

## SIN Czech Republic helps UK-Czech laser centre win £40 million in EU funding



In November 2016, The UK-Czech co-operation in lasers between STFC and HiLASE received a funding boost of £40 million provided by Czech EU Structural Funds and Czech Government budget<sup>1</sup>. In December 2016, the delivered STFC laser achieved its full operating performance of 1kW and became the most powerful laser in the world<sup>2</sup>. SIN Czech Republic supported the whole project from the beginning in 2011 by a series of workshops, targeted visits, formal and informal meetings and high level networking. In 2011, while in design stage, then Czech and UK Prime Ministers Petr Nečas and David Cameron visited the Centre and discussed the future of laser industrial applications.

Brian Bowsher, STFC Chief Executive, said “I am delighted that this project has been selected for funding. STFC recently delivered a £10 million contract to HiLASE and additional £40 million funding for this new centre of excellence will allow us to ensure that the research at the facility is fully exploited for industry. We also look forward to collaborating on the centre of excellence as an opportunity to build our ongoing partnership with our Czech colleagues.”

John Collier, Director of the Central Laser Facility said, “The award of the Widespread Teaming Project with our colleagues in Hilase is really excellent news, that recognises both the already close and successful partnership we have and the current and future impact of the advanced laser technology we have developed together.”



The new Centre of Excellence will be based at the HiLASE facility at Dolní Břežany, close to Prague. HiLASE incorporates advanced solid state laser systems that are ideally suited to high-tech industrial applications, opening up new processing techniques for surface hardening, semiconductor processing and micro/nano-machining, for example. We can expect more collaborations between HiLASE and STFC’s Central Laser Facility at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in 2017-2022 and also many new industrial applications.

SIN Czech Republic contact: [Otakar.Fojt@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Otakar.Fojt@fco.gov.uk)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.hilase.cz/en/ec-to-fund-czech-british-partnership-for-a-next-generation-laser-centre-for-industrial-applications/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.hilase.cz/en/advanced-dpssl-laser-dipole-100%e2%80%b3-delivers-1kw-performance/>

