

Press Release 9.4.2025

PBS Velká Bíteš, the jewel of Czech engineering, celebrates 75 years this year. The plant will be given a blessing by Cardinal Duka

Velká Bíteš - The PBS Group production plant in Velká Bíteš celebrates 75 years since its opening this year. It is one of the top companies not only in the Czech Republic, but also in the world of engineering. On the occasion of the anniversary, it will see not only further investments and modernization, but also events for employees and partners. The first of them related to the anniversary will be the visit of Cardinal Dominik Duka on Wednesday 9 April. He will bless the company and its employees.

"We very much appreciate the visit of Cardinal Dominik Duka. PBS is a traditional company and an important employer in the region. The blessing from the Cardinal is symbolic for the next successful period that we are now all shaping together, whether as PBS Group or PBS Velká Bíteš, for many years to come. It is a challenge and a pleasure for all of us to participate in the unprecedented success of Czech engineering," says Pavel Čechal, Executive Director of PBS GROUP.

PBS Velká Bíteš under the wings of PBS GROUP is experiencing the most successful period of its history. In its 75th anniversary year, the PBS Velká Bíteš plant will see record investments worth CZK 700 million during the year, which will be directed towards strengthening and developing production capacities. The plant is growing not only in terms of business, but also in terms of the number of employees, whose number increased from 600 to 700 last year alone. It is for them that another anniversary event is planned after the summer holidays. The celebration with food, drinks, a concert and a raffle will take place on 12 September. The company will then celebrate the anniversary with its business partners at the International Engineering Fair in Brno on 7 October.

"We are aware that the heart of our plant is our employees. Some of them have been working here for the second generation. We want them to remain happy with us. We are glad that as a responsible employer we can continuously improve the conditions and benefits for them thanks to our success," says Milan Macholán, CEO of PBS Velká Bíteš.

Investments throughout the year are also being made to modernize the plant's independent environment. This will involve gradual architectural modifications of the entire site. It will also include the construction of a representative showroom or an extension to the company's management building. The company will work with renowned architectural firms on the designs.

"We are also aware of our historical legacy. By modernizing the plant, we will also fulfil our social responsibility towards a better environment for our employees and the surrounding environment," adds Milan Macholán.

About PBS Velká Bíteš

PBS Velká Bíteš is part of the PBS GROUP holding, which represents one of the longest operating engineering brands on the world market. The PBS Velká Bíteš plant was put into operation 75 years ago.

The first thoughts about the introduction of industrial production in Velká Bíteš date back to after World War II, to 1946. In the following years, a greenfield production plant was built. At that time, it belonged to Vítkovice Ironworks, which later handed it over to the First Brno Machine Works.

Since then, the plant has undergone a remarkable development. Today, PBS Group and PBS Velká Bíteš are synonymous with quality, technological excellence and innovation. As a global leader in the development and production of aircraft engines and advanced aerospace technologies, its products are used in dozens of markets worldwide.

The company is internationally recognized for its jet engines and production of auxiliary power units (APU) for aircraft and helicopters. It is also involved in the development of components for Lockheed Martin's F-35 aircraft and has collaborated with other global players such as US aircraft engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney. The company also produces jet engines for advanced unmanned aerial vehicles and light aircraft. Auxiliary power conditioning systems also complement aerospace production.

PBS Velká Bíteš is also a leading European precision foundry, supplier of electroplating and high-precision machining. It offers a wide range of precision castings not only for aerospace but also for other industries such as automotive and energy.

Most recently, the company has invested in a new vacuum and annealing furnace worth tens of millions of crowns, which will help ensure increased production of high-quality castings of superalloy parts. The investment is also related to increasing capacity for the F-35 aircraft programme.

History of PBS Velká Bíteš - 75 years of innovation and technological excellence

- The first "official" mention of the introduction of industrial production in Velká Bíteš dates back to 1946. In the following years, a production plant of Vítkovice Ironworks began to be built on the "green field". It was subsequently handed over to the First Brno Machine Works Brno.
- In the beginning, production was focused on the production of pneumatic tools for Vítkovice Ironworks. In January 1951, the production of valves for steam power plants and other power equipment began in Velká Bíteš.
- In 1957, it was decided to introduce the production of turbochargers for turbocharging diesel engines. Gradual expansion for various applications has been an important production program of PBS throughout its history.
- In 1967-1969, the construction of the foundry took place. Starting with the first castings of turbine blades, production gradually expanded to include complete turbine wheels, other products, and knee replacements for the medical industry. Since the 1970s, the foundry's precision castings have contributed to the success of PBS's aerospace production. The foundry develops new types of castings every year. It is involved, for example, in the production of microturbines for power generation.
- At the beginning of the 1970s, production of instruments for the L-39 Albatros aircraft of Aero Vodochody began. Air conditioning instruments were also developed for the L-39 project.
- In 1973, the first mass-produced Saphir 5 air generators were delivered, which used compressed air to start the aircraft's engines.

- In the course of series production, a requirement arose to extend the air generator to an auxiliary power unit supplying not only compressed air but also electrical power for the on-board instruments.
- In 1981, PBS Velká Bíteš became involved in the development of cryogenic turbines.
- At the end of the 1980s, it began supplying helium expansion turbines to LINDE. A three-stage cascade of low-temperature helium compressors was subsequently delivered to the particle accelerator at CERN.
- In connection with the introduction and expansion of instrumentation production for the L-39 aircraft, it was necessary to provide prescribed surface protection. In 1980, final technologies for surface treatment of the electroplating plant were installed.
- An important chapter in the history of aircraft production at PBS Velká Bíteš is the implementation of the delivery of instruments for the L-159 aircraft, which began in the second half of the 1990s. In addition to the launching and air-conditioning system, the main gearbox of the aircraft was developed and delivered.
- In 1993, the production of new series of steam turbines and expansion turbines of the STG I and STG II type used in biomass combustion technology was launched.
- In 1997, a joint venture between PBS and MAN B&W Diesel called PBS Turbo s.r.o. was established, which still manufactures turbochargers on the premises of PBS Velká Bíteš.
- In 2002, tests of the first working sample of the PBS TJ100 turbojet engine were started. Since 2006, the PBS TP100 engine has been developed. In 2011, the ESPOSA project was launched, under which both engines were developed into a marketable form.
- In 2019, the Industry Division was restructured and the development and production capacities of the Aerospace Division and the Precision Casting Division were strengthened.
- In 2025, PBS Group plans record investment in the plant and increased production
- The company will introduce the new TJ 200 engine this year

Contact for media:

MgA. Monika Hrubalová, Marketing Director

T: +420 234 094 437 | M: 734 672 683

E: hrubalova@pbs-group.cz

www.pbs.cz