



CZECH REPUBLIC

Population: 10.3 million
Capital: Prague (Praha)
Language: Czech
Currency: Czech Crowns (CZK)
GDP per capita: \$16,675 (2007)



WATER & WASTE WATER

In 1990s, the water sector underwent reforms that – together with EU accession in 2004 – have had a major influence on the current water management situation in the Czech Republic. The water sector was privatized in the mid-1990s and the municipalities and unions of municipalities became the new owners. In 2007, 9.5 million inhabitants (92 percent of the population) were supplied from water supply systems. Water supply systems produced a total of over 682 million cubic meters of drinking water. Compared to previous years, the amount of drinking water loses decreased; however, leakage still totals almost 20 percent. In 2007, 8.3 million inhabitants were connected to the sewage systems. Almost 96 percent of waste water was treated in 2,004 waste water treatment plants (WWTP). Market demand for advanced technologies is mostly satisfied by imports. European companies dominate the market. The Czech Republic will have to spend CZK 49 billion (\$2.45 billion) by 2010 to fulfill its obligations to the EU to build suitable WWTP, and sewage systems in municipalities with more than 2,000 inhabitants. The quality of tap drinking water is high. Never-the-less Czechs have become big consumers of bottled water. The use of home filtration systems is also growing slowly.

With the recent repeated flood disasters, the government has also started to focus more on anti-flood measures. In the years 2007 – 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture plans to invest in this area CZK14 billion (\$0.7 billion) - CZK10billion (\$0.5 billion) for flood-prevention measures, CZK4 billion (\$0.2 billion) for reconstruction of ponds, construction of water reservoirs and land adjustments.

WASTE & RECYCLING

The EU focus on recycling and re-use has also been introduced to the country in recent years, following an EU trend of transforming Europe into a ‘recycling society’. But while the level of recycling and composting has improved significantly in the Czech Republic in recent years, there is still a long way to go to achieve the levels typically found in Western Europe. In 2007, 25.1 million tons of waste was produced in the country; or 2.4 tons per capita. Most of the waste, almost 22 million tons, was produced by companies - mainly concrete, bricks, demolition waste and soil produced by construction companies. Communal waste accounted for about 3 million tons. Some 5.5 million tons of waste was recycled;



650,000 tons of waste was used as fuel and material to produce energy. The country recycles 52 percent of PET bottles and other plastic products; 68 percent of glass and 95 percent of paper waste. The problem areas in recycling include household waste (mainly vegetable) and electrical appliance recycling. Currently, the country is recycling only about 20 percent of these waste products. Nearly 270,000 tons of waste was imported to the Czech Republic, mostly from other EU countries. It was mainly metal, plastics, rubber, paper and tires. The imported waste is mostly processed further.

REMEDIATION & BROWNFIELDS

In December 2008, the Finance Ministry announced a public contract for the complex liquidation of environmental damages created before major industries were privatized. All burdens are to be liquidated as one contract, the value of which is CZK115 billion. Only a fourth of the environmental damage the state previously pledged to remove has actually been removed over the past 15 years. With greenfield invest sites starting to fill up, harder-to-sell reclaimed brownfield sites are now attracting attention, especially in city centers. According to a 2007 research study commissioned to locate brownfields, there are currently 2,355 brownfields covering roughly 11,000 hectares (however, it is not the final number). Brownfield sites with a military history comprise approximately ¼ of all sites.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Environmental consultancy services are generally offered through a competitive bidding system on projects in the government as well as in the private sector. Although the Czech market is extremely price sensitive, clients are willing to pay a substantial premium for the quality and suitability of services offered. U. S. companies will face strong competition from local environmental consulting companies. They can be successful in leveraging their experience to offer assistance with financial solutions and the latest technologies. While the supply and demand for consultancies in the spheres of air and water protection is well balanced, an increase is expected in the areas of waste treatment and environmental technologies as well as in the area of cleaner production or production technology.

INDOOR & OUTDOOR AIR POLLUTION

Indoor air quality is slowly gaining prominence and attention in the Czech Republic. The areas of greatest concern for indoor air quality are office buildings, shopping malls, hospitals, underground garages, restaurants, kitchens, and vehicular tunnels. Opportunities for U.S. companies that specialize in indoor air quality include monitoring and analytical equipment, ventilation systems, and air duct cleaning equipment and services. Demand is driven by a growing awareness of the impact that poor air quality has on public health, the environment, and labor productivity.

The volume of greenhouse gas emissions produced by Czech power and metallurgic plants has not been declining recently. Carbon dioxide was the substance that polluted the air on a massive scale. Its emissions were reported by 80 plants, most often power plants. The emissions of carbon dioxides reached a total of 86.3 million tones. Moravia-Silesia and north Bohemia are still the regions most burdened by pollution. Coal-fuelled power plants make up 14 of the country's 20 biggest producers of carbon dioxides. The other heaviest polluters are iron works, chemical plants, heat & paper producers.

TRADE EVENTS

Environmental Fairs in Brno; May 26 – 28, 2009, www.bvv.cz/envibrno-gb
International Machine Tools Fair in Brno; September 14 – 18, 2009, www.bvv.cz/imt-gb
Wastes in Luhacovice; September, 2009, www.jogaluhacovice.cz
Aqua-therm Praha; November, 2009, www.tzb-info.cz

AVAILABLE MARKET RESEARCH

Water & Waste Water (2009)
Indoor Air Quality (2007)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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