Volume 09 Number 11 – Wednesday, 15 March 2017

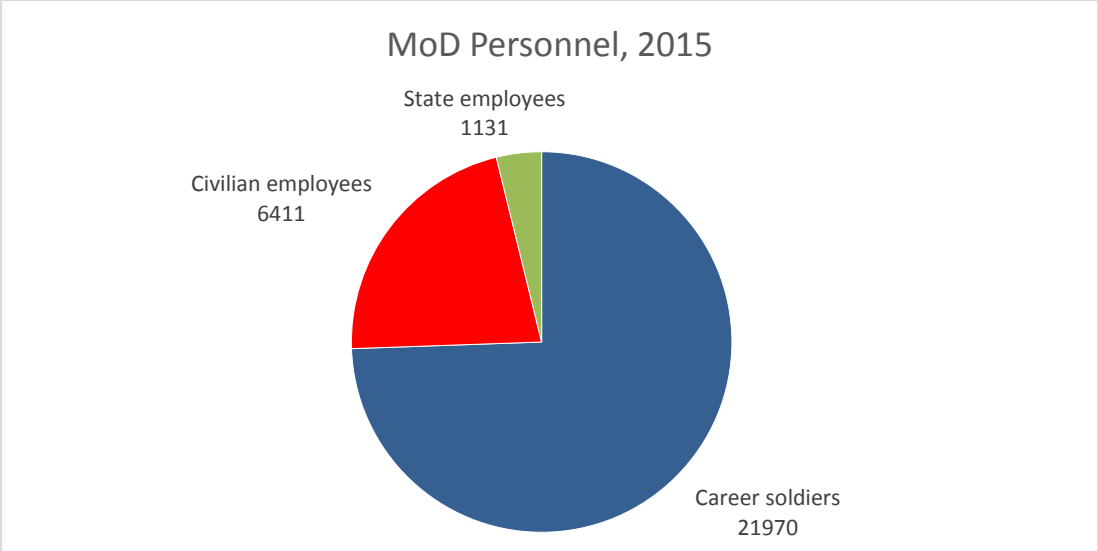
Part I: Czech Republic

Part II: Epicos Newsroom

Czech Republic: Future Defence Budget and Procurements

The Ministry of Defence (MoD), is the central authority of the state administration for ensuring the defence of the Czech Republic (CR), through its contribution to the formation of military strategy, preparation of operations, proposition of necessary defence arrangements to the CR government and co-ordination with armed forces of NATO, EU and other allies. While the Joint Forces Command and Support Forces Command Headquarters were disbanded in 2013, today the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic (ACR) consist of the Air Force and the Land Forces. Due to the geography of the country, there is no need for maintaining a Naval Force. The ACR's primary mission, is to ensure the sovereignty of the country and meet its commitments against its international obligations and treaties. Also, the ACR are tasked with peacekeeping and search & rescue operations, at both the national and international levels.

After the fall of communism and the break-up of the former Czechoslovakia, the Czech armed forces underwent a period of 'disintegration'. This was altered in the late 90's when the country started preparing for NATO membership. Czech Republic's membership in NATO (1999) and EU (2004), has operated as an added impetus to the transformation of the Armed Forces of Czech Republic (ACR), into a more downsized, modernized, and easily deployable force. Since 2005, when the conscription service system was abandoned in the Czech Republic, the civilian employees of the MoD have decreased significantly (in 2005 they amounted to 14,971 and in 2015 to just 6,411), contributing to the overall downsize of the MoD personnel (in 1995 the MoD personnel totalled 54,110 people, while in 2005 only 38,081). In 2015, the MoD total personnel included 29,512 people, of which the majority were Career soldiers (see chart below).



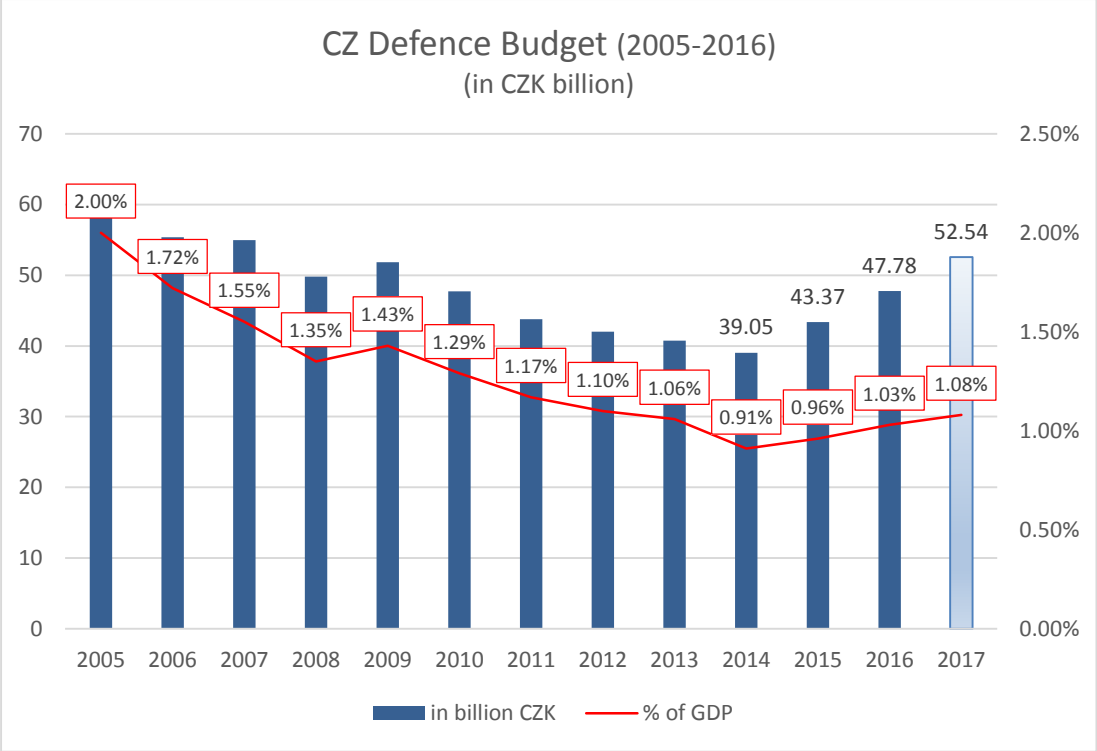
Source: http://www.army.cz/en/facts-file/personnel-size/personnel-size-at-the-defence-department-in-1993---2011-51638/

The ACR Reserves, consist of the 'Soldiers in Reserve' and 'Soldiers in Active Reserve'. At the moment (2016), there are 16 Active Reserve units, affiliated to respective ACR combat units, while a rifle Active Reserve unit is subordinated to any of the 14 Regional Military Headquarters (KVV).

In 2016, ACR Forces were deployed in either peace-keeping or training and support missions in Afghanistan, Kosovo (NATO joint operation), EU-NAVFOR "Atalanta" – off the coast of Somalia, EUFOR-Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUTM and MINUSMA in Mali, EUNAVFOR-MED in Sophia, MFO in the Sinai, UNDOF in the Golan and as part of the Air Advisory team in Iraq.

The share of the Czech Republic's MoD, as a percent of the overall expenditure of the state budget, has been following an increasing trend since 2014; specifically it amounted to 3.2% for 2014, 3.3% for 2015, and 3.8% for 2016.

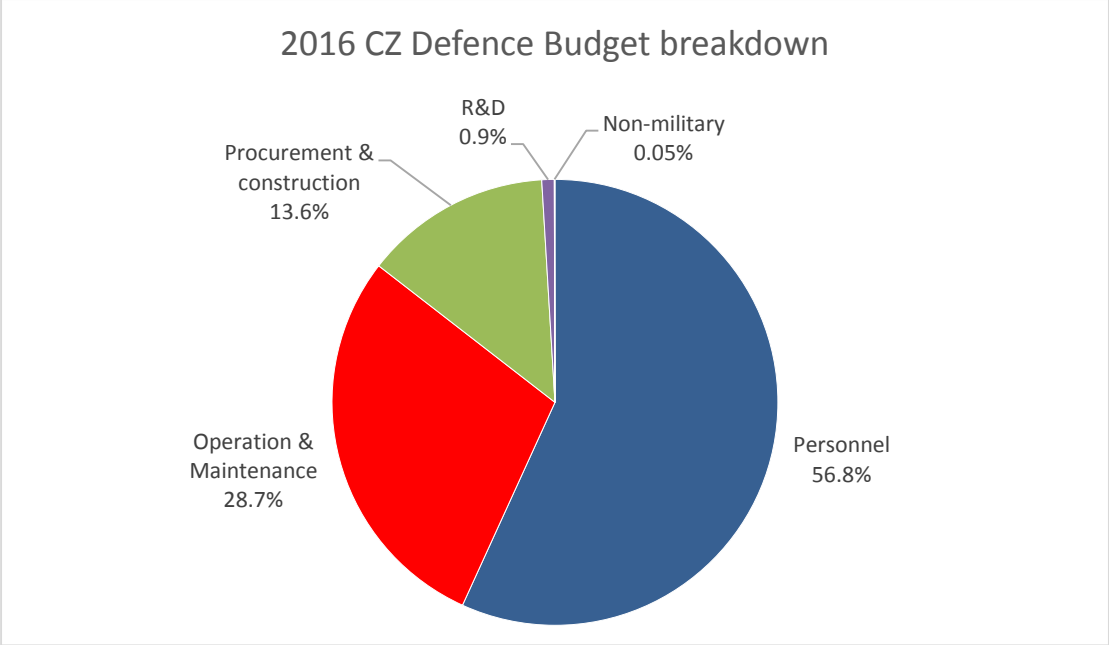
The 2016 MoD budget, higher by CZK 4 billion when compared to a year before (2015), reached the CZK 47.78 billion (see chart below), which after the subtraction of the total MoD revenues (insurance & tax revenues & non-tax revenues, capital revenues and transfers received), accounted for CZK 42.65 billion.



Source: http://www.army.cz/scripts/detail.php?id=5760

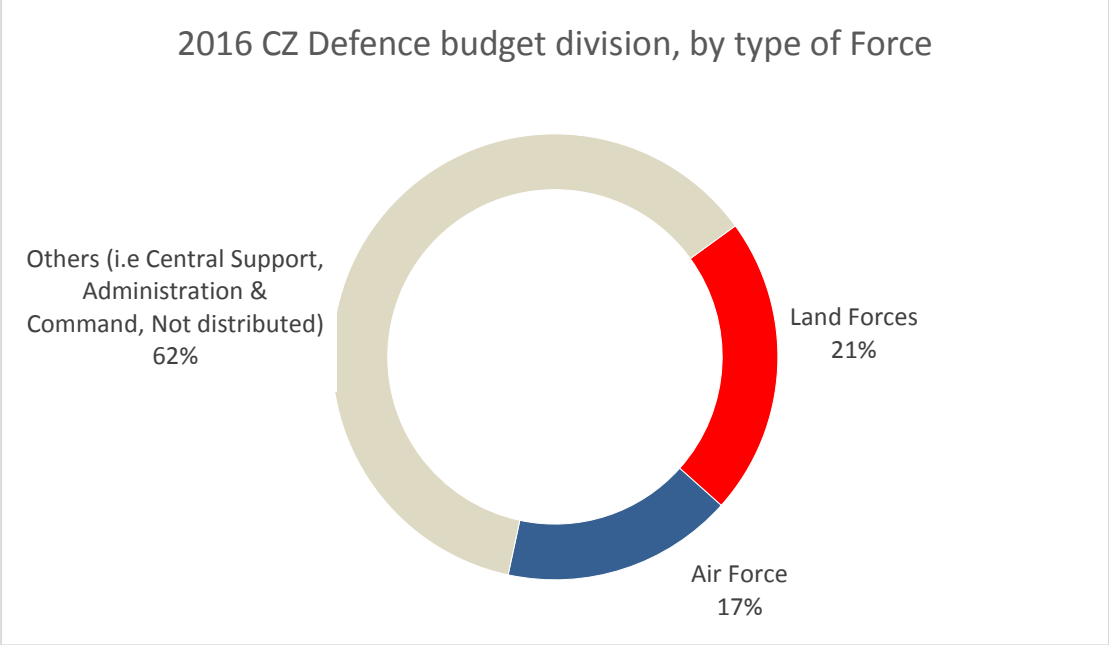
The already approved budget for 2017, reflects a further increase to CZK 52.54 billion, while forecasts for 2018 raise this figure to CZK 57.24 billion.

The 2016 Defence Budget was allocated, as illustrated in the charts below:



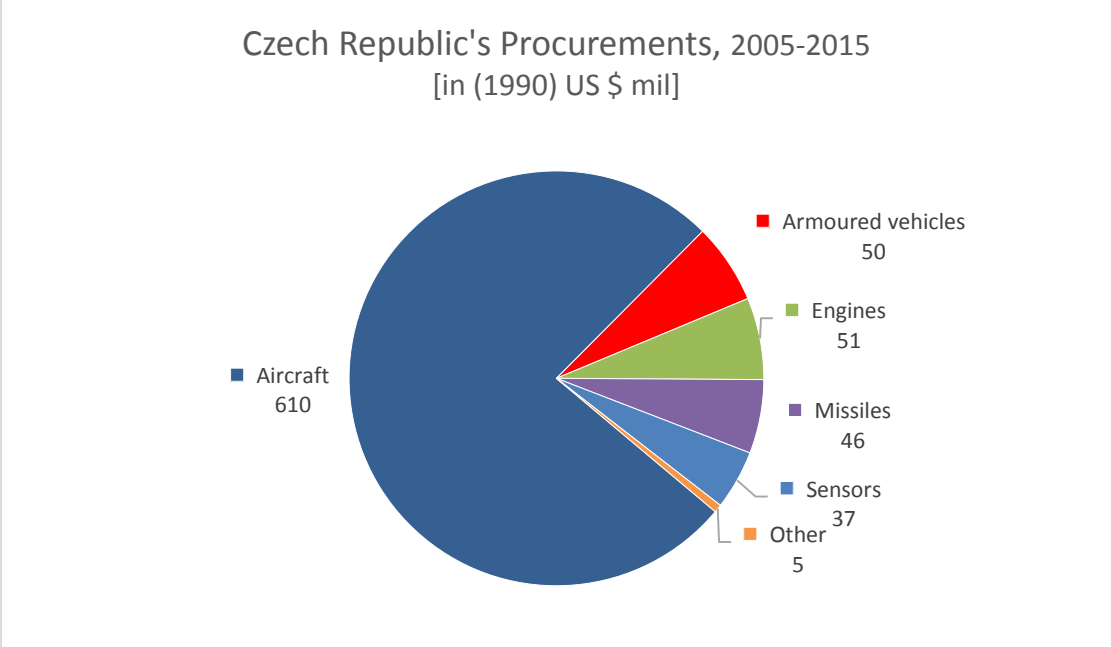
Source: http://www.army.cz/images/id_5001_6000/5146/Budget2016.pdf

In another division, 21% of the 2016 Defence budget was allocated to the Land Forces, 17% to the Air Force and the rest 62% to other forces and administrative purposes.



Source: http://www.army.cz/images/id_5001_6000/5146/Budget2016.pdf

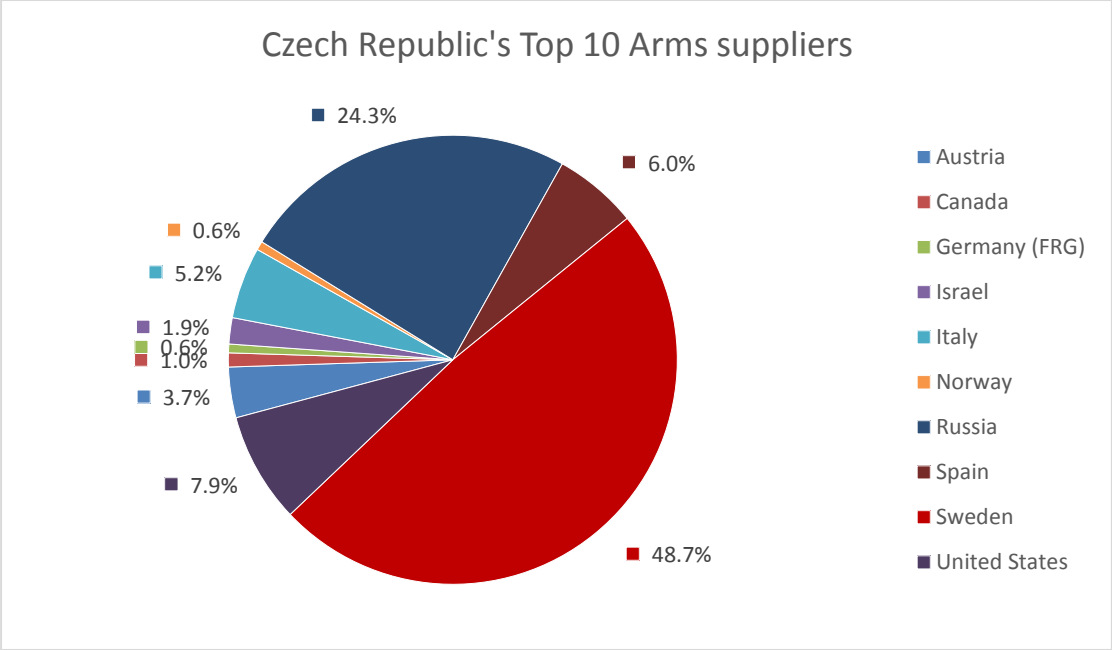
Of the 2016 Budget, the amount of CZK 44.2 billion (i.e. some 92.5% of total MoD expenditures), will be allocated to operating costs - including related operating expenditures of programme financing and defence research, development and innovation expenditures. In the last ten years, the Czech Republic's military procurements included Aircraft (US $610 million), Engines (US $51 million), Armoured vehicles (US $50 million), Missiles (US $46 million) and Sensors (US $37 million) (see chart below).



Source: http://armstrade.sipri.org/armstrade/page/values.php

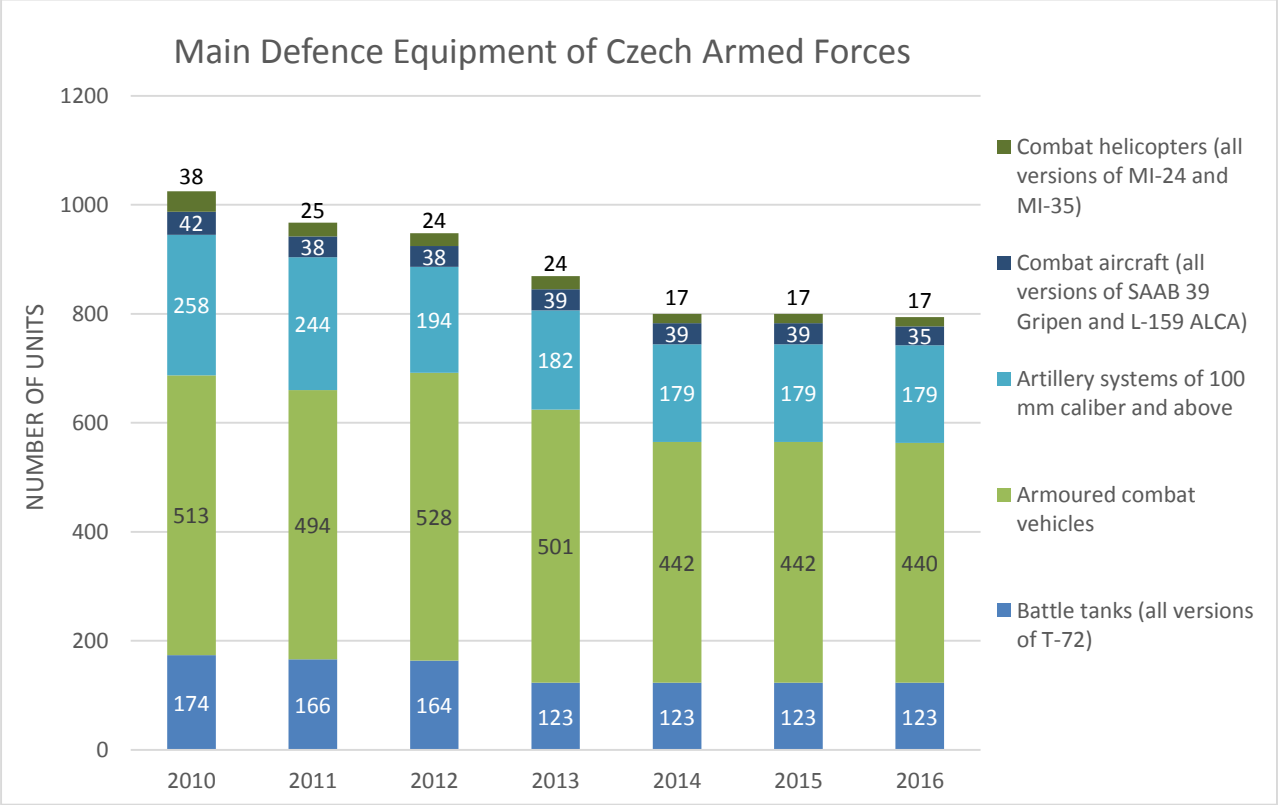
Overall, arms imports demonstrated fluctuations over the period (2005-2015), from a historic high of 2005, to a low value in 2009, another peak in 2011 and low values thereafter, particularly in 2014 and 2015.

The 10 major arms suppliers of defence equipment to the Czech Republic for the same period (2005-2015), included Sweden (48.7%), Russia (24.3%), the US (7.9%) and Spain (6%).



Source: http://armstrade.sipri.org/armstrade/page/values.php

As a result of such procurements and also of reduced spending in recent years, the number of main units the Czech Armed Forces have in their possession (up to January 2016), have evolved as reflected in the below chart.



Source: http://www.army.cz/scripts/detail.php?id=117876

According to a report published by the country's authorities, named "The Long Term Perspective for Defence 2030", the Czech Armed Forces "*must be prepared to operate in extremely varied cultural environments, including ethnicity, language and religion. They must be mobile, highly efficient and accurate, resilient, deployable, sustainable, flexible and interoperable, be provided with relevant intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, reconnaissance (ISTAR), and fire support. In the development of capabilities, an emphasis will be put on the real time coverage of the operational area and on the shortest possible reaction time of the Command, Control, Communication and Computers, Intelligence, and Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems*".

In order to face the new challenges of today, the restructuring and optimising of the Armed Forces has been a prerequisite. In a different view, towards the implementation of key modernization projects, the defence budget will have to grow. Czech authorities acknowledge this and they have projected that **the defence budget will progressively reach, by the year 2020, the amount of 55 to 60 billion CZK (at 2014 figures), representing approximately 1.4% of the GDP**. Additionally, Czech authorities are planning to allocate 20% of total defence expenditure to the acquisition or modernization of major weapon systems

including related research, while the personnel expenditure will not exceed 50% of the defence budget.

In confirmation of the above, the 2015 Czech Security Strategy recognises the low risk of direct military attack to the country, but indicates the importance of new non-military threats, such as the global inequality, international migration, serious financial crime and terrorism. Thereafter, major strategic directions for future capabilities development include the reduction of crime, the reinforcement of the counter-intelligence and defence intelligence of the country and the suppression of extremism and its causes, developing non-governmental organisations involved in security, as well as technical and technological capabilities for data protection (Cyber security).

Another identified potential threat for the Czech Republic, is the interruption of strategic raw material and energy supply. With respect to this, the Government's priority includes protection of the energy infrastructure, through measures for ensuring materials diversification and the stability of electricity supply within the Czech Republic.

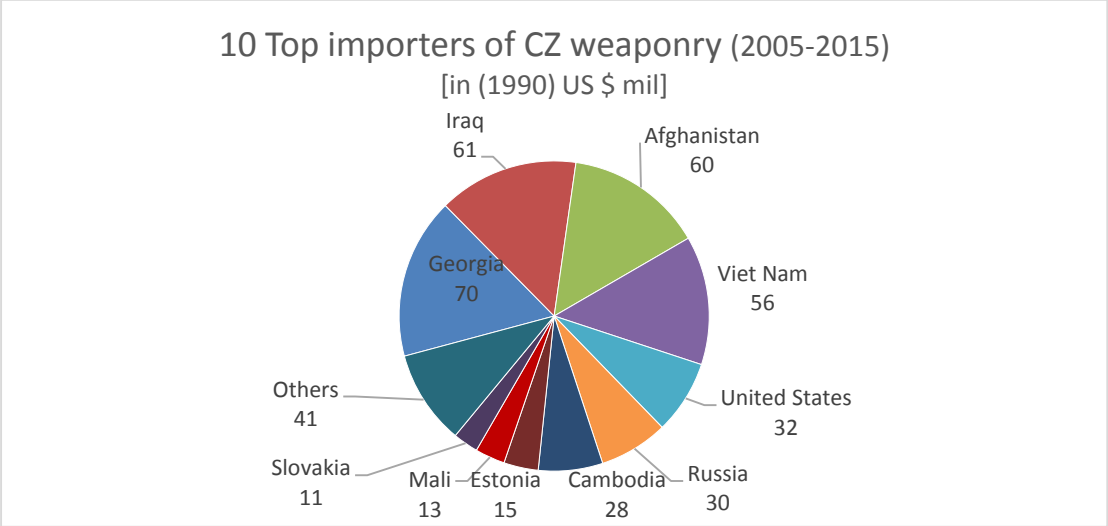
It cannot be omitted to mention that the Czech Republic, being aware of the instability and regional conflicts in the Euro-Atlantic area, recognises that National Security depends on the effective preservation of its multilateral relationships, as an EU and NATO member; in this context, it takes part in joint acquisitions/armaments programmes, through its active involvement in the NATO collective defence system, as well as the development of EU crisis management capabilities and through close cooperation with partner countries.

Czech Republic: Defence Industry

Having a long aviation tradition, the Czech Republic has managed to establish a strong presence in the aerospace sector, empowered by the high skills and expertise of its 10,000 employees, producing high quality, reliable and innovative products. According to the Financial Times, in 2015, the Czech Republic was ranked at the 4th place among the specialised Aerospace nations (following only the US, the UK and Germany), while Aerospace is at the forefront of the Czech Republic's priorities in terms of investments (along with ICT, Automotive and Electrical Engineering/Electronics sectors).

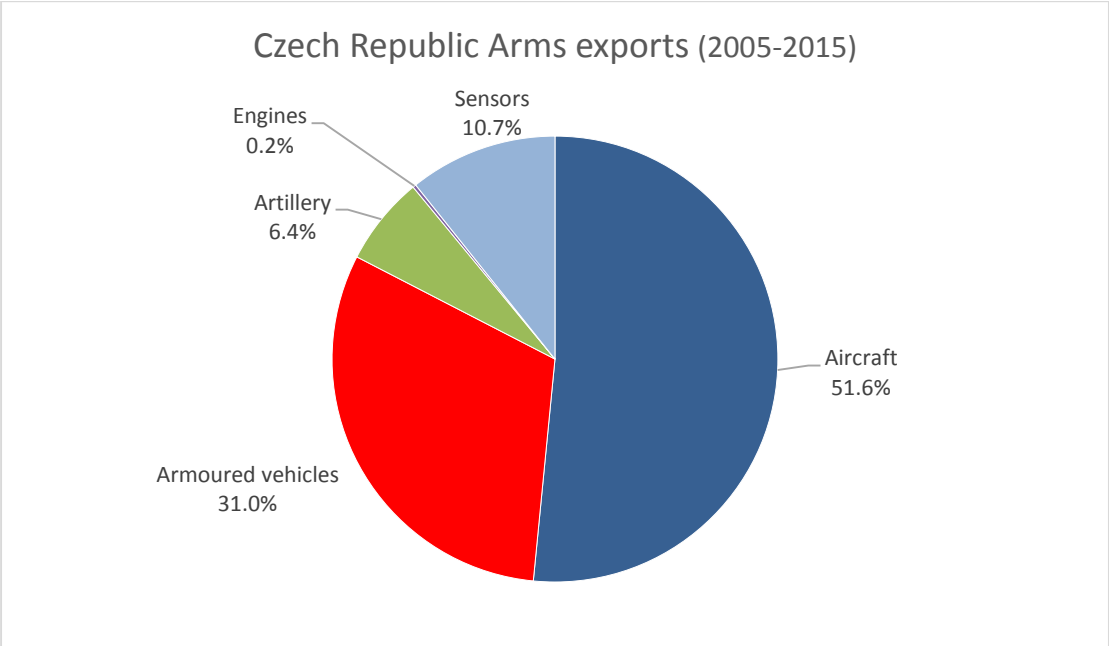
Today, the Czech Aerospace industry's contribution is very significant in terms of technology innovation, research and development programs, and its activities include anything from basic production, up to final assembly of entire aircraft. The majority of Czech companies and institutions collaborate with the top industry players on various levels, through their participation in multinational joint programs. Their capabilities encompass practically all aspects, from MRO (Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul), to General Aviation, Jet Trainer, Light and Sport Aviation (LSA) aircraft manufacturing, to satellite systems and components production –including part of the Galileo navigation system. It is worth stressing that the Czech Republic is considered one of the largest LSA manufacturers worldwide, as well as the fact that the European GNSS Agency is located in Prague. Further, international companies, such as Honeywell, Latecoere, Textron, GE Aviation and Zodiac Aerospace, operate in the country.

In addition, the L-39 jet trainer (one of the most popular jet trainers worldwide), as well as products for Boeing, Airbus, Embraer and Dassault, are manufactured in Czech facilities. The last decade (2005-2015), the Czech Republic exported about US $419 million of arms equipment. According to the SIPRI database, the major recipients were Georgia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, the US and Russia.



Source: http://armstrade.sipri.org/armstrade/page/values.php

The exported equipment consisted mainly of Aircraft, Armoured vehicles and Sensors (see chart below).



Source: http://armstrade.sipri.org/armstrade/page/values.php

Nowadays, the Czech Defence industry is one of the most dynamic and advanced in central Europe. Major Czech defence companies, which supply the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic and other countries, include Aero Vodochody, EGO Zlín, Explosia A.S., LOM Praha s.p. and Omnipol a.s. (see Infographic above).

In a categorised by product type view, some indicative companies operating in the Czech Republic include:

Type of Products	Companies
AIRCRAFT, AVIATION EQUIPMENT	BELL HELICOPTER, ELDIS PARDUBICE, INNA, LETECKÉ PŘÍSTROJE PRAHA, PBS VELKÁ BÍTEŠ, VR GROUP
COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS OF COMMUNICATION	ERA, EVPÚ DEFENCE, LETECKÉ PŘÍSTROJE PRAHA, PRAMACOM PRAGUE, QUITTNER & SCHIMEK, RAYSERVICE, RETIA, SAAB TECHNOLOGIES, T-CZ, TESLA, TESLA V.T. MIKROEL, VOP GROUP, VOP CZ
COMMUNICATION, RADIOLOCATION, INFORMATION AND NAVIGATION SYSTEMS	AURA, ELDIS PARDUBICE, ERA, INNA, INTV, MESIT HOLDING, PRAMACOM PRAGUE, RETIA, ROHDE & SCHWARZ - PRAHA, SAAB TECHNOLOGIES, T-CZ, VOP CZ
TANKS, ARMOURED VEHICLES, TRUCKS	TATRA TRUCKS, VOP CZ
WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES	ČESKÁ ZBROJOVKA, EXPLOSIA, POLIČSKÉ STROJÍRNY, PROTOTYPA-ZM, SELLIER & BELLOT, ZEVETA AMMUNITION
ENGINEERING, CHEMICAL AND HEALTH EQUIPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE	AVEC CHEM, B.O.I.S. - FILTRY, EGO ZLÍN, EXPLOSIA, POLIČSKÉ STROJÍRNY, S.P.M.

	LIBEREC, ZEVETA AMMUNITION
IRS, SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES	EVPÚ DEFENCE, LEDIC, MAX MERLIN, PRAMACOM-HT, PRAMACOM PRAGUE, S.P.M. LIBEREC

Source: http://preview.soliter.com/msline/pdf/sdtc_katalog15_16_low.pdf

Up to date, public-private sector cooperation, has been a key element in R&D activities in the Czech Republic. As a result, the Czech Republic is home to world class institutions, and hosts significant international A&D companies and their laboratories – e.g. Honeywell's first R&D centre outside the US, the European focal point for the Honeywell User Experience and Human factor research.

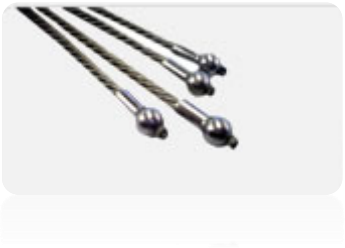
According to the 2016 MoD Budget, only 0.9% (equal to CZK 430.8 million) was to be allocated for Defence Research, Development & Innovation. This amount was increased by 1.8%, when compared to a year before (2015 budget), and it was to be directed towards applied research and experimental development, for the enhancement of armed forces capabilities, as well as for the institutional support of research organisations and the participation in international projects under EDA.

Epicos "Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects"

Epicos "Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects" provides a unique set of online tools enabling the structure, identification and implementation of comprehensive Offsets programs, through a searchable database. By introducing different offset projects and ideas proposed by local A&D industry it ensures the optimum cost for Prime Contractors and reassures that the priorities of local industry are fully met…

For Further Information Press Here

Development of Semi Rigid RF Coaxial Cables assembly line for Aerospace & Defence applications



A company specialised in the production and commerce of hoses, control cables and rigid tubes for aircraft is willing to expand its activities/capabilities in the area of Semi Rigid RF Coaxial Cables by establishing a respective assembly line to be used on various systems/projects for Aerospace & Defense applications.

For Further Information Contact our ICO Department

Mail at: a-kintis@epicos.com

Production of metallic parts for the defence and aeronautical industry

A company with significant experience in the production of metallic components and subassemblies for the automotive, electrical/electronic and domestic electrical equipment industry and association with companies involved in vehicles modification, painting and final assembly on Complete or Semi Knocked Down (CKD or SKD) basis is proposing the collaboration for establishment of a production line for manufacturing aeronautical and/or military ground vehicle parts.

For Further Information Contact our ICO Department
Mail at: a-kintis@epicos.com

News from our A&D Business Network

Northrop Grumman to Provide LITENING Advanced Targeting Pods to Royal Danish Air Force

Northrop Grumman Corporation has been awarded a contract by the Royal Danish Air Force (RDAF) to provide LITENING advanced targeting pods for its F-16 aircraft. LITENING gives pilots powerful capabilities for detecting, identifying and tracking targets at extremely long ranges. Denmark was the first international partner to take delivery of the fourth generation of the LITENING pod. With this award, the RDAF will expand the use of LITENING to additional aircraft in its fleet.

"As a key member of NATO, Denmark supports a wide range of missions. LITENING gives the RDAF powerful capabilities to carry out these missions, whether they call for targeting or intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR)," said Dr. Robert Fleming, vice president, programmes, Northrop Grumman.

The Northrop Grumman LITENING Advanced Targeting System, now in its fourth generation, gives aircrews superior situational awareness and targeting capabilities for strike and ISR missions. Technologies include digital, high definition video, 1K forward-looking infrared and charge-coupled device sensors, laser imaging sensors and advanced data links. These advances deliver more accurate target identification and location at longer ranges than previous targeting pod systems, while also reducing pilot workload.

LITENING has been integrated on the A-10, AV-8B, B-52, C-130, F-15, F-16 and F/A-18 and has achieved more than two million operating hours.

For Further Information Click Here

Boeing, CDB Aviation Lease Finance Announce Order for 30 737 MAX 8 airplanes

Boeing and CDB Aviation Lease Finance (CDB Aviation) announced an order today for 30 737 MAX 8 airplanes. The order, valued at $3.3 billion at current list prices, was previously unidentified on Boeing's Orders & Deliveries website. Both sides agreed to take this opportunity to broaden communication and strengthen cooperation in various fields, bringing the partnership to a new level.

"Our commitment to our customers is to provide them with the most efficient and reliable products," said Peter Chang, President and Chief Executive Officer of CDB Aviation. "The 30 Boeing 737 MAXs in our portfolio provide the competitive advantages of fuel efficiency, reliability and passenger experience they are looking for in the single-aisle airplane."

Based in Dublin, Ireland, CDB Aviation operates as a wholly owned Irish subsidiary of China Development Bank Financial Leasing Co LTD (CDB Leasing) (HKEX stock code:1606). With registered capital of $US50 million and a fleet of over 200 aircraft, CDB Aviation has over 10 years' experience in the business and is one of the largest and most influential Chinese-owned aviation leasing companies.

"We are very pleased to expand our partnership with CDB Aviation with this announcement," said Rick Anderson, vice president of Northeast Asia Sales, Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "As we work together with the new management team at CDB Aviation to address the opportunities presented in a rapidly growing market for commercial airplanes, we look forward to strengthening and growing our partnership in the very near future."

The 737 MAX family has been designed to offer customers exceptional performance, flexibility and efficiency, with lower per-seat costs and an extended range that will open up new destinations in the single-aisle market. The 737 MAX will be 14 percent more fuel-efficient than today's most efficient Next-Generation 737s – and 20 percent better than the original Next-Generation 737s when they first entered service. With broad market acceptance, the 737 MAX has more than 3,600 orders to date from 83 customers worldwide.

For Further Information Click Here

Epicos NewsRoom

International Maritime Institute of New Zealand Chooses KONGSBERG

The Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology has selected Kongsberg Digital to supply a suite of new navigation simulators for installation at the International Maritime Institute of New Zealand. Awarded in March 2017 following a competitive tender, the contract covers a total of seven KONGSBERG ship's bridge simulators for delivery in August 2017, in addition to regional exercise models and a Long Term Simulator Support Programme (LTSSP), which guarantees access to the latest technology updates and dedicated customer support.

The simulator delivery will be based on KONGSBERG's established, market-leading K-Sim technology, featuring one Class A Bridge, two Class B Bridges (one with specific tug functionality) and four Class C ECDIS simulators (with an option for a further two).

The ship's bridge simulators will be integrated with the existing engine simulators, enabling the Institute to extend its already diverse course portfolio with Crew Resource Management training. With state-of-the-art KONGSBERG simulators working together, the Institute can offer integrated training for bridge and engineering students covering daily operations and emergency scenarios throughout the whole vessel. The ship's bridge simulator suite will also become a local facility for pilot training. To support this, KONGSBERG and the Institute will further develop and tune existing area databases covering Nelson, Picton, Queen Charlotte Sounds and Wellington, enabling pilots to train on accurate, highly realistic models to ensure safe and efficient navigation in their home operational areas.

"Our new KONGSBERG K-Sim ship's bridge simulators incorporate the latest maritime training technology, enabling a truly integrated training experience, connecting not only multiple bridges, but also the engine room via our K-Sim Engine simulators," said Monique Day, Head of Department - Primary Industries, Maritime and AVT at Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology. "It is important to ensure our simulators remain cutting-edge so it was a natural step for us take the extensive long term support program, which includes moving to K-Sim Navigation in the future." "Through our new contract with the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, Kongsberg Digital is now the simulation technology partner to two of the three maritime training institutes in New Zealand," said Tone-Merete Hansen, Vice President – Maritime Simulation, Kongsberg Digital. "We are the preferred supplier across the Australasian region due to the proven capabilities of our simulator technology and our commitment to being a long term partner, helping our customers to continue developing their training portfolios using simulators designed to meet the changing demands of the maritime industry."

For Further Information Click Here

Source: Epicos, KONGSBERG

Government of Singapore – XM395 Accelerated Precision Mortar Initiative (APMI) Rounds

The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Singapore for XM395 Accelerated Precision Mortar Initiative (APMI) rounds. The estimated cost is $66 million. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale on March 13, 2017.

The Government of Singapore has requested a possible sale of two thousand (2,000) XM395 Accelerated Precision Mortar Initiative (APMI) rounds; U.S. Government and contractor services; and other associated support equipment and services. The total estimated cost is $66 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been, and continues to be an important partner and force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia Pacific region.

The Government of Singapore intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces to meet current and future threats, to strengthen its homeland defense, and to provide greater security for its economic infrastructure. The Government of Singapore will have no difficulty absorbing XM395 APMI mortar rounds into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support does not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Orbital ATK. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require U.S. Government personnel or U.S. contractor representatives to travel to Singapore for a period of one (1) week for equipment fielding and acceptance testing by the Quality Assurance Team.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

This notice of a potential sale is required by law and does not mean the sale has been concluded.

For Further Information Click Here

Source: Defense Security Cooperation Agency

Lockheed Martin Canada Delivers High Fidelity Combat System Trainer to Royal New Zealand Navy

Completing the first major delivery under the New Zealand ANZAC Frigate System Upgrade Project, prime systems integrator Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) Canada and Chief of Navy Rear Admiral John Martin have officially opened the New Zealand ANZAC combat system trainer.

The combat system trainer was delivered ahead of schedule to the Maritime Warfare Training Centre at the Royal New Zealand Navy base in Devonport on February 16, 2017.
Rear Admiral Martin stated, "It is wonderful to receive the trainer early which will allow our sailors to be properly prepared when the upgraded ships arrive. Lockheed Martin Canada's combat system trainer is a world class trainer that will revolutionize the way we train our crews."

"The ANZAC combat system trainer provides a generational shift in training capability with a realistic synthetic environment capable of generating high fidelity simulations of real world conditions," said Rosemary Chapdelaine, vice president and general manager Lockheed Martin Canada Rotary and Mission Systems. "We are proud of our Canadian-developed solution and thrilled to deliver this advanced capability to the Royal New Zealand Navy."

This milestone marks the first international delivery of Lockheed Martin Canada's combat management system, CMS 330, product line, initially developed for Canada's Department of National Defence and then modified for the Royal New Zealand Navy with Canada's support.
CMS 330 and Lockheed Martin Canada's combat system integration capability are proving performance everyday on Canada's modernized HALIFAX class frigates and the record of success continues to generate international attention as an attractive solution for both new ships and mid-life upgrades.

Thanks to the expertise of its engineers, scientists and computer programmers, Lockheed Martin Canada was the only Canadian company to pre-qualify as a combat systems integrator for the upcoming Canadian Surface Combatant program. The company was also selected as the command and surveillance integrator for Canada's new fleet of Arctic/Offshore Patrol Ships.

For Further Information Click Here

Source: Epicos, Lockheed Martin Canada

Comtech Telecommunications Corp. Announces $4.0 Million of Orders for Government Satellite Tracking Solutions

Comtech Telecommunications Corp. announced today that during its third quarter of fiscal 2017, Comtech's Command and Control Technologies group, which is part of its Government Solutions segment, received approximately $4.0 million of orders from a Fortune 100 U.S. Government contractor and an international government science and technology institute for several antenna tracking systems with Radomes that will be used to support precision location tracking of satellites.

"We are pleased to receive multiple orders for our satellite antenna solutions which are targeted towards the rapidly growing satellite tracking market. These orders support our view that we are a trusted provider to both domestic and overseas companies that have a need for complex precision tracking," said Fred Kornberg, President and Chief Executive Officer of Comtech Telecommunications Corp.

Comtech Telecommunications Corp. designs, develops, produces and markets innovative products, systems and services for advanced communications solutions. The Company sells products to a diverse customer base in the global commercial and government communications markets.

Certain information in this press release contains statements that are forward-looking in nature and involve certain significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from such forward-looking information. The Company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings identify many such risks and uncertainties. Any forward-looking information in this press release is qualified in its entirety by the risks and uncertainties described in such Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

For Further Information Click Here

Source: Epicos, Comtech Telecommunications Corp.

Successful Brimstone Weapon Integration Flight Trials continue for Typhoon

A further series of flight trials of Eurofighter Typhoon with the low-collateral, high precision MBDA Brimstone air-to-surface weapon have been successfully completed at BAE Systems' site in Warton, Lancashire.

The trials are part of ongoing development work on the Phase 3 Enhancement (P3E) package for Typhoon, which will also deliver further sensor and mission system upgrades as part of Project CENTURION – the programme to ensure a smooth transition of Tornado capabilities on to Typhoon for the Royal Air Force by the end of 2018.

The trials were conducted using the UK Typhoon Instrumented Production Aircraft (IPA) 6, and formed part of work to gather air data on the weapon, measure environmental effects and expand the carriage envelope. Firing trials are now scheduled for later this year.

The flight trials, an important milestone on the integration programme following the completion of ground testing and initial flight trials last year, were partly carried out through a Combined Testing Team (CTT) approach with pilots from the Royal Air Force's 41(R) Squadron (the RAF's Test and Evaluation Squadron). In total around 40 trials to integrate Brimstone with Typhoon have seen the aircraft flown with four AMRAAM, two ASRAAM, two Paveway IV laser guided/GPS bombs and two launchers each containing three Brimstone missiles. Eight of the 40 flights have been carried out with 41(R) Squadron.

Steve Formoso, Chief Test Pilot for BAE Systems Military Air & Information business, said: "This series of flight trials has included Aero Data Gathering (ADG) flights to test how the addition of the Brimstone weapon and other assets interacts with the aircraft's flight control system software. The results have been excellent, with the pilot maintaining manoeuvrability whilst carrying a heavy weapons load.

"The detailed results of these trials will now be analysed and further testing carried out ahead of firing trials. The low-collateral Brimstone will provide the Typhoon pilot with the ability to precisely attack fast-moving targets at range, further enhancing the aircraft's already potent air-to-surface capabilities."

James McLaughlin, BAE Systems' Contract Delivery Manager for Typhoon Phase 3 Enhancements, added: "This continues to be an incredibly productive time for Typhoon development and the benefits of the Combined Testing Team approach are clearly visible. The dedicated work of our teams and partner companies has ensured we have been able to conduct a large number of flight trials in a short space of time, involve the Royal Air Force within the process and reach an important milestone on the Brimstone integration programme."

The flight trials programme for Brimstone is running alongside ongoing Typhoon development programmes with the Meteor and Storm Shadow weapons, which form part of the aircraft's Phase 2 Enhancement (P2E) package due to be delivered into service in 2018.

The CTT approach is designed to allow 41(R) Squadron to participate in early versions of planned upgrades, providing feedback that can be assessed and directly worked back into the design process, ensuring an end product which meets Royal Air Force requirements.

For Further Information Click Here

Source: Epicos, Eurofighter Typhoon