

Czech Aviation initiated international research project

The Association of Aviation Manufacturers of the Czech Republic (ALV) has taken the initiative to prepare a large international project aimed at needs of the aerospace industry covering the branch of small regional aeroplanes for 5 up to 15 passengers. The leading part was played by the ALV president and a board member of ASD (AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe) - Mr Milan Holl, who by his active approach managed to prepare necessary conditions for the project.

The project proposal entitled as CESAR (Cost-Effective Small AiRcraft) was submitted for the 3rd call of the 6th Framework Programme (6th FP EU). Framework Programmes belong to European Commission's schemes supporting research and technological development in many areas, including aeronautics.

Research and development activities will lead to the definition of a new development concept for this aeroplane category to enable a significant development cost reduction and a shorter time-to-market the aeroplane. At the same time the project will also deal with critical aircraft systems of crucial influence on operation cost reduction and improvement in passenger safety.

The project will run for three years with a budget of nearly 34 million Euro and with EU contribution of more than 18 million Euro. There are 40 organizations from 14 European countries participating in the project, 11 come from the Czech Republic.

The preparation of a project proposal was committed to VZLÚ (Aeronautical Research and Test Institute), which is also the project coordinator. The project proposal was drafted by an international team headed by Mr Karel Paiger of VZLÚ. After more than one-year preparation the project passed the evaluation process of the European Commission with positive rating, the project itself starts during the first half of 2006.

It is for the first time in the history of Framework Programmes that a project of this kind concerning small aeroplanes has been opened up for grants. Another plus is the fact that this is the industrial segment the Czech aeronautical industry has been traditionally aimed at. This international success proves that the Czech aviation has been fully integrated into the European Research Area.

