

The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The flag is draped and wavy, creating a sense of movement.

Newsletter

Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency

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to the USA*

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Investment mission to the USA

Minister of Economy Juraj Miskov and the head of the Slovak Agency for Investment and Trade Development (SARIO) Robert Simoncic started to present Slovakia in the USA as a country open for new foreign investments. "We would like to boost the share of US investments in Slovakia," stated Miskov at a press conference on Thursday. The Economy Minister and SARIO chief believe that they will succeed on their business trip and attract US investors to Slovakia (more on page 4).

Work for IT specialists

Dell subsidiary in Bratislava will open new jobs. The U.S. IT giant had to bolster its position in Slovakia after it had taken over its rival Perot System. "As a result of this acquisition twelve new jobs for experts have been opened in Dell's European commercial center in Bratislava," the company's management informed. Dell will primarily seek first-class IT staff.



Energy from biomass

The company Energy Edge has been building a biomass-fired power plant on the premises of the former Preglejka company in Zarnovica. Power from the plant will be directed to the grid operated by power distributors. Construction works started in September 2010 and are slated to finalize in August 2011. The company plans to employ 16 people at the initial operation stage, and their number is to grow gradually. Investments are projected at € 40 million. The town of Zarnovica opened a solar power plant in January.

Billion investment

Car manufacturer Volkswagen Slovakia plans to invest €EUR 1 billion in Slovakia in production of cars and car components over the next five years. "We will focus on new production technologies and expansion of production of cars in Bratislava and car components in Martin in the coming five years. The volume of investments will double versus the previous five-year period. This plan confirms

that VW is very serious about its growth in Slovakia," VW Slovakia's BoD chairman Andreas Tostman commented on the plans.

The carmaker plans to build an EUR 85 million press shop at its Bratislava plant and wants to hire 97 people for the new facility. The company wants to start the construction in the second half of this year and finish it in late 2012. The press shop on 19,000 square meters should expedite 580 containers of sheet metal daily.



Infrastructure investment

Construction of infrastructure in the Industrial Zone Podskala, in the complex of the former plant Piloimpregna, will be the most important investment of Spisska Nova Ves this year. The total investment in the industrial zone records more than EUR 2.9 million. Roughly 500 jobs should be created here after opening.

1,000 job opportunities

Approximately 1,000 new jobs should be created in the village of Hradok, in Nove Mesto nad Vahom district. The Bratislava-based firm Villian Invest plans to build there an industrial park with an area of 192,597 square meters worth EUR 39.5 million. According to investment plans that the company has already submitted for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the construction of the park should start in June of this year and its completion is planned two years later. The investor wants to build seven production and assembly halls and storage and office space. The park should concentrate on light mechanical engineering and electrotechnical production, as well as logistics. 450 parking spaces should be part of the project, with 10 spaces for trucks.

Kosice mega-project

People in eastern Slovakia will have more job opportunities. A mega-project offering administrative premises valued at millions of euro will be erected in the center of Kosice. "On the whole, we will lease some 24,000 square meters of office area and the center is expected to employ about 2,000 people," said authorized representative of Casa Invest Stefan Janovcik. Although works on Downtown Business Center have not yet started, 50 % of offered offices have been booked already.

Stable outlooks

Bank analysts' outlooks regarding economic growth and inflation in Slovakia this year remain stable in February. According to the banks, Slovak economy should grow by 3.6 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) this year. Analysts predicted the same growth a month ago. This year's growth of consumer prices remains unchanged, too. Harmonized inflation is still expected to reach 3.7 percent, according to the February round of a regular survey of the National Bank of Slovakia (NBS) among analysts of commercial banks.

Slovaks will be constructing in Serbia

The Slovak company Euroframe will lead a consortium, which will take part in construction of a gas pipeline in Serbia. The Ministry of Economy informed that the Skalica-based company would cooperate with the Serbian company Srbijagas Novi Sad on construction of a regional gas pipeline from Alexandrovac to Novi Pazar. "The Slovak consortium led by the company Euroframe has offered the Serbian side financial participation in the project and the possibility of extending the gas pipeline to the city of Tutin and further to Montenegro," stated the Ministry of Economy. Euroframe has also confirmed its interest in construction of underground gas reservoirs in the territory of Serbia.

Heating plants for sale

The Cabinet agreed to sell the country's six largest heating plants, in which the state holds a 100-percent stake. Finance Minister Ivan Miklos told that the Cabinet recommended the head of the executive committee of the government privatization agency, FNM to prepare a plan of their privatization in cooperation with the ministries of finance and economy. According to minister Miklos, the ministers stroke accord on privatization of the heating plants. The Cabinet will look for a strategic investor for heating plants in Bratislava, Trnava, Martin, Zilina, Zvolen and Kosice in a public tender. Miklos said that the stake to be sold has not yet been agreed upon, but it should be no less than 51 %.

Debtors made public

The social security provider Socialna Poistovna (SP) starts publishing names of all debtors, who owe it more than 3.32 euro in insurance premiums. Until now, SP published the list of debtors owing it more than 4,979 euro, quarterly. Data on non-payers can be found on the website www.socpoist.sk in the section 'insurance premiums debtors.'

Obligatory auctions

Electronic auctions in public procurement will be obligatory, based on a revision to the Public Procurement Act approved by MPs. E-auctions will have to be used in case of above-limit orders and as of January 1, 2012 also with sublimit contracts. The authors of the revision aim at thriftier spending of public funds, which should be secured by tougher terms for public

procurement, higher transparency of the process and restricted room for corruption and cronyism. The chairman of the Public Procurement Office (UVO) will be elected and dismissed by parliament upon the proposal of the Cabinet. Until now, the post has been filled in by the government.

Red for green energy

The national electricity transmission network operator, Slovenska Elektrizacna Prenosova Sustava, has not changed its stance on construction of wind farms and solar power plants in Slovakia. SEPS confirmed the ban on issuance of positive stances for construction of these power plants at least by the end of this year in its development program for 2012 – 2021. "Approximately 700 megawatts of installed capacity of photovoltaic power sources will be built in Slovakia this year. This volume of installed capacity with a high fluctuation of production highly exceeds the limit, which is, based on available information, absorbable by the transmission network," reasoned the operator its stance.

Euromoney for highways

The Cabinet passed the proposal of Prime Minister Iveta Radicova for reallocation of structural funds, based on which an additional sum of approximately EUR 639 million will be earmarked for construction of highways and dual carriageways. A total of EUR 389 million will be transferred to the Operational Program Transport from operational programs Research and Development, Education, Informatization of Society, Employment and Social Inclusion. Within the Operational Program Transport, additional EUR 250 million will be used for highway construction. The Cabinet entrusted Transport Minister Jan Figel with negotiating with the European Commission (EC) about the transfer of the resources in the National Strategic Reference Framework for years 2007 to 2013. Brussels should decide on the changes in five months.



Stop to the wide-gauge track project?

Transport Minister Jan Figel (KDH) met with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin during his visit to Russia. High on the agenda of their talks was transport. During the discussion on the wide-gauge track project, Figel stated that a four-party analysis of its extension is underway, with Ukraine, Austria, Russia and Slovakia participating in it. "The figures confirmed technical and legal feasibility of the project, which however is very difficult in terms of economic and financial aspects," said the Minister of Transport. Figel reasoned the reserved position of the Slovak government on this project by lack of finances for such extensive investments.



Two questions for SARIO CEO

SARIO prepared a series of investment seminars which were included in the business trip of Mr. Juraj Miskov, the Minister of Economy of the SR in the USA. What is the purpose of this trip?

The Slovak Republic, a member of NATO, OECD, EU, Schengen Area and one of a few CEE countries with Euro and the country with the highest economic growth in the last year in the Euro zone, has a large potential to address US companies in order to bring their investment projects here.

This business trip aims to present the Slovak Republic as an attractive country open to new foreign investment. Slovakia's ambition is to become a new gateway to Europe that is capable to offer free and competitive business environment without administrative burden, high quality work force and value propositions for the investments with higher added value.

There are already several examples of successful US investment in Slovakia, e. g. US Steel Kosice, the largest employer in its region, DELL, Johnson Controls, HP, CISCO, Johns Manville, and ICU Medical.

This event will take place during March, 1 - 8, 2011 with the participation of Juraj Miskov, the Minister of Economy of the SR, Peter Burian, the Ambassador of the

SR in the US, representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce in the SR, representatives of American companies and other institutions in four important cities: Washington DC, New York City, Menlo Park (San Francisco/Silicon Valley) and Chicago. During the events there will be also the opportunity for individual meetings with the representatives of the US Department of Commerce, US Department of State, scientific leaders of the US National Academies, representatives of the National Economic Council (U. S. President's closest economic team), management of the New York Stock Exchange, EABC (European American Business Chamber) and with the leaders of prominent companies that consider to bring their investment activities to Europe (IBM, Arnold and Porter, KPMG, White and Williams, PWC, Google, Gartner, Navigant Consulting). Juraj Miskov, the Minister of Economy of the SR will also meet personally with John Mica, US congressman of Slovak origin and Steve Forbes.

Do you consider organizing this kind of event also in other countries?

We believe in the success of this road show and therefore we consider also other destinations with significant investment potential. I may say that the next country should be Germany where we would like to focus on medium size companies and investments with higher added value.

SARIO

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