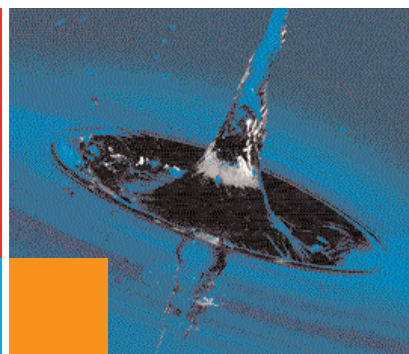


Environmental Technologies



More and more attention is being paid to the development and application of environmental technologies. The Czech Republic has experienced a dynamic shift towards a positive environmental legislation strategy in the past decade. The European Commission considers this sector to be the keystone of the further economic development of EU countries. The Czech Republic encourages both first and second generation environmental technologies to be used in all sectors of the economy.

The highest share of overall investment in the protection of the environment is accounted for by climate protection and waste water treatment, with the absolute prevalence of investment in first generation technologies. The ongoing extensive gasification of towns and municipalities as well as subventions for renewable energy sources are examples of substantial investments in second generation environmental technologies.

Many Czech companies have focused on the development and manufacturing of first generation environmental technologies, aiming to curb the negative impact of human involvement such as water treatment plants, desulphurisation plants, separators, waste dumps, incineration plants, waste treatment plants, etc.

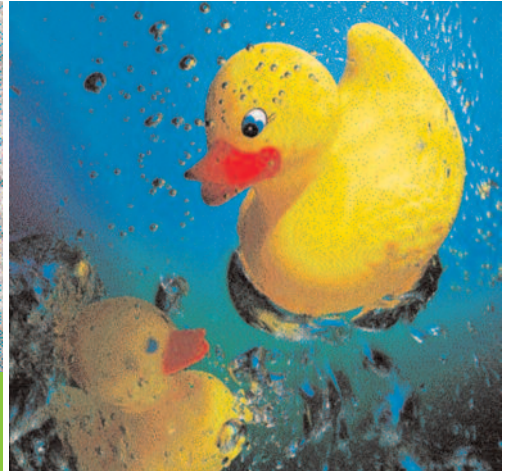
Czech companies involved in waste management possess the latest technologies available for the processing of waste from electric and electronic equipment, such as recycling and plasma melting technologies. A number of waste processing companies are successful not only in the Czech market but also in the EU; they have their own R&D centres and offer high quality services in the field of the environmentally friendly disposing and processing of compound waste to EU partners.

Companies recycling plastic waste into fully recyclable products which are highly weather resistant with excellent mechanical characteristics have built a strong position in the European market. These products include, for example, plastic grass pavements, plastic garden paths and bed edging or anti-noise screens and plastic boards for construction and agriculture. Most of the production is exported to the EU as well as to other countries. The Czech Republic is a major European producer of PET staple fibres and cables. Top quality products known under the Tesil trade name are entirely manufactured from recycled PET bottles and are delivered to many foreign countries, e.g. to the automotive sector.

Companies focused on the environmental disposal of used tyres have been successfully developing their activities in the past few years. Some of them possess unique technologies for tyre processing, such as cryogenic base and anaerobic thermolysis technologies.

The country holds a strong position in the development and production of water treatment facilities, primarily due to the involvement of science institutes and universities in research programmes. Key products in this sector include municipal water treatment plants, waste water treatment plants, machinery for mechanical wastewater pre-treatment and secondary treatment, instruments and sensors for measuring flow rate, drive unit systems for fluid and transmission and press sewer systems.

Research into and the development of photovoltaics in the Czech Republic has gradually grown. Due to the specialised departments of the Academy of Science of the CR and the high level of the universities, the Czech Republic has recorded significant success in this field. The research is prima-



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rily focused on perspective processing technologies and specialised and highly effective structures for solar panels. As proof of the success, one of the leading solar industry companies worldwide - German Shott Solar - opened a plant for the production of solar panels in Valašské Meziříčí in the Zlín region, manufacturing photovoltaic modules for solar energy production using renewable energy sources. Most products manufactured in the Czech state-of-the-art plant are exported to European markets.

The Czech Republic is a country using high-tech technologies in a whole range of industrial and agricultural segments and there is large potential for their further development. Environmental technologies will be used to a wider extent not only in Europe; they are also a potential export article helping to eliminate environmental burdens at the place of installation. The European Commission also pays great attention to know-how transfer in the field of environmental technologies and eco-innovations, primarily to the third world countries.

In order to encourage Czech companies in the exporting of services and technologies in water management, the Czech government agency CzechTrade encouraged the establishment of the export alliance Czech Water Alliance. Another export alliance supported by CzechTrade is the Water Treatment Alliance, associating companies involved in water treatment. Its main objective is to enter new markets with deliveries of technological units for water treatment. Members of the alliance include two universities closely cooperating within the technology and R&D transfer. The Czech Water Technologies Alliance associates a group of Czech firms with experience in the area of water management. The main activities of the association are aimed at the exporting of water and water treatment technologies and equipment to foreign markets.



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