

SIN in the Czech Republic Lights up £15.5m Contracts for UK Companies



Opportunities in Emerging Europe

The Science and Innovation Network (SIN) has promoted UK scientific excellence, facilitated research collaboration and generated wider UK value from the €270m EU Structural Fund-supported Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) project in the Czech Republic. Extensive benefits to the UK include contracts for building supervision, site design and advanced technologies procurement. By 2014, UK companies had reportedly won £15.5m in procurement contracts as a direct benefit of SIN-led work.

Focus on the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic has invested over £2bn of EU Structural funds into R&D infrastructure, with a focus on top science opportunities. In 2014, 2% of Czech GDP was spent on science - more than ever before. The Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) project is aiming to build a new generation of laser equipment enabling development of new techniques for medical image display, diagnostics and advanced materials.



Harnessing Research, Policy and Commercial Benefits

Since the project's inception in 2009, the UK Science and Innovation Network in the Czech Republic has built strong relationships both locally and in Hungary and Romania. SIN Prague organised the Prime Minister's David Cameron visit to the ELI Beamlines facility in Prague in June 2011. More recently SIN, working with UKTI, followed up with 6 targeted inward and outward specialist missions leading to UK companies gaining a total £15.5 million in procurement contracts. The largest contract was to the Science & Technology Facilities Council's Central Laser Facility, for the development and delivery of two diode-pumped lasers.



SIN pushed the ELI project up the political agenda in both countries, identified the opportunities within it, built networks between ELI and UK tech companies, and lobbied successfully on behalf of UK interests over a sustained period, resulting in UK benefits.

SIN Czech Republic Contact: Otakar.Fojt@fco.gov.uk

