent, is reinforcing this mission through both advanced consultancy and a growing portfolio of proprietary products designed for real-world operations.

Rugged Edge AI Computer

One of Akkodis' flagship concepts is the **Rugged Edge AI Computer**—a compact computing platform that delivers artificial intelligence directly to the tactical edge. Purpose-built for mission-critical defence environments, the system is engineered to withstand extreme temperatures, vibration, shock, and electromagnetic stresses. Its robust mechanical design, small footprint, and flexible I/O architecture enable:

- **Instant AI at the point of action** — real-time insights without dependency on cloud or long-range connectivity.
- **Resilience in contested environments** — continues operating when networks are jammed, degraded, or unavailable.
- **Autonomous & unmanned system capability** — onboard processing for navigation, targeting, and sensor fusion.
- **Reduced bandwidth & lower digital signature** — transmits only critical insights instead of full raw data streams.
- **Fast integration & platform upgrade path** — compact, rugged, and easily retrofitted into existing defence assets.

ATCP – Tactical Communications Platform

Complementing its edge computing solutions, Akkodis has also developed the **Akkodis ATCP**, a family of secure, high-resilience tactical communication units for both portable and vehicle-mounted deployment. Built for the harshest operational conditions, ATCP supports a wide range of communication channels and technologies in one platform, including:

- Fixed-line and IP networks
- 4G, 5G and LTE mobile communications
- MANET (Mobile Ad-Hoc Networks) for decentralized team connectivity

Fully interoperable with NATO standards, ATCP has been **field-proven with Norwegian special operations and conventional defence forces**, ensuring reliable connectivity during demanding missions. Beyond the battlefield, the platform has demonstrated dual-use value: during a major landslide disaster in Norway, ATCP served as the core communication backbone for emergency and rescue teams when other networks failed.

Building on this success, Akkodis is now developing the **Mini ATCP**—a lightweight 800-gram variant featuring an ARM-based architecture and rapid sensor deployment capabilities, ideal for dismounted troops, drones, remote sensors, and emergency response units.

Beyond tactical hardware, Akkodis contributes to strengthening Europe's defence autonomy through its deep expertise in **UAV propulsion system development and validation**. As unmanned aerial vehicles become essential for surveillance, reconnaissance, and tactical operations, reliable propulsion is a mission-critical capability. Based on customer requirements, Akkodis delivered complete system validation and verification for the MALE RPAS propulsion system, including

Ilustrative picture AI generated (ChatGPT, model GPT-5.1)

integration activities and software development for multiple propulsion functions on the Eurodrone platform. This work underscores Akkodis' ability not only to develop advanced subsystems but also to ensure they meet the rigorous standards required in the defence aviation domain.

Why Defence Partners Choose Akkodis

Akkodis combines engineering excellence with real-world operational insight, offering defence organizations a unique blend of innovation, reliability, and system-level expertise. Whether developing ruggedized hardware, ensuring secure battlefield communications, or delivering complex aerospace software and propulsion technologies, Akkodis provides solutions that accelerate capability development while reducing technical and project risk.

By partnering with Akkodis, defence customers gain access to a trusted European engineering powerhouse—one capable of supporting the entire lifecycle of advanced defence technologies, from concept and development to integration, validation and field deployment.

Upon request we will provide you more information about AKKODIS solutions for defence industry.

Our global expertise in the defence industry will be showcased at the **Akkodis Aerospace & Defence Industry Day**, which will take place on March 31st, 2026, in Prague. Interested participants can already register via email salescz@akkodis.com

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Industry leader Aerospace&Defence

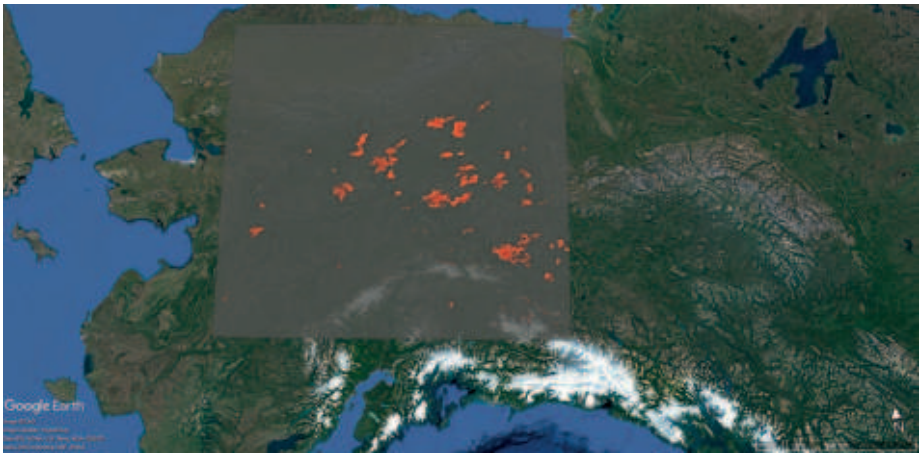
VSB TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA | FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE | DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS

DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM? DAM HAS A SOLUTION!

Partner of companies for advanced simulations, optimization and massively parallel computing

The Department of Applied Mathematics (DAM) at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science VSB-TUO was founded by Prof. Zdeněk Dostál in 1992. Since its inception, it has focused on mathematical modeling, numerical simulations and the development of algorithms for demanding engineering applications. Today, it is the only department in the Czech Republic that offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies in computational and applied mathematics, and at the same time provides the procedure for granting habilitation and professorship.

The department's strengths include connection with computer science and the National Supercomputing Center IT4Innovations, which was founded by DAM members. This is where its long-term specialization in massively parallel computing, which is a key area for modern research and industry, stems from. DAM also closely cooperates with the Institute of Geonics (IGN) at the Czech Academy of Sciences to solve a number of research projects and to educate students.



Detected fires using the PERMON library in an area of Alaska large 722,500 km^2 during 2004 from satellite images – collaboration with Argonne and Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

DAM has long been devoted to the development and implementation of advanced algorithms for large-scale numerical problems, whether it is quadratic programming (QP), domain decomposition methods, or solving problems in mechanics and flow. These include scalable methods such as FETI and BETI, which allow for numerical simulations of problems discretized by finite or boundary elements on thousands of processor cores and solve problems that are beyond the capabilities of conventional commercial software. Let us point out that mathematical modeling and numerical simulations are today an important pillar of scientific disciplines and for companies they mean a huge acceleration and reduction in the cost of developing their product or process by replacing time-consuming and financially demanding real experiments.

A typical example is the design of a car, whether in terms of strength or aerodynamics of the body. This year, DAM was invited to join a consortium led by Prof. Rolf Krause from KAUST in Saudi Arabia, which submitted an international project to improve and streamline numerical simulations of crash tests. It should be noted that in some cases, a real experiment is not feasible and we have to rely purely on numerical simulation – an example is the simulation of nuclear waste repositories in cooperation with IGN.

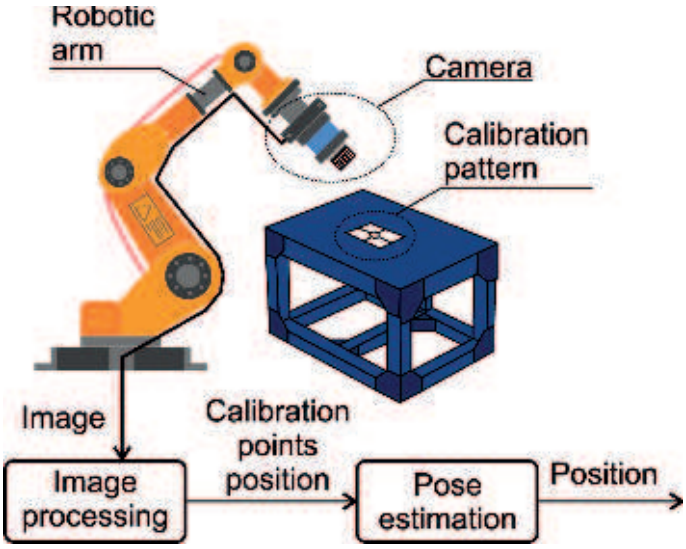
The PERMON library as a tool for large-scale problems

The open-source PERMON library is being developed by a group led by Assoc. Prof. David Horák in collaboration with IGN. PERMON extends the widely used PETSc library with efficient QP solvers, FETI methods and SVM-type machine learning implementations and has been noticed in recent years by US scientific teams at the Argonne and Oak Ridge National Laboratories. It was precisely in this collaboration that the reliability of automated forest fire detection from NASA satellite images was significantly improved, by approximately 15 percent, and at the same time the entire computational time was significantly reduced.

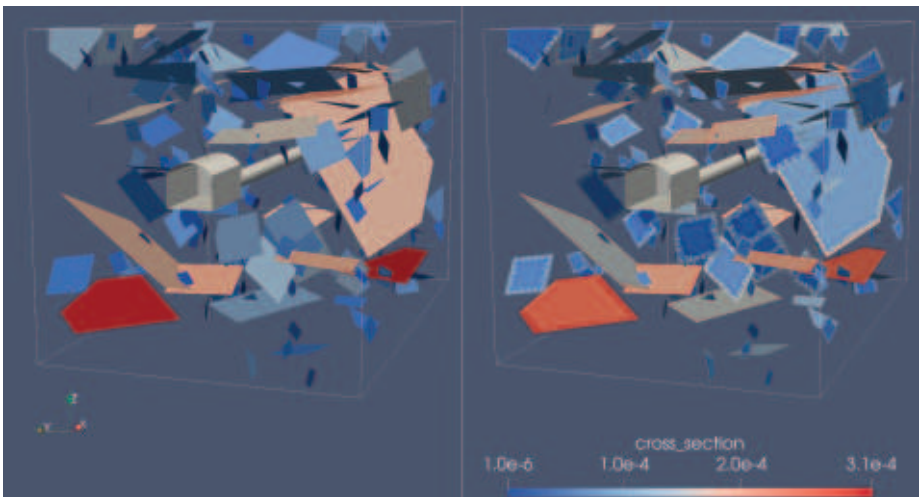
Applied research areas with an impact on practice

The research scope of DAM covers a wide range of areas: numerical methods in acoustics and electromagnetism implemented in the EasyBEM library, graph structures and their use, for example, in parallelization of computations, in scheduling or planning, geotechnical inverse problems or uncertainty modeling using Bayesian methods and physically-informed neural networks.

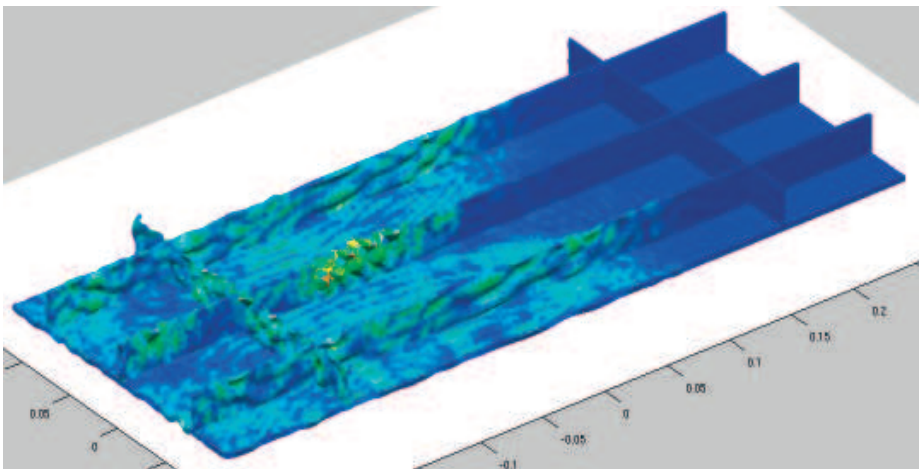
In the field of statistical data processing, we mainly deal with problems in which heterogeneous data from different sources are merged, often using specific expert information. Specifically, these include image data modeling (information extraction from DNA microarray chip images), spatial data modeling (3D blood vessel models from CT scans), or estimating and predicting the states of dynamic systems (determining the position of a robot based on sensory data).



Estimating the pose of a robotic arm using a camera and calibration pattern.



Simulation of the hydromechanical problem of fractures opening during tunnel excavation for the storage of spent nuclear fuel – 200 fractures modeled as contact problems at the beginning and after 360 days.



Airframe condition monitoring in collaboration with Honeywell – interaction of ultrasonic elastic waves with a crack around a rivet.

Other areas of research include the use of smooth and non-smooth optimization methods. We use these methods to solve shape optimization problems, flow problems, or to solve problems in the field of robotics. We were also significantly strengthened by the arrival of Prof. Ulrich Rüde, a world expert in large-scale parallel simulations of flows and granular systems, who joined us within the REFRESH project after working at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg and CERFACS.

Cooperation with world-class institutions

An important part of our work is international cooperation. We have long-term cooperation with, among others, MIT, Stanford University, University of Colorado, JKU in Linz, University of Graz, CSC Helsinki, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, KAUST, CTU in Prague and the Technical University of Liberec. These partnerships help us to maintain the top level of methods and transfer to applications the know-how that is usually born in an environment of absolute world excellence.

Do you have a problem?
We have a solution

We offer all of this experience and technology to industrial partners. We help solve problems that are extremely numerically demanding, require high-resolution simulation, or are unsolvable with commercial tools. We can significantly accelerate computational processes, design specialized, tailor-made algorithms, or integrate our libraries into existing systems. We also invite students and doctoral candidates to collaborate by working on projects as part of their final theses or joint research.

As Prof. Dostál says: *"Having a nice, interesting problem is half the battle."* If you have such a problem, whether in the form of demanding simulation, optimization, data analysis or design of a computational solution, contact us. The Department of Applied Mathematics at VSB-TUO can offer solutions that open up possibilities often beyond the reach of conventional software tools.

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Photo: am.vsb.cz/en

CZECH ARMS NOTCH ON THE AMERICAN MARKET

Since taking office, US President Donald Trump has been pushing European partners to further increase defence spending, which materialized at the NATO summit in The Hague in a commitment that in ten years it should be five percent of GDP for each member of the alliance (3.5 percent is to be spent on "hard" defence spending, 1.5 percent on building infrastructure or ensuring cyber security). Of course, Trump is counting, in the spirit of his idea of "transactional security", that Europe will buy mainly American weapons to fulfill this commitment.

And that's not all: in exchange for new 15 percent US tariffs on European goods, the Old Continent has committed itself to further purchases of American weapons and to investments in the US in the amount of 600 billion dollars. This caused quite a stir in the European Union. The question arises whether it is even realistic for something like this to be fulfilled. It is also being asked by the big EU players – Germany and France.

But now comes the surprising news that shows that smaller players are capable of playing an interesting game in the United States. MSM North America, a subsidiary of the global Czechoslovak Group (CSG), has been awarded a contract by the US Army to design, build and commission the most modern large-caliber ammunition filling facility in North America. The contract was signed on August 15th. A so-called "Apocalypse" will be built at a munitions plant in the state of Iowa. An artillery complex of the future, which will allow to fill 36 thousand artillery rounds of 155 mm caliber per month. And the price of the contract? $632 million (approximately CZK 13.2 billion).

The importance of this contract is especially special in light of the experience of the war in Ukraine, where it turns out that sufficient artillery ammunition is of fundamental importance for conducting combat operations in a tough conventional conflict. After all, the ammunition deficit on the part of Ukraine was a huge problem for it. And they could not even significantly help its allies – simply because there was a lack of ammunition production capacity.

The facility in Iowa will now contribute to strengthening the defence readiness of the United States and its alliance allies, with a company owned by the European Defence Industry Group playing a key role in this.

Crucially, unlike its competitors, CSG controls the entire production chain from raw materials such as TNT and nitrocellulose to finished ammunition of 155 mm, 120 mm and other calibers. It produces large-caliber ammunition and its components in plants in Spain, Germany, Serbia, Greece and Slovakia. This comprehensive approach ensures high-quality and reliable supply chains that enable CSG to meet NATO's stringent standards and provide critical defence needs, including significant deliveries of 155mm artillery ammunition and other types of large-caliber ammunition to Ukraine.

It should be added that for CSG, the contract for the production of ammunition is not the first major transaction on the highly competitive American market. It recently bought The Kinetic Group, which makes it the largest manufacturer of small-caliber ammunition in the Western world.

To sum up: the above acquisitions help maintain the line of the transatlantic partnership despite some change in US policy towards Europe. In any case, it also makes good advertising for the Czech Republic. And maybe Donald Trump or his entourage will notice it too…

Author: Miloš Balabán, Chairman of Prague Security Conference
Photo: MSM North America, MSM Slovakia

General Director of PBS Velká Bíteš Milan Macholán in the currently built DLT2 hall

PBS GROUP – A GLOBAL LEADER

in the development, production and innovation of small jet engines

PBS GROUP has become a symbol of the success of Czech engineering and aviation, rapidly establishing itself as a global leader in the development, production and innovation of small jet engines. Today, even major international defence players, including Lockheed Martin, MBDA, and Pratt & Whitney, seek out PBS products and collaboration opportunities. With the latter, the renowned U.S. engine manufacturer, PBS signed a contract in September this year to develop and produce a next-generation auxiliary power unit (APU). Yet partnerships with such prominent global brands represent only the visible tip of the iceberg. The year 2025 has been pivotal for PBS GROUP in many ways.

PBS GROUP is far from a newcomer in the field of small aircraft turbine engines. Products from its main production site in Velká Bíteš enjoy a strong global reputation and are highly valued by customers across continents. For many years, the Velká Bíteš plant served as the backbone of PBS's aerospace production. This year, however, a new chapter has begun with an additional manufacturing site opening in the United States, one of the most strategically important markets.

Production in the United States

In April, the group opened a new manufacturing facility under its subsidiary PBS AEROSPACE in Roswell, Georgia. Since September, the plant has been running serial production of the PBS TJ40 and PBS TJ80 turbojet engines. PBS has already invested over USD 20 million and plans to invest around USD 90 million more in another U.S. facility. The goal is to meet the rapidly growing demand of local customers—including the U.S. military—and reach annual production volumes of tens of thousands of engines within two years.

Alongside the start of serial production, PBS GROUP also inaugurated its new U.S. headquarters and an engineering development centre in Georgia. These serve as a hub for further expansion of the Czech manufacturer's activities in the country. "*Launching serial production and opening the new PBS AEROSPACE headquarters in the U.S. are strategic steps that bring us closer to our partners and customers in one of the world's most important markets. We are blending Czech engineering heritage with American dynamism and opportunity,*" said William Didden, President of PBS GROUP.

American customers rank among the company's most significant clients. "*The decision of our owner, Mr. William Didden, to expand investments and increase production capacity directly in the U.S. demonstrates our strong commitment to customers. It will accelerate*

PBS AEROSPACE – production launch ceremony

deliveries, enable faster development of custom applications, and support innovation. With the new development centre in Roswell, we can adapt our engines more quickly to customer-specific requirements and push performance parameters even further," explained Petr Kadner, CEO of PBS GROUP.

Behind the expansion in the United States are not only major investments but also significant effort. Given the work with the U.S. defence sector, PBS GROUP and its owner underwent rigorous security vetting—qualifying the company as a trusted, reliable supplier contributing to defence capabilities not only of the U.S., but also NATO partners and allied nations.

Growth and Modernization at PBS Velka Bites

The American expansion is only one part of the group's current growth story. Its Velká Bíteš facility—celebrating its 75th anniversary this year—has also seen a remarkable boom. The numbers speak for themselves: by August alone, the plant produced three times as many engines as in the entire year 2023. The workforce grew from 600 to 780 employees over the same period, and further recruitment continues. PBS GROUP has directed more than CZK 700 million in investments to Velká Bíteš, expanding production capacity for aviation technologies, completing a new manufacturing hall (DLT2), and carrying out extensive modernization.

"To meet the massive demand, we are completing the new DLT2 production hall—new equipment is being installed right now, and we are hiring additional staff. I expect production to start early next year," said Milan Macholan, CEO of PBS Velka Bites.

Additionally, PBS GROUP has invested another CZK 250 million into a new technical development division with offices in Prague, Brno, and the U.S. The aim is to accelerate development, production and testing processes. *"As we all know, technological progress in today's aviation and defence sectors—especially in drones and missiles—is extremely fast. This places significant demands on manufacturers like us. We are therefore exploring new methods and production approaches, including 3D printing of non-critical engine components,"* added CEO Petr Kadner.

PBS TJ200 – A New Engine for Modern Defence Platforms

Alongside its rapid expansion, PBS GROUP also achieved a major technological milestone this year: the launch of the PBS TJ200 jet engine, a groundbreaking addition to its portfolio of compact propulsion units designed specifically for current and future defence applications.

The company's most powerful engine to date introduces a completely new design philosophy. It offers an exceptional thrust-to-diameter ratio, low fuel consumption and easy integration into advanced unmanned platforms. With a continuous thrust output of 2,280 N and short-term thrust up to 2,700 N for 30 seconds, the TJ200 delivers over 50% more power compared to the previous PBS engine generation. This translates into higher payload capacity, greater operational flexibility and far broader use in defence systems.

Its diameter is more than 10% smaller, enabling optimized aerodynamics and reduced detectability of unmanned systems.

The engine is designed for dependable operation in demanding environments, with high availability, minimal logistical burden and long service life.

Thanks to its compact configuration, the PBS TJ200 can be integrated into a wide range of defence platforms—from tactical UAVs to high-speed target drones. Its simplified interface and modular architecture

PBS TJ200 engine christening ceremony at the Paris Airshow

PBS TJ200 engine

make it suitable for both existing programs and entirely new system development.

The PBS Engine Family

The new TJ200 enhances the already extensive PBS jet engine portfolio. At the foundation is the PBS TJ40—an ultra-compact solution for platforms with extreme space constraints, ideal for small UAVs and specialized applications.

The PBS TJ80-120 and PBS TJ100 engines serve as the proven workhorses of the lineup, powering numerous global unmanned aircraft programs and earning a reputation for reliability across diverse missions worldwide.

The PBS TJ150, delivering up to 1,500 N of thrust, builds on the successful design of the TJ100. It retains the same external diameter and weight while offering 20% higher thrust, making it ideal for high-speed UAVs and defence systems. It supports windmill start capability and is designed for salt-water landings.

The PBS TJ200 is not only the newest but also the most powerful member of the family.

Global Recognition and Continued Growth

PBS GROUP's engine portfolio has attracted strong interest from leading manufacturers in the aviation and defence industries worldwide. With production capabilities spanning from the Czech Republic to the United States, the group continues to grow its global footprint while maintaining the precision and craftsmanship of Czech engineering that has defined the company for more than two centuries.

Zevela
AMMUNITION

MILITARY AMMUNITION & PYROTECHNICS

VOP IN 2025:
preparing for CV90 and new projects

The year 2025 was one of the most important periods in recent years for the state-owned company VOP CZ. The company, based in Šenov near Nový Jičín, not only confirmed its role as a key player in the Czech defence industry, but also managed to launch several projects that could have a major impact on its future.

Shift towards modern technology and strategic programmes

One of the most significant moments of the year was the deepening of VOP CZ's involvement in the CV90 armoured vehicle programme, which will become the new backbone of the Czech Army's mechanised units. In 2025, the Ministry of Defence announced the start of negotiations with the company to provide complete service support for 246 CV90 vehicles throughout their life cycle, confirming that the state sees VOP CZ as a strategic partner that can provide the army with long-term support for state-of-the-art combat technology.

In addition to its service role, VOP CZ also continued to prepare for its involvement in the production and assembly of CV90 vehicles. For the company, the modernisation programme therefore represents not only new technological challenges, but also the development of completely new knowledge that can be used in other projects.

Repairs to Leopard 2A4 tanks: entry onto the international stage

In November, the military repair company signed a significant contract with the German company Rheinmetall. Thanks to this cooperation, it will participate in the servicing and repair of Leopard 2A4 tanks used by the Czech Army.

This agreement is an important step for VOP CZ, as the company will gain new experience in the maintenance of modern Western military technology. The contract is for seven years and includes a detailed plan for the gradual expansion of the scope of repairs. The goal is for VOP CZ to be able to handle the complete servicing of tanks, including any modernisations, by the end of this period.

Later this year, selected VOP CZ specialists will attend training directly in Germany at Rheinmetall. After that, service personnel, in cooperation with German experts, will be involved in tank maintenance directly at the Přáslavice garrison. The agreement also includes the possibility of creating a mobile service team that will be able to perform minor repairs directly at deployment sites outside the main base.

"For us, this contract is another important milestone, as it moves us towards a new type of Western technology. At the same time, it will provide us with the necessary repair know-how, which we will further develop and apply. We also want to cooperate with Rheinmetall on other projects in the field of ground equipment," said VOP CZ Director Ing. Vlastimil Navrátil MBA.

New generation of multifunctional "CAP Shadow tanker" tankers

VOP CZ will supply the Czech Army with a completely new generation of tankers capable of refuelling both air and ground equipment between 2026 and 2028. In addition to the fourteen tankers already mentioned, the

contract also includes an option for further tankers. Like its predecessors, the CAP Shadow tanker will be based on a TATRA FORCE chassis with a superstructure from the Jičín-based company KOBIT. Compared to its predecessors, the CAP-16M1, the tanker will feature a significant innovation, namely the ability to refuel both ground and air vehicles of all NATO member states. Another minor innovation is the addition of an AD Blue tank.

The total value of the contract is CZK 536 million excluding VAT. The Czech Armed Forces will receive the first prototype at the turn of 2026. The state-owned company has extensive experience with tankers. Last year, for example, it completed an order for more than two dozen CAPL-16M1 and CNS tankers for the Czech Armed Forces Air Force. The CAP Shadow tanker will thus become another addition to the "family" of tankers from the state-owned company VOP CZ.

Production of armoured cabins for the German KNDS

Another significant event of the year was the contract to weld 130 armoured cabins for the German army. The company is a leader in the field of welding armoured structures. In the past, for example, it has produced Pandur armoured vehicles. *"The current assembly and service workshops are being converted into new workshops that will focus on welding cabins,"* says Lukáš Drábek, Technical Director of VOP CZ. Before starting series production, the company must produce a test cabin, which will then be sent to Germany for firing tests. The German customer will then receive the first series-produced units at the turn of the year. For the company, this means not only interesting international cooperation, but also technological advancement. It is one of the projects that brings VOP CZ significantly closer to Western defence industry standards.

Investments, preparations and modernisation

In order to be able to handle new strategic tasks, the company continued with the extensive modernisation of its facilities in 2025. Investments are currently being made in production halls, a testing ground and technical equipment. The company has invested more than sixty million crowns in preparations for the production of CV90 armoured vehicles.

New programme for former members of the Czech Armed Forces

In the autumn of 2025, the state-owned company introduced an employee programme for former members of the Czech Armed Forces called New Mission. With this programme, VOP CZ wants to appeal even more strongly to former and current members of the Czech Armed Forces who are considering a change of job. The company offers them the opportunity to apply their experience and knowledge from the military world and continue to work in an environment close to the army.

"Such employees are worth their weight in gold to us. They are highly disciplined, hard-working people with knowledge of military technology and the military environment. The programme is aimed primarily at soldiers who have served as specialists in various fields, from drivers and car mechanics to IT specialists," said Zdenka Brettschneiderová, head of the human resources department.

As part of the New Mission programme, the company offers participants support in finding the optimal job position within the company, the possibility of retraining and mentoring from experienced colleagues. Former members of the army can thus find employment in both production and administrative positions. In the future, for example, they can participate in the servicing and repair of CV90 armoured vehicles and Leopard 2A4 tanks for the Czech army, work on the production of military weldments or get involved in other projects of the Military Repair Company.

VOP CZ employs several dozen former members of the Czech Armed Forces across the entire company.

Photo: VOP CZ

RENOMIA PROVIDES CARGO INSURANCE FOR UKRAINE

For several months now, RENOMIA specialists have been helping companies obtain unique insurance for shipments of civilian and military supplies to Ukraine, including military cargo and war risk coverage. This insurance is particularly important for companies that export to or are involved in the reconstruction of country affected by conflict. RENOMIA has already helped insure several major projects involving cargo to areas close to the front line.

"War risk insurance for land cargo was virtually unavailable on the local market. However, RENOMIA found and successfully implemented a solution that allows companies to safely transport goods to Ukraine," says Roman Sluka, Director of Transport Risks at RENOMIA. Thanks to its cooperation with leading global reinsurers, the company offers all-risk cargo insurance, including additional war risk insurance for land transport. Coverage includes risks such as hitting a mine or direct damage from armed conflict.

Insurance can be arranged for unoccupied Ukrainian territories, enabling companies to continue their business activities even in extreme conditions. *"A major advantage is the possibility of extending the cargo insurance to include on-site storage, with additional war risk coverage still included,"* adds Roman Sluka from RENOMIA.

Projects that have already been implemented include insuring the renovation of energy infrastructure in the Zaporizhzhia region near the front line, and insuring supplies to repair the electricity transmission system in the Mykolaiv region. Even seemingly complicated cases can be insured, such as transporting aircraft engines to a repair shop that had been bombed earlier during the conflict. In this instance, the insurance also covered the period during which the engines were being overhauled.

About RENOMIA GROUP:

RENOMIA GROUP is one of the most important international companies in the insurance and risk management sector. Founded in 1993 by Jiřina Nepalová and her sons, Jiří and Pavel, the company has grown significantly since then. The company aims to provide clients with quality care based on in-depth knowledge of specific sectors, while defending their interests in the insurance market. RENOMIA is a family business with an international background. Through its subsidiaries, it operates in 13 European countries. Thanks to its partnership with Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., the third-largest company in the industry, RENOMIA can take care of its clients anywhere in the world.

Roman Sluka, Director of Transport Risks at RENOMIA

FIRST GREEN ELECTRIC MACHINES PUSH THE BOUNDARIES OF SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The growing emphasis on safety, sustainability, and operational efficiency is shaping the direction of development in the defence and security industries. One of the global leaders in this transition to clean technologies is the Czech company First Green Industries (First Green), which develops and manufactures fully electric skid steer loaders designed for a wide range of civilian and defence applications.

First Green machines are 100% electric, quiet, and emission-free. They comply with ESG standards and, thanks to advanced technologies, outperform their diesel counterparts in many respects. With low operating costs, modular construction, and remote control and teleoperation capabilities, they open new possibilities in areas where both efficiency and maximum safety are essential.

In the defence and security sector, remote-controlled and cabinless models are particularly useful. They are suitable for demining, material handling, or operations in contaminated or hazardous environments. These machines can operate in places humans cannot enter – remotely controlled, with minimal emissions and thermal footprint – effectively transferring some of the risk from people to machines.

First Green collaborates with several government institutions in EU member states, and its machines are already deployed in real-world missions, including Ukraine, where they assist in demining and rescue operations. Thanks to their modular design and wide range of accessories, they can be configured for specific mission needs, making them an exceptionally flexible solution for diverse deployments. With over 750 machines produced, First Green proves that electric technology can be not only environmentally friendly but also a strategic choice for modern militaries, rescue services, and crisis operations.

MAJOR CHANGES AT EXPLOSIA

Building the Future of Czech Defence

Explosia a.s. is entering a period of significant change that is reshaping not only the company's strategy, but also its role—particularly within the defence industry. The new strategy is already reflected in concrete projects and provides a clear direction for the coming years. In doing so, the company is strengthening its position as a modern, innovative and long-term stable partner of the defence sector, with production capacities located in the Czech Republic.

Roman Příhonský

Ondřej Havlík

"Explosia a. s. is actively working to ensure supplies of key military calibres that are essential for the Land Forces of the Czech Armed Forces and other NATO allies. Together with its key partners, the company has already begun developing propellants for the 12.7 mm and 30 mm calibres and is now working on a new fully combustible case for 120 mm tank ammunition," said Sales Director Roman Přihonský, MMS, MSS.

In parallel, qualification testing is underway for fully combustible modules for the 155 mm calibre—an important step toward ensuring compatibility and full support for the newly introduced Caesar 155 mm self-propelled howitzers in the Czech Republic.

The aim is to strengthen the development of the Czech Armed Forces' key capabilities by reinforcing domestic production, thereby increasing the defence readiness and self-sufficiency of the Czech Army.

"The development of the company's product portfolio concerns not only the defence sector but also the civilian one. The company is completing the development of new energetic materials for civil applications, where it plans to increase its market share in the coming years," stated Vice-Chairman of the Board Ondřej Havlík.

However, the strategic changes go far beyond product development. By 2030, Explosia a. s. plans extensive modernisation and automation of its production processes. These steps aim to increase productivity, manufacturing precision and the ability to respond swiftly to specific market demands in both the defence and civilian sectors.

A key part of the long-term strategy remains personnel development—because the heart of Explosia is its people. The company intends to continue strengthening their expertise while consistently improving working conditions.

These efforts include fostering a corporate culture rooted in respect for tradition, one that encourages innovation, supports long-term commitment and enables employees to actively participate in shaping the company's future. In doing so, Explosia a.s. is not only building a strong and stable workforce community, but also reinforcing its position as a modern and responsible company ready to face the challenges of the future.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE 2ND EDITORIAL BOARD

On December 3rd 2025, the second extraordinary meeting of the Editorial Board of Review – The Defence and Security Industry Magazine took place at the premises of OPTOKON a. s.

The extraordinary meeting was opened by the Chief Executive Officer of OPTOKON a. s., Jiří Štefl. He introduced the members of the Editorial Board not only to the core activities of OPTOKON—a leading global manufacturer of optical equipment and a supplier of optical infrastructure for enterprises of all sizes—but also to its regional branches and worldwide network of subsidiaries.

OPTOKON designs and delivers advanced optical infrastructure, ruggedized equipment, and tactical communication systems for defence, industry, and critical environments.

During the meeting, cooperation with Review – The Defence and Security Industry Magazine was also discussed, specifically further proposals for new topics, expansion of the distribution network, and highlighting the growing importance of the magazine in facilitating communication between industry and state and public administration, and in effectively linking these sectors, which is the primary purpose of Review.

At the conclusion of the programme, members of the Editorial Board were given a guided tour of the facilities, including the OPTOKON Test Bench, the OPTOKON Accredited EMC Testing Laboratory, and part of the Vysočina Data Centre.

Prepared by Šárka Cook
Photos: Lauren Imari Cooková and OPTOKON, a. s.

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

New issue of Review 4/2025

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ATS-TELCOM PRAHA a. s.

ATS TELCOM

ATS-TELCOM PRAHA a.s. has successfully participated in a public call within the PRODEF program, which supports applied research and innovation in the defence industry. In cooperation with the Brno University of Technology (VUT) and the University of Defence (UNOB), the company is implementing an applied research project titled "Adaptive Monitoring of Hybrid Threats in the Cyber and Information Environment."

The project's primary objective is to research and develop an adaptive system for collecting and analyzing large volumes of open-source data aimed at detecting threats such as influence operations, forms of extremism, and radicalization in cyberspace. The system focuses on the indexed internet, social networks, and communication platforms.

A key part of the research involves the development of emulated autonomous users that operate within various digital environments. These agents monitor cyberspace and base on content, sentiment, participant behavior, and other relevant attributes, automatically identify and report potential threats for further evaluation.

The project also addresses the technical challenges of an evolving digital ecosystem, where online platforms may block or dynamically alter automated data collection and analysis tools.

Beyond the defence sector, the project's results will be applicable to other domains requiring the analysis of large volumes of sensitive information. To meet these needs, the project employs advanced data structures, statistical methods, and deep learning techniques, particularly language models—to identify intelligence-relevant information and gain situational awareness of cyber activities.

By enabling faster responses to dynamic developments in cyberspace, the project aims to enhance decision-making at both strategic and tactical levels.

www.atstelcom.cz

ADVANCED SOLUTIONS FOR THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF SECURITY

In the era of hybrid threats, it is becoming increasingly clear that robust physical security is just as essential as cybersecurity. Many organizations invest heavily in encryption and network protection, yet overlook the fact that the easiest path to breaching their defences is often through physical access, whether to a computer inside an internal network, a server room, or even a safe containing their most sensitive documents.

The market offers a wide range of locks, safes, and access control systems, as well as a large number of vendors offering these solutions. At best, they can list the standards a given product meets, but they often know very little about practical attack methods or the limitations of certification tests. As a result, they tend to sell an illusion of security rather than actual security. The real limits of protection are best understood by those who specialize in defeating it.

The company MPM Lock Decoders focuses on non-destructive techniques for defeating high-security locks. The company develops and manufactures advanced, highly effective tools designed for government agencies and selected professionals. Its core products include decoders for certified key-operated safe locks, intelligent autodialers for combination locks, and a range of specialized tools and techniques for bypassing locks and cylinders. All tools are designed with a strong emphasis on quality, reliability, and maximum operational effectiveness in the field. This is why they have become a standard part of the equipment of experts and government institutions in more than 25 countries worldwide, who value not only the technical and manufacturing quality, but also the speed of innovation and the ability to respond rapidly to new challenges.

Beyond tool development, MPM Lock Decoders also provides expert training, security testing, and consulting for organizations that need to understand the real level of their physical security. This approach goes far beyond meeting formal criteria required by national regulations, NIS2, or other standards. Clients who seek out the company are not looking for a simple confirmation that they have "met the standard." They want to know who could bypass their security system, by what methods, in what timeframe and, most importantly, how to effectively prevent such scenarios.

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29th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AOBP:

Stronger, more connected, more ambitious

On June 5th 2025, the 29th General Assembly of the Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic (AOBP) took place at the Brno University of Technology. The meeting offered not only a summary of the past year but also a clear vision of where AOBP is heading at a time of rapidly changing security dynamics and growing European debates on defence capabilities.

In recent months, the Association has significantly strengthened its position. Its membership base has grown by nearly 40% and now includes more than 220 companies across the defence, security, technology and research sectors. AOBP has also been actively opening new export opportunities — from European markets to the Middle East and Southeast Asia. A key topic was the financing of defence projects and developing dialogue with the banking and investment sectors.

The Association further deepened cooperation with the Czech public administration, European institutions and international partners. It contributed to a number of expert events, educational programmes and initiatives supporting innovation in defence and security technologies. Thanks to these activities, AOBP has reinforced its role as a stable and respected partner not only for domestic institutions but also on the international stage.

AOBP also expressed its thanks to all its members for their trust and active support. It is precisely thanks to their engagement that the Czech defence and security industry can continue to play an increasingly important role both at home and abroad.


AOBP
THERE IS NO DEFENCE
WITHOUT INDUSTRY
PATRIOT

TOSHULIN AND TOS KUŘIM: NEW MANUFACTURING POWERHOUSE IN CZECH ENGINEERING

On August 1, 2025, a significant change in the Czech machine tool industry came into effect. TOSHULIN, a. s. completed its merger with its subsidiary TOS KUŘIM – OS, a. s., creating one of the most comprehensive machine tool manufacturers in the country. The merger is the result of long-term strategic cooperation and is intended to strengthen the ability of both brands to respond to growing technological demands and global competition.

Both companies are traditional Czech manufacturers with a strong export focus and a strong technical base. TOSHULIN is known for its vertical lathes and machining centers designed for medium-sized and large parts. TOS KUŘIM has long been one of the leading producers of multifunctional portal centers, horizontal machining centers, and large vertical lathes. The combination of these specializations creates a robust portfolio that covers a wide range of machining needs, from universal solutions to highly customized machines.

The merger primarily brings together development, production, and business strategies. This will enable more efficient project management, accelerate the innovation process, and provide greater flexibility in meeting customer requirements. The manufacturer will thus be able to offer a comprehensive solution including research, design, production, and after-sales service under one strong brand.

The newly formed group aims not only to strengthen its position on the domestic market, but also to continue to grow abroad, where both brands have been operating for a long time. The merger is seen as an important step towards strengthening the competitiveness of Czech engineering and the further development of technologically demanding projects.

The merger of TOSHULIN and TOS KUŘIM thus represents a significant boost for the entire industry. A stronger and more innovative partner for customers around the world is being created under one roof.

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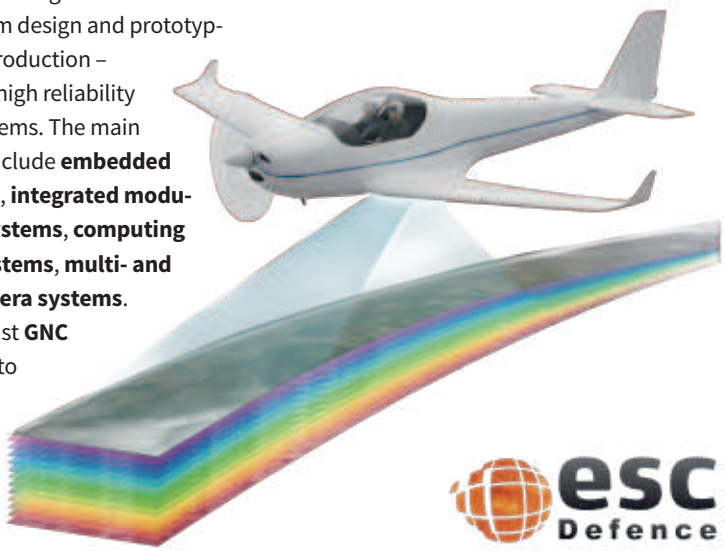
esc Defence s. r. o.

esc Defence is one of the leading Czech technology companies, with extensive expertise and many years of practical experience in developing of hardware and software solutions for Ground, Air, and Space missions. ESC develops tailor-made technologies for customers in both the defence and civil sectors.

ESC is currently working on the development of a unique **modular multispectral camera system** designed for ground and air applications for the purpose of recognizing and tracking targets, which may include both static and moving objects. Through a special composition of evaluated spectral bands, the system will be able to recognize even camouflaged objects and track them during the day or night, and under adverse conditions. ESC is also developing a computing unit for image processing and real-time evaluation of objects of interest for this camera system. The main advantages of this system will be its **wide operating temperature range**, **compactness** with an emphasis on minimal size and weight, and its **deployability** with the possibility of installation on aircraft, UAS, or ground vehicles. The system will be expandable with data storage capabilities for data archiving and additional analysis, or training and updating of the employed AI modules. The system also has applications in the field of environmental monitoring, such as tracking changes in vegetation, water resources, animal migration, etc.

ESC professionally manages the entire development cycle – from design and prototyping to testing and production – contributing to the high reliability of the resulting systems. The main areas of expertise include **embedded electronic systems**, **integrated modular avionics**, **bus systems**, **computing units and RTOS systems**, **multi- and hyperspectral camera systems**. ESC also offers robust **GNC solutions** resistant to jamming, suitable for demanding operational environments, and specializes in intelligence and surveillance systems using AI algorithms for detection, recognition, and tracking of targets.

The company has long-term experience in international projects (EDF) and actively contributes to the development of a modern, innovative, and sustainable European defence industry.



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The company focuses on continuous innovation and tailor-made solutions for demanding and highly specialized applications, many of which are used in modern defence and security technologies – from specialised vehicles to mobile robotic platforms.

Hronovský s. r. o. is further expanding its production capacities and investing in automation,quality assurance and the professional development of its employees, contributing to technologies that strengthen security and industrial resilience in the Czech Republic and abroad.

www.hronovsky.cz

VAKUFORM s. r. o. (Ltd.)

VAKUFORM s. r. o. (Ltd.) is a Czech company, which is active in:

- development , production and marketing of medical devices for urgent prehospital care (fixation devices and transport devices for emergency transport);
- development , production and marketing of devices for both civil and military sections of the Rescue System in the Czech Republic and abroad (medical and rescue backpacks, medical bags, ampoule cases, cases for personal first aid kits, waist pouches, special cases, accessories for triage of injured persons during mass casualty incident;
- development , production and marketing of high frequency welded products;
- development , production and marketing of sewing products.

VAKUFORM® products has been using by eight NATO armies since 1997 and the total number of products with NSN is currently 41.

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