

**Space Technology Day on GSTP
(General Support Technology Programme)
15th July 2010**

Opening speech by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic

Dear colleagues, dear delegates,

I would like to welcome you at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and thank you for coming. Especially, I would like to welcome Mr. Uwe Soltau, German delegate to the Industrial Policy Committee, Mr. Stephan Mayer, Austrian delegate to the IPC, Ms. Noelia Peinado and Mr. Udo Becker, from the GSTP office, Mr. Jan Kolář, director of the Czech Space Office, the representatives of industry involved in space activities, the representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and of the Ministry of Transport as well as representatives of other institutions involved in space activities. We are very proud to participate in the GSTP and to have the opportunity to hold this seminar at our Ministry.

The GSTP is one of ESA's optional programmes with a strong technology Research & Development component. The GSTP plays a crucial role in the successful identification and development of critical technologies and breakthrough innovation for the whole range of space projects which will ensure European strategic non-dependence and industrial competitiveness. This programme's significance lies in its level of technology readiness level (TRL), which it aims to reach. The GSTP focuses on the completion of the development cycle going from TRL 3/4 up to 8/9, that means to the level of "in-orbit demonstration", as proposed for the actual cycle of the GST programme – GSTP-5.

The Czech Republic has already contributed to one in-orbit demonstration project implemented in frame of the GSTP programme although in that time the Czech Republic was not a member of ESA. Two scientific instruments taking measurements of surrounding plasma onboard the PROBA-2 satellite were designed and manufactured under PECS programme. The TPMU device measures the temperature, density and composition of ions and the DSLP device is designed for the study of magnetospheric plasma. Both instruments were developed by the private company Czech Space Research Centre in Brno with scientific support of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics and Institute of Astronomy of the Academy of Sciences. These scientific instruments on the PROBA-2 satellite build on the successful national programmes of Magion's.

For the period 5 of GSTP 2009 – 2013, the Czech republic has subscribed 3,23 million Euro which is 0,5 % of the overall programme budget of 650 million Euro.

We are aware that the GSTP is of very high interest to Czech research institutes, academia and industry. Thanks to its confirmation support mechanism for single activities, and by guaranteeing the highest geographic return, this programme allows to address the main Czech priorities in the space research & development.

The GSTP ensures the right technologies and the right maturity are available at the right time. Industry can count on the programme's technical support through its product development cycle, improving its potential and cooperation with the academic sphere.

As to GSTP we fully agree with the European Space Technology Master Plan characterising the programme as a one offering a right balance of innovation and product development and maintenance that strengthens the competitiveness of European Industry. The combination of mechanisms such as the permanently open AO (announcement of opportunities) and the multiyear plans that allow fast response and advanced planning are the GSTP features to optimally support industry.

We're convinced that this seminar will lead to increased participation of Czech science and industry in the GSTP and to significant improvements in the quality of the GSTP projects.