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PBS GROUP increases production by hundreds of percent. The first investment is going to the foundry in Velká Bíteš

The Czech engineering group PBS Group is intensively dealing with increasing production by hundreds of percent to meet the needs of foreign and domestic customers. Interest is growing especially in aircraft engines, which are used in drones and other military applications. In addition to its upcoming investments in localizing production in the United States and India, the company will also invest 300 million in its production plant in Velká Bíteš later this year. The first investment is in a foundry for precision casting technology, which was visited today by Minister for Industry and Trade Lukáš Vlček.

"I am pleased that we have companies like PBS GROUP in Vysočina, which are developing, contributing to the growth of the Czech GDP and increasing the competitiveness of our industry on a global scale. And they do not forget about their employees, who have above-standard financial compensation and a whole range of benefits," said Minister Vlček, adding: "PBS Group is an example of a company that, thanks to the long-term support of the Ministry for Industry and Trade, has reoriented itself from the Eastern markets to the West and is currently also helping to increase the production capacity of the defense industry of NATO allied countries with its production," said the Minister during his visit to Velká Bíteš on the occasion of the presentation of the new equipment of the foundry.

PBS GROUP is internationally recognized in the aerospace sector for its jet engines and the production of auxiliary power units (APUs) for aircraft and helicopters. It is also involved in the development of components for Lockheed Martin's F-35 aircraft and works with other global players such as US aircraft engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney. A new vacuum casting furnace and a new annealing furnace for melting special materials were introduced at the PBS plant in Velká Bíteš. This investment is related, among other things, to increasing capacity for the F-35 programme.

"We see strengthening our capacity as a strategic task. For 2025, we are preparing investments of CZK 300 million in production in the Czech Republic and more than CZK 100 million in new product development. We appreciate the interest of Minister Lukáš Vlček in the development of Czech industry and the promotion of innovation. I am glad that the Ministry under his leadership is making Czech technologies more visible on the global stage and enabling us to participate in important international projects," said Pavel Čechal, CEO of PBS GROUP.

The precision casting foundry in Velká Bíteš serves aerospace programmes only partially; its annual turnover of more than half a billion is largely due to orders for external customers in the automotive and transport equipment sectors. The new vacuum furnace is designed to cast parts at temperatures of up to 1700 °C and weighing up to 65 kg. The resistance annealing furnace is designed for preheating

ceramic shells at temperatures well in excess of 1000 °C. The vacuum furnace was specially designed according to the technical requirements of PBS in cooperation with SECO/WARWICK. The annealing furnace was supplied by LAC from Židlochovice.

The new vacuum furnace mechanism increases the productivity of casting precision castings and features fully digitized systems that allow the use of autonomous casting processes, including automatic melting and programmable casting. "The new vacuum furnace will help us to ensure increased production of high-quality castings of nickel-based superalloy parts primarily for aerospace and marine applications. This investment of tens of millions of crowns is crucial for further successful development of the company and increase of competitiveness," added Ing. Milan Macholán, General Director of the PBS Velká Bíteš production plant.

PBS Group is undergoing dynamic growth. This is reflected in the economic indicators and production plans. In 2024, it will end up with revenues of approximately 2 billion CZK, with an expected growth of over 200% in 2025. The estimated EBITDA for 2024 is between 600 and 650 million crowns. This confirms strong financial stability and secured long-term contracts. The PBS Group is growing in volume terms mainly in jet engines, by around 300 % year-on-year. The company is now in a situation where it has moved from tens of engines produced into the hundreds and is heading towards thousands of units.

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