

The ongoing effort by CzechTrade to help growth of Czech participation in international space projects has again been demonstrated by an important event organised in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and introduced by Vice Minister of Industry Martin Tlapa, the Director of CzechTrade office in Holland and the principal organiser of the event Hanka van der Mark, and the director of the Czech Space Office Doc. Kolar.

The aim was to offer some 70 participants, Czech SME's and research entities, priority opportunity in the ESA/EU project SURE - to run test with commercial aims, or scientific experiments, on the International Space Station. There are no limitations of the area of activity - ideas are medicine, food, materials, psychology or anything that does not place significant demands on weight and crew time. This hitherto unique opportunity to make use of space environment is financed by the EU and hence does not deplete the already very limited contribution that Czech Republic invests in to ESA participation.

One of the Czech participants in ESA, Iguassu Software Systems, is contributing to a project with their Spanish partner GMV, to use a small portable satellite navigation device in conjunction with navigation software and voice synthesiser, to lead a blind person to a desired city location. It can also send out via a mobile phone his/her exact location (1-2m) in case he/she transmits a distress signal. The unit will soon be tested in Prague with the Czech association of the blind SONS.

Marc Heppener, ESA Head of ISS
Utilisation and Promotion Division

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CzechTrade "SURE" Takes Czechs into Space



From left: Čestmír Barta Jr., PhD, BT Materials Processing Director/CEO, Crystal Science and Technology material research in Space and Jan Kolář, Czech Space Office



Marc Heppener, Chief of ISS Utilisation and Promotion Division and Marie Diop, Policy and legal support EU topics



Rients Swart, Dutch Space Manager Central Procurement & Services and Petr Bareš, Iguassu Software System a.s.



From left: Ivan Boháček, VESMİR and Čestmír Barta Jr., PhD, BT Materials Processing Director/CEO Crystal Science and Technology material research in Space



From left: Karel Dobeš, Chairman of the Board Czech Space Office, Elena Lippi, Senior Consultant ESA and Maurizio Belingheri, Chief of Commercial Division ESA