



INVESTOR ROKU
INVESTOR OF THE YEAR
2004

Investment with the Greatest Innovation Potential

1st Place

SKODA AUTO

The largest Czech automaker - SKODA AUTO a.s. - has decided to build its technology centre for research, development and testing of passenger cars in Mlada Boleslav. It plans to invest more than forty million euro into construction and to create 370 new job opportunities mostly for mechanical engineers and electrical engineers. The investment in Mlada Boleslav is now the second announced expansion of Skoda Auto this year.

According to Chairman of the Board Detlef Wittig, investment into the company's own development is necessary because of the forthcoming expansion in the number of model lines. Skoda now produces the Fabia, Octavia and Superb models. Next year they will introduce the Skoda Roomster model and are considering series production of the Yeti off-road vehicle. They will appear on the market in 2008 at the earliest. Skoda announced back in April that it is investing three billion crowns into its subsidiary plant in Kvasiny and will create over 2000 new jobs there. After the expansion the Kvasiny plant should also produce the Roomster in addition to the Superb. The investment will include, for example, construction of a new logistics centre, lay-bys for produced vehicles, an employee parking lot, bus station and a new gatehouse for trucks.



From the left: Patrick Daems, Chief Executive and member of the Board of Directors of CSOB, Detlef Wittig, Chairman of the Skoda Auto Board of Directors, Martin Jahn, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs

2nd Place

Tyco Integrated Systems

What countries did you choose from when deciding on which country to place your investment and why did you decide to invest in the Czech Republic?

We compared Europe with Asia first and decided to stay in Europe because of the proximity to existing design centres in London and Munich including similar cultural background, similar education, same time zone etc.. In Europe the Czech Republic was our no. 1 choice as we got already several operations here including a development team in Tyco Fire & Security in Zettler s.r.o. where we had very good experience. We validated this choice by comparing factors with neighbouring countries and beside low salary costs the high rate of technical graduates and generally the high value of technical education in Czech Republic confirmed our choice.

In what way did investment incentives influence your decision on investment location?

It was not the primary reason, but without an incentive program it would have been difficult to justify the financials. We definitely would have looked at other options then.

What plans do you have here for the future? Are you planning a further expansion of your activities?

No fixed plans but options for extension of the r&d activities as well as production especially for final assembly.



Juergen Dulling, Design Centre Manager Brno, Tyco Integrated Systems

From the left: Jurgen Dulling, Development Centre Manager, Tyco Integrated Systems, CSA President Jaroslav Tvrdek, Minister of Industry and Trade Milan Urban

3rd Place

Ricardo Prague

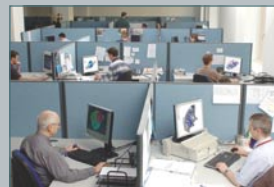
What countries did you choose from when deciding where to place your investment and why did you decide to invest in the Czech Republic?

We chose from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary. There were two decisive factors: knowledge of automotive industry history in Central Europe, i.e. the automotive tradition in the Czech Republic; personal knowledge and experience (from the time of privatization in the Czech Republic).

What plans do you have here for the future? Are you planning a further expansion of your activities?

We plan to more than double the number of employees and to build up our standard portfolio. From the signals we've been getting from the parent company we can expect further expansion of the company's portfolio also into non-traditional areas. Any changes in our plans of course will depend on the development in the Czech Republic and in the automotive industry globally.

Vladimir Volak, CEO, Ricardo Group



From the left: Pavel Pilat, Metrostav Commercial Manager, Vladimir Volak, CEO, Ricardo Prague, CzechInvest CEO Radomil Novak