

Prague
Congress
Centre
Magazine

2_2025

Let's Meet!

Where moments *matter*



Prague Congress Centre

... a place with a story

Crossroads:
The voice of the public
woven into a mural

Prague among
the world's TOP 5
congress destinations



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➤ Construction of the new multi-purpose hall taking clearer shape

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Dear readers,

Welcome to the latest issue of our magazine. Allow me to briefly summarise the recent events and achievements that have delighted us, and to outline our plans for the near future. One major development is that, after many years, the City of Prague has once again become the sole owner of the Prague Congress Centre. I am truly pleased that our long-standing ambition to transform the public space around the building will finally be fulfilled. We have prepared two development plans, the first of which envisages the construction of a new multi-purpose exhibition hall and the revitalisation of the southern garages. Work is expected to begin as early as next spring.

Prague currently ranks fifth in global congress tourism and even fourth in Europe. With the new hall, which will add another 5,000 m² of congress and exhibition space to both the Prague Congress Centre and the city as a whole, our venue will be-

come even more attractive for social events, parties and gala evenings. The hall will seat up to 1,500 guests at round tables! I dare say that in the near future, Prague could aspire to be amongst the world's TOP 3 congress destinations.

Alongside the southern development plan, we are also preparing the renovation of the northern garages and the revitalisation of the area in front of the Congress Centre, closer to Nusle Bridge. Here, visitors can look forward to a new bistro, a lookout point and a quiet relaxation zone. The project will also include an expanded staircase leading from the metro station and a lift for people with disabilities. Even now, we are not standing idle and continue to renovate the interior of the Congress Centre, with the principles of sustainability in mind. This topic is covered in more detail on the following pages.

This year, we have hosted some major congresses and prestigious events. Among them, I would like to highlight the World Congress of

Fetal Medicine; thanks to Professor Calda, it brought together around three thousand experts from all over the world. In September, we also hosted the prestigious ICCA workshop, where the Prague Congress Centre and our colleagues presented themselves in the best possible light. Both of these events are also featured on the following pages. As large congresses are typically booked years in advance, I know that the coming years will bring further exceptional gatherings and significant occasions. And I'm really looking forward to them!

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you pleasant reading.

Lenka Žlebková
CEO at Prague Congress Centre



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New video spot presents the PCC as a place with soul



It takes just one movement, one shot – and you're once again reminded of how unique this place is. Our new video captures the beauty of movement, light and architecture at the Prague Congress Centre. Dance, the city's atmosphere, breathtaking views and interior art – all intertwined in a single visual story. We are a place with soul, a home for congresses, conferences, exhibitions and cultural events – all with a focus on sustainability and top-class service, backed by more than 44 years of experience. Scan the QR code to open the video and watch a day with our ballerina.



» Where moments matter? Here. «

World Congress of Psychiatry (WCP 2025)

In early October, the Prague Congress Centre hosted the 25th World Congress of Psychiatry under the subtitle The Role of Psychiatry in a Changing World. Delegates enjoyed a four-day scientific programme filled with the latest insights from leading experts, who discussed key challenges in mental health in times of global transformation, such as how to ensure evidence-based treatment, promote prevention, and support healthy lifestyles in an ever-changing environment. The programme also included sections focusing on various aspects of psychiatry – from affective disorders, psychoses and addictions to new topics such as digital psychiatry and behavioural disorders in the digital age. The congress was organised by the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), which brings together 147 psychiatric societies across 123 countries.



Thursday Music Evenings: Piano Nights & World Bites

Embark on a journey around the world – all in a single evening. Enjoy the gentle tones of the piano and savour specialities of world cuisine. Every week, a different range of delicious flavours awaits you: French quiche, Spanish tortillas and quesadillas, Italian lasagne and tortellini, or American barbecue. Every Thursday at the Bites & Wine Bar of the Holiday Inn Prague from 7 p.m. For reservations, call 296 895 030 or email restaurant@holidayinn.cz.

EANO 2025: The latest insights in neuro-oncology at the Prague Congress Centre

In mid-October, the Prague Congress Centre became the focal point of European neuro-oncology. It hosted the 20th anniversary congress of EANO 2025 (European Association of Neuro-Oncology), which brought together hundreds of experts from around the world – from neurosurgeons, oncologists and radiologists to researchers and nursing professionals. Five days packed with expert sessions offered the latest knowledge on the treatment of tumours of the central and peripheral nervous system, presentations of groundbreaking clinical studies, and discussions on the future of personalised medicine.

The PCC in motion

PCC employees took part in the nationwide challenge Active September 2025, organised by the Active Czech Foundation. The aim of this national campaign is to promote physical activity, a healthy lifestyle and active leisure through a variety of events. Throughout September, the entire “Congress Centre in Motion” team participated in a variety of activities and competitions that encouraged movement, team spirit and the joy of an active lifestyle. We ran, swam, took active walks, fought ping-pong battles, stretched and calmed our minds with yoga, and explored lesser-known corners of Vyšehrad, such as the Podolí case-mates, and places linked with sport. Thank you all for taking part!



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↑ Even delegates at the ICCA workshop couldn't resist our photo corner

Unique photos from our photopoint

No visitor to the Prague Congress Centre can fail to be captivated, and quite literally stunned, by the views of Prague. Visitors often spend long minutes by the windows overlooking Nusle Bridge and the city panorama, camera or phone in hand. To make sure everyone can take home a great photo, we've created a brand-new photo corner. Sit back in our original, comfortable armchairs from the Congress Hall and take photos with either the hall itself or the Prague skyline as your backdrop, whatever you prefer. We'll be delighted if you take away a beautiful memory of this exceptional building from our photopoint.

Coming up at the Prague Congress Centre

Calendar of selected events

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For a current
overview of events,
see here



11–12 December 2025

Vienna State Ballet: Swan Lake and The Nutcracker

This December, the renowned Vienna State Ballet will make its first-ever stop in Prague as part of its tour. Over two evenings, audiences will be treated to a pair of iconic works of classical ballet – Swan Lake and The Nutcracker. The Vienna State Ballet is synonymous with elegance, precision and deep emotional expression. The ensemble is composed of graduates of Europe's most prestigious choreographic schools, combining perfect technique with extraordinary dramatic flair. Every gesture, every movement feels so authentic that the audience feels as though they themselves become part of the story. Alongside the company, leading soloists from major European theatres will appear on stage together with lavish scenery and exquisite period costumes.

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13–14 December 2025
**Richard Krajčo: Advent
Symphony Tour**

Singer, actor and songwriter Richard Krajčo, known for his distinctive voice and charismatic stage presence, has prepared a remarkable Advent experience for his fans. The three concerts will feature his current hits and earlier numbers, all re-imagined in unique symphonic arrangements accompanied by two leading Czech philharmonic orchestras. These orchestral versions elevate his music to a new artistic dimension while preserving its authenticity and emotional depth.



**>> Where the top
artists perform?
Here. <<**

3



1 March 2026 The Rock Symphony Orchestra

A spectacular musical performance bringing together one hundred artists on a single stage, for an electrifying fusion of sound and emotion. The Rock Symphony Orchestra is more than just a concert – it's a masterful musical experience bursting with energy. Sophisticated stage design and lighting paint the stage in vivid colours, transforming familiar melodies into something entirely new – all enhanced by exclusive arrangements unlike anything else. The repertoire features iconic and beloved rock anthems reinterpreted for rock band, orchestra and choir, with soaring vocal passages that move the heart and touch the soul.

10–12 March 2026 Retail Summit 2026

Retail Summit is regarded as one of the most important conferences for the retail sector in the Czech Republic and across Central Europe. It's the meeting point for the key players on the market – retailers, manufacturers and suppliers. It also offers a great opportunity for networking, testing strategies, and drawing inspiration from proven approaches and new trends. The theme of the 32nd Retail Summit is "Healthy Relationships". The keynote speaker will be Magnus Lindkvist, Swedish futurologist and trendspotter.

23–26 March 2026 PBP World Meeting 226: Pharmaceutical Science in the Heart of Europe

In March 2026, Prague will host the 15th annual PBP World Meeting, an international conference dedicated to pharmaceuticals, biopharmaceutics and drug manufacturing technology. The event provides space for academics, researchers and industry specialists to exchange knowledge and expertise in areas such as drug development, formulation, analytics, production technology and related disciplines. The programme includes lectures, poster sessions and the ResearchPharm exhibition, where pharmaceutical companies showcase their products, technologies and innovative solutions.



28–31 March 2026 European Congress of Psychiatry – EPA 2026

At the end of March, the Prague Congress Centre will host one of Europe's most significant gatherings of mental health professionals – the 34th European Congress of Psychiatry (EPA 2026), held under the theme "Mental Health: Improving Care and Broadening Horizons". The aim of the congress is to deepen collaboration among experts, researchers and people with lived experience of mental illness, opening new directions in care and innovation within psychiatry. The programme will feature a wide range of formats - from expert lectures and interactive discussions to symposia and workshops.



22–25 April 2026 INSAR 2026: Prague welcomes the global elite in autism research

The International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) is a global organisation dedicated to advancing research into autism spectrum disorders. Each year, it holds its Annual Meeting, a flagship scientific conference where researchers from around the world share new findings, methodologies and approaches to understanding autism. The conference aims to connect the latest scientific knowledge – from genetic and neurobiological mechanisms to the practical challenges of therapy, education and social support. Experts will present studies on early diagnosis, the influence of environment on child development, the effectiveness of different forms of intervention, and the use of new technologies in supporting people on the spectrum. In April 2026, the Prague Congress Centre will thus host an event that has the potential to significantly deepen understanding of autism and promote more effective support for those living with it.

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13 representatives of "venues",
13 representatives of associations
and 17 minutes for a one-on-one
business meeting



Event of the year

ICCA Business Workshop: Partnerships Leading to Success

From 4 to 6 September, the Prague Congress Centre hosted the prestigious ICCA Business Workshop, one of the most important gatherings of professionals in the association congress sector. The workshop brought together representatives of associations and congress centres from all over Europe to discuss collaboration and new business opportunities.

The main objective of the ICCA (International Congress and Convention Association) workshop is to facilitate meetings between representatives of associations and venues, i.e. the locations where events are held. The workshop serves not only as a platform for business but also as a space for sharing experience and inspiration. One of its key advantages is that participants can meet potential partners from all over the world in one place, saving both time and resources.

A programme packed with surprises and inspiration

The three-day workshop took place in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, featuring

a rich programme from morning till evening that combined business networking with entertainment and the chance to explore Prague. There was a tour of the city that included Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, Charles Bridge and Old Town Square, while delegates also enjoyed a candle-lit guided visit to Vyšehrad and its catacombs. The tour around the Prague Congress Centre itself was hugely popular, with dozens of works of art showcased in professional style. Guests stayed at the Holiday Inn Prague, which also hosted the welcome reception and dinner.

"One-to-one"

The second day focused on the core of the event – the business workshop, con-





Who can attend the ICCA workshop

European ICCA members from the "Venues" sector and senior members of international associations actively seeking locations for their events. Meetings must meet the following criteria: rotation within Europe, over 500 delegates, a frequency of at least once every 4 years (ideally every 1-2 years), and a minimum duration of 3 days.

ducted in a "one-to-one" format. Thirteen venue representatives and thirteen association delegates each had seventeen minutes for a private business meeting, followed by three minutes to move on to the next conversation. This proven format is highly effective for personal introductions and exploring future collaboration opportunities.

During the lunch break, participants were treated to a truly enchanting experience. In the Congress Hall, they watched a brand-new video presenting the Prague Congress Centre. As they admired the graceful movements of a ballerina on screen, the same dancer suddenly appeared live on stage, joined by her partner for a moving ballet performance.

An unforgettable experience

After the working part of the programme, the delegates boarded a historical tram to the city centre, where they explored the inner workings of the Astronomical Clock and climbed the tower of the Old Town Hall. The evening concluded with a gala dinner in the St. George Hall, featuring a surprise twist. "We managed to come up with something unexpected — something most of them had never seen before - before dessert was served, a waitress dressed in a Zátíší Catering uniform pretended to trip and drop her tray, causing quite a commotion. As the startled guests rushed to help her, the lady, who was actually an opera soprano, suddenly began to

sing. The surprise was met with enormous enthusiasm," says Hana Obrázková, Account Manager of the Prague Congress Centre, who was responsible for the delegates and represented the PCC on the venue's side.

The third day was given over to the "Partnerships for Success" forum, which focused on the value of collaboration and partnership within the association meetings sector. Discussions explored trends in the congress industry, the expectations of associations and how to align them with the opportunities offered by congress centres.

Prague confirmed its position

Participants left the workshop with valuable insights into current trends in congress and conference organisation, having formed new partnerships and strengthened existing ones. For the Prague Congress Centre, the event was a significant opportunity to demonstrate that it ranks among Europe's top venues for international conferences, and also to showcase its unique spaces, modern facilities and rich artistic heritage. Representatives of the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO), the European Society of Coloproctology (ESCP) and the European College of Sport Science (ECSS) showed great interest in Prague. The ICCA Business Workshop thus confirmed that Prague remains one of Europe's leading hubs for association meetings and prestigious congresses.

Testimonials from abroad

"You did an amazing job showcasing Prague's culture, the city itself and your hospitality through a series of wonderful surprises. The ballet dancers and opera singers performing in such a unique atmosphere were the highlight of the evening. I honestly can't think of anything the host venue could have done better. Thank you for this unforgettable experience — I truly hope our congress will return to Prague and enjoy your beautiful city once again!"

Elena Jacobi, European College of Sport Science

"Everything was perfectly organised, and the meetings were truly productive. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Old Town Hall, the dinner, and the wonderful singing performance during the evening. The ballet in the main hall was also a fantastic surprise."

Carine Lecoq, European Society of Surgical Oncology

"On behalf of ICCA, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Prague Congress Centre for hosting the ICCA Business Workshop. Your professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm were evident throughout and played a key role in making the event such a success. The way you presented both the destination and the venue itself was absolutely outstanding."

Kerstin Jones, ICCA



Roman Pacvoň

Head of MICE Sales

When I first joined the Prague Congress Centre, I was struck by the fact that among our long-term returning clients, one of the most prominent is the Forum 2000 Foundation. I had known the foundation well since my student years, and later even spent a short part of my professional career there. It was also the demanding experience of organising the Forum 2000 annual conference that made me realise what an exceptional venue the Prague Congress Centre truly is.

I don't just mean its unique, flexible spaces close to the city centre; above all it's the technical capability and the detailed knowledge of security procedures required when hosting high-profile state leaders and international dignitaries. We have extensive experience in this area from previous major events such as NATO and EU meetings. Over time, my perception of Forum 2000 expanded even further. In recent years, congress centres around the world have embraced the so-called "legacy" approach, where the aim is not only to run a successful event but also to contribute positively to society. I believe that Forum 2000 is exactly the kind of project that delivers such a wider societal impact, which it proves every single year.

Tomáš Brejcha

Marketing Manager

Large events at the Prague Congress Centre are the result of close cooperation between several teams. A good example is the recent ICCA European Venues Workshop, which received exceptionally positive feedback from participants. My marketing team, working together with MICE, prepared all the materials and presentations including graphics, managed event communications, helped shape the programme and the participant gifts, and also played a part in the creative side of things – such as by choreographing the ballet performance that became a highlight of the guided tour of the Congress Hall.

Colleagues from the production team oversaw the smooth running of the entire event, while the AVT team ensured technical perfection, allowing not only the presentations but also the experiential elements of the workshop to shine. The combination of these areas of expertise – from communications and logistics to technical support – created a strong whole that demonstrated how teamwork at our centre brings real added value for guests and partners alike. Participants appreciated the high level of professionalism, the friendly atmosphere and the creative touches – and that is the greatest reward for us. Together, we proved that a professional event can also be an inspiring and unforgettable experience.

>> Where people connect? Here. <<



Tereza Thielová

Building Cleaning & Hall Services Manager

My role is to ensure that all areas of the Prague Congress Centre are kept clean and tidy every day, as well as to organise and coordinate the preparation of individual halls for a wide variety of events – from scientific congresses and cultural events to social gatherings. My work includes managing the team, planning shifts, overseeing quality standards and responding flexibly to operational requirements linked to specific events.

Some of the major events I have helped prepare have included the international ESPEN Congress – The European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism, which was highly demanding in terms of organisation, logistics and ensuring that all the premises looked as representative as possible, as well as the Cosplay Festival, a completely different type of event with an emphasis on creativity and rapid operational response.

In the long-term, my focus has been on efficient operations management, strong teamwork and consistently maintaining quality — something absolutely essential in a high-traffic environment.

Zdeněk Balšánek

Measurement and Control Mechanic

Measurement and control systems are crucial for the efficient, safe and energy-saving operation of the Prague Congress Centre. To ensure continuous operations, including supervision of the boiler room, we work twelve-hour shifts under the Technical Dispatching Centre.

That monitors and evaluates faults, which are then passed on to us to be resolved. We also carry out regular maintenance of the air-handling and air-conditioning systems, of which we have a substantial number in order to maintain the right indoor environment in the building, including central cooling and heating. This naturally includes the boiler room and all the duties associated with that, as we produce both heat and chilled water not only for the Congress Centre itself but also for the adjacent hotel and office buildings. The boiler room also houses a cogeneration unit.

We recently completed the installation of new heating and an air curtain for the staff gatehouse (Entrance No. 11), as well as new heating for the gatehouse at Entrance No. 9. Our work thus plays a vital role in keeping the entire Prague Congress Centre running smoothly.

World Congress in Fetal Medicine comes to Prague for the first time

At the turn of June and July, the Prague Congress Centre hosted the 22nd World Congress in Fetal Medicine, welcoming more than 3,000 experts in maternal and fetal health from 120 countries around the world.

A pioneer of prenatal diagnostics comes to Prague

The most prominent and eagerly awaited guest was Professor Kypros Nicolaides, widely regarded as the father of modern fetal medicine. His work, and life, also inspired one of the episodes of the Netflix documentary mini-series *The Surgeon's Cut*. Key topics of the congress included screening for genetic abnormalities, the prevention of preterm birth and pre-eclampsia, and modern approaches to multiple pregnancies and rare developmental disorders.

The programme featured a diverse mix of expert lectures, interactive workshops and video presentations of surgical procedures, with strong emphasis on interdisciplinary dialogue and active participant engagement. The congress also gave young doctors the chance to learn from the leading figures in the field and brought valuable insights that can significantly improve care for pregnant women and their unborn children.

➤ "Thanks to Professor Calda's global reputation, we were able to bring the congress to the Czech Republic for the very first time. It was an honour to host such an exceptional event, one that connects cutting-edge science with the deeply human mission of caring for life in its earliest stages," said Lenka Žlebková, PCC CEO.



Czech perinatology enjoys an outstanding international reputation

The Czech ambassador of the congress and a key figure behind the event's preparation was the respected specialist Prof. MUDr. Pavel Calda, CSc., Head of the Centre for Fetal Medicine at the Department of Gynaecology, Obstetrics and Neonatology of the First Faculty of Medicine of Charles University and General University Hospital in Prague. "Czech

↑ Prague Congress Centre is the ideal venue for congresses of this scale



←
Prof. Pavel Calda received the award for Candidate of the Year from the Mayor of Prague



>> Where history happens? Here. <<

medicine not only has a long tradition in gynaecology and obstetrics, but Czech perinatology has long ranked amongst the best in the world. I am pleased we succeeded in bringing this prestigious congress to Prague and combining a top-class scientific programme with the in-

spiring setting of the Czech capital. This is because Prague offers ideal conditions for both expert and personal exchange," said Professor Calda, who also received the Candidate of the Year award at the prestigious Ambassador Awards Evening 2024 for bringing this congress to Prague.



A word of thanks from Prof. MUDr. Pavel Calda, CSc.

"Thanks to the excellent cooperation with the professional team at the Prague Congress Centre, the whole congress went smoothly and without a single hitch. We greatly appreciated the superb performance of the audiovisual and IT support teams, who ensured the smooth running of all the lectures and presentations. Special thanks also go to the impeccable catering service for more than 3,000 participants – both during coffee breaks and lunches.

We received some very positive feedback already at the welcome reception, which took place in a friendly and inspiring atmosphere and set the tone for the exceptional spirit of the entire congress. The feedback from participants from more than 120 countries, as well as from partner companies, has been overwhelmingly positive. We have not seen a single negative reaction - on the contrary, the congress is already considered one of the highest-rated in the history of the entire series. Thank you for your helpfulness, professionalism and personal dedication, without which this success would not have been possible."



>> Where is the best view of Prague? Here. <<



The third annual Archirun showed Prague in a different light

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Prague's architectural icons came to life at the end of August during the third year of the unique Archirun race, organised by the Center for Architecture and Metropolitan Planning (CAMP). A thousand runners made their way around – and even through – the Prague Congress Centre.

As always, the start and finish took place at the Prager Cubes, a complex of three "levitating" cubes originally designed by architect Karel Prager for the Association of Design Studios. Today the site houses the Prague Institute of Planning and Development (IPR Prague) and CAMP.

Experience and discovery come first

The race is not primarily about timing and performance – it creates a platform where physical activity meets urban exploration and architectural discovery. Participants run for the experience and for the chance to see Prague from a new perspective. The nine-kilometre course led through some lesser-known parts of the city: from the gardens of the Emmaus Monastery, through the mysterious underground corridors of the Vyšehrad casemates, the monumental interiors of the Prague Congress Centre, the iconic Czech Televi-



When active movement meets discovery and fun.

sion complex on Kavčí hory, and finally to the Rowing Island with views of the new Dvorecký Bridge.

"We're delighted that alongside more than a thousand runners, over fifteen hundred visitors enjoyed the special atmosphere of this year's Archirun accompanying programme at CAMP," said its director Štěpán Bártl. The programme included

guided tours, creative workshops for children and adults, a street-art workshop, film screenings and a wide selection of great food and drink. Runners and their supporters could also explore selected interior spaces of the Prague Congress Centre, admire its architecture and artworks, and take in the panoramic views of Prague's historical centre.



Run for Jedlička - together for a good cause

The Jedlička Institute, the oldest Czech facility for children and young people with physical disabilities, is not only our Vyšehrad neighbour, but also close to our hearts. We have a long-standing partnership with the Jedlička Institute Foundation and whenever possible, we lend a helping hand or join their charity events.

And it was no different at this year's charity Run for Jedlička, held in mid-June in the Vyšehrad Gardens. This meaningful event combines healthy exercise in beautiful surroundings with help for people in need.

When sport helps...

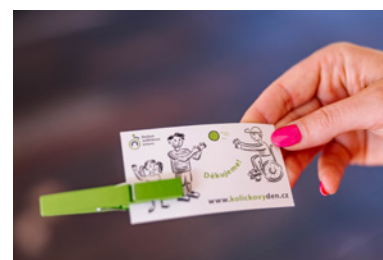
There were different routes to choose from - from short children's runs to longer circuits for adults, all featuring symbolic obstacles representing the barriers faced by people with disabilities. Although it wasn't primarily about

performance, we were thrilled that the Prague Congress Centre team ran its way to a wonderful second place, with plenty of good feelings on top! The race and its accompanying programme took place in a friendly atmosphere, and every kilometre run helped support the activities of the Jedlička Institute and its schools, which aid children and young people with disabilities. Thank you to everyone involved for doing such a great job of representing the Prague Congress Centre and for your willingness to help where it truly matters.



We supported Peg Day

In April, the picturesque Rosmarina complex by the Vltava hosted the Spring Festival for Prague Congress Centre employees. Colleagues had the chance to try their hand at a wide range of activities - from football golf, mini golf and volleyball to competitions and board games. Besides entertainment, informal meetings and teambuilding opportunities, the festival also offered a chance to contribute together to Peg Day, the annual public fundraiser organised by the Jedlička Institute Foundation. The event is named after the symbolic green peg that participants pin to their clothes, representing the unity of able-bodied and disabled people working together as one community.



Suzi Quatro: The Queen of Rock 'n' Roll celebrates 60 years on stage

Energy, courage and an unmistakable style – Suzi Quatro has embodied all of this for six decades. A pioneer of women in rock, a bass guitarist in a leather jumpsuit, and a voice powerful enough to shake even the toughest fans. And this year she celebrates an incredible 60 years on stage. To mark the anniversary, she's heading out on tour, returning to wow Prague audiences at the Prague Congress Centre on 18 December 2025.

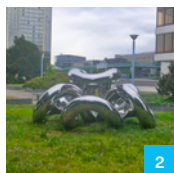
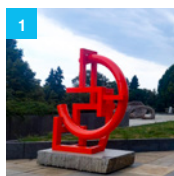
Suzi Quatro – the woman who proved that rock doesn't have to be a male domain – debuted back in the 1970s and quickly became an icon. Hits like Can the Can, 48 Crash or Devil Gate Drive made rock'n'roll history just as much as her charismatic stage presence. And Suzi has never slowed down. She plays, performs, writes, presents and records. And this year she celebrated her 75th birthday! "I have to have fun, I have to create, I have to communicate. It's the air I breathe," she says of her inexhaustible energy. Her approach to life is best summed up by the famous line that became her motto: "I will retire when I go on stage, turn my back in the audience, shake my ass, and there is silence." So get ready for an evening full of rock passion, electrifying energy and timeless music that has kept its spark for sixty years.



Celine The Show: Prague heard the voice of a legend

Our Congress Hall came alive on 21 October with a voice full of emotion and elegance. Lisa Harter, an award-winning singer, took to the stage and paid tribute to the Canadian legend with respect and professionalism in her performance Celine The Show. She showed that a tribute concert doesn't have to be mere imitation.

With a live band, thoughtful staging and a powerful vocal presence, she drew the audience into the world of Celine Dion so naturally that, for a while, the hall felt like a concert arena. She performed some of the star's greatest hits, such as My Heart Will Go On, Because You Loved Me, I'm Alive and The Power of Love, and the audience welcomed them with enthusiasm. Lisa Harter captured not only Dion's voice, but also her look and stage presence. Her performance confirmed why this show is such a success all over the world. Although Celine Dion no longer performs, her music lives on through productions like this one. Celine The Show offered an evening full of strong melodies and emotion – without unnecessary pathos, but with genuine respect for one of the greatest singers of modern music.



Sculpture Line Prague: To admire, and to touch

As part of our Art District Vyšehrad project, several works of art have sprung up around the Prague Congress Centre and in the garden of the Holiday Inn Prague hotel, attracting the attention of visitors and passers-by. There are various works of art on display, such as sculptures by leading local artists, created in collaboration with the Sculpture Line Prague international sculpture festival. We are pleased to connect history with contemporary art. Look, and feel free to touch...

1 Fragment

"Why exhibit something incomplete, something that is only a fragment?" asks the artist Václav Fiala. And answers: "Because the viewer can create the final form with their own imagination. And imagination is endless..."

2 Heart

Sculptor Lukáš Rais invites you to immerse yourself in the folds of the work, physically or inwardly, and savour the mystery of "the certainty of never-ending uncertainty".

3 Boat

A boat made of high-fired clay by Alexandra Kolářková, created for the theme A Chair for the City. "A voyage" on this boat is meant to bring joy and friendly communication. "Sit on it for a moment with friends or even complete strangers," says the artist.

4 The Deposition

According to artist Václav Fiala, the wooden ladder is intended to symbolise the removal of Jesus Christ from the cross. And apparently, you can remove anything you want...

Vyšehrad Ice Rink

In mid-November, we're reopening the winter ice rink to the public on the northern terrace promenade of the Prague Congress Centre! Come and enjoy skating with panoramic views of Prague, or arrange a corporate teambuilding session right there on the ice.

The 30 x 15 metre rink can be used throughout the winter by members of the public, nursery and primary schools, as well as by companies that can organise teambuilding sessions on skates (and use one of our halls for their presentations or other needs). Evening rentals are also possible, such as for a game of hobby hockey.

Our partner, JDEME BRUSLIT s.r.o., which operates the rink, is preparing a number of sports-and-culture events. These will include the rental of skates and other children's sports equipment, as well as a heated refreshment tent. The ice rink is part of the Art District Vyšehrad project, which brings everyday community life back close to the city centre, connects the local community and creates spaces for active leisure.



Crossroads: The voice of the public woven into a mural

A unique artwork has been created beneath the northern terrace of the Prague Congress Centre, a visually powerful piece that invites passers-by to pause, reflect and look inward. The installation, titled Crossroads, was created in collaboration with the non-profit organisation PRAHO! project and is part of our Art District Vyšehrad initiative. It aims to revitalise the public space around the PCC and instil it with art and culture.

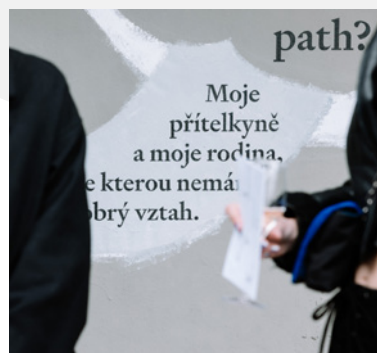
Turning a grey wall into human stories

The mural – a large-scale wall painting – blends people's personal experiences with visual inspiration drawn from maps, signposts and road signs. "The choice of textual content is essential to the Crossroads concept; the words need room to stand out within the imagined paths," explains the artist, Nina Sibinská. The texts on the wall come from people who regularly pass through the area – in total, you can read 85 authentic "voices" in six languages.

You'll find the real memories and thoughts of real people ("I love this place. I've enjoyed wonderful musicals, balls

and afternoons of dancing and chatting here.") as well as their wishes ("That I live to a healthy old age – and above all, that my children and grandchildren live in health and peace.") These thoughts and opinions were collected from November 2024 to March 2025 on-site at the PCC and online and became the basis for three thematic groups: Where From / Which Way / Where To.

There are three main ideas behind the project. The first is an effort to take passers-by out of the everyday grey routine and offer them an unexpected experience. The second intention is to bring art out of closed galleries and into the public space,



↑
Get involved
in Crossroads
online - just
scan the
QR code



➤ "We're delighted that the Crossroads mural could be created right here. We believe in the power of culture to transform its surroundings and that publicly shared art like this can help people perceive their environment more sensitively and bring it to life. We're glad this project gives a real voice to the people who shape and use this place every day," says Lenka Žlebková, CEO of PCC.





Through the eyes of curator Kristina Grimmert

"Every day we face decisions, big and small. Some things trouble us, others bring us joy, and many of them we feel the need to share. In this installation, we emphasised the connection between past, present and future. We strive to develop the inner world of each of us while sharing thoughts with others."

making it accessible to everyone. And the third goal one, one that feels especially important today, is the effort to connect people and show that even in a world that often feels alienated, we may be much closer to one another than we think. In addition, its barrier-free accessibility and multilingual openness mean that the mural speaks to people across generations and cultures.

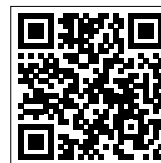
A place that encourages interaction

The new mural naturally blends into its surroundings and transforms a previously unremarkable part of public space into a lively backdrop. However, it also has a deeper, participatory dimension –

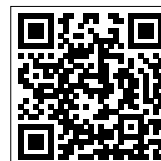
through QR codes, visitors can connect to interactive content that is updated continuously and reflects current social themes. "The online space is crucial for us – it allows visitors to engage with the installation, give feedback, and for local residents it changes regularly," adds project coordinator and co-founder of the PRAHO! project Veronika Matějková.

By not only participating in but fully financing the Crossroads installation, the Prague Congress Centre underscores its role as a major cultural and social institution committed to enriching public space with innovative artistic elements that inspire discussion.

↑
Roman Sovják (Sales and Marketing Director), Lenka Žlebková (CEO), Nina Sibinská (artist) and Kristina Grimmert (curator)



Watch the video introducing the Crossroads installation



The path to your future. Scan the QR code and let it guide you...



←
Curator Kristina Grimmert (left) with artist Nina Sibinská

What is the PRAHO! project?

The project began in October 2021, when dozens of poems started appearing in Prague's public spaces in the form of stickers, posters, billboards and artistic installations. In addition to its idea and number, each text carries a unique QR code that links to a website with several personal or city-themed questions. Since the launch of the project, the organisers have received over 30,000 testimonies highlighting our shared uniqueness. This makes it an incredible collection of opinions, feelings, artistic expressions and thought processes.



"Supporting Ukraine is not just a show of solidarity; it is a way to prove that truth will prevail over lies. When lies become the language of politics, they poison entire nations. We must not allow lies to push out truth," said President Petr Pavel in his opening address.

Forum 2000 reminded us that freedom is not a given

20

"Facing the Challenges: Democratic Resilience in Practice" - this was the title of the 29th annual international Forum 2000 conference, held from 12 to 14 October 2025 at the Prague Congress Centre. As a partner of the event, we welcomed a number of distinguished guests, including the President of the Czech Republic, Petr Pavel.

This year's conference focused on the growing need for global cooperation among democracies and their key actors in today's complex international environment,

bringing together more than 800 leading politicians, diplomats, writers, activists, civil society representatives, dissidents, experts and entrepreneurs from 103 countries.

Alongside the Czech President, the discussions and workshops were attended by former President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili, recent Nobel Peace Prize winner and leading figure of the Venezuelan opposition Maria Corina Machado, Nobel Peace Prize winner Oleksandra Matwijtschuk, the head of the Tibetan exile government Penpa Tsering,



Stanford University professor Larry Diamond, Czech Foreign Minister Jan Li-pavský, and many others.

During the three-day conference, participants sought ways to rebuild a sense of shared democratic unity. The programme also addressed "hotspots" of democracy and human rights worldwide - from Ukraine and the Western Balkans to Latin America, Africa and the Indo-Pacific.

Award for Courage presented to an imprisoned Georgian journalist

A major moment during the opening ceremony was the presentation of the fifth Forum 2000 International Award for Courage and Responsibility, which went to the Georgian resistance movement opposing the country's gradual slide toward autocracy and to one of its symbols - Mzia Amaglobeli, an unjustly imprisoned journalist and director of independent Georgian media platforms. A great deal of attention also focused on the call for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and leader of Myanmar's democratically elected party, who remains unjustly held in solitary confinement.

Panorama Hall

Forum 2000 took place in several exceptional spaces - the foyer, club areas, and the Panorama Hall. With its mobile stage and total area of 532 m², the hall is ideal not only for conferences of this scale but also for theatrical performances, receptions and banquets. It can seat up to 400 people and offers panoramic views of Prague.



A place where architecture tells stories

A tour of the Prague Congress Centre with Matouš Pudil.

"The year is 1981 and the Palace of Culture opens in Prague. A building so magnificent that its budget could have built a small town of 10,000 people..." With these words begins an engaging video tour of the Prague Congress Centre, hosted by architectural expert Matouš Pudil.

Join us as we take a look "behind the scenes" of the Prague Congress Centre. What can we learn about the history of the building? What artistic treasures does it hide? What kind of lounges can you find here, and how did they earn nicknames like the Schwarzenegger Room or the Obama Room? And did you know there's even a secret lounge inside? The video was created as part of the online content tied to the Crossroads installation by the PRAHO! project.

Woman with a Dove

Several dozen works of art have been preserved inside the Prague Congress Centre, and one of the most valuable is displayed in the monumental foyer. That's the glass sculpture Woman with a Dove by the renowned duo Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová. Standing five metres tall and set atop a two-metre metal beam, the sculpture combines a female figure with a flying dove, symbolising peace and hope.

"For me, what makes the Prague Congress Centre so exceptional is the perfect combination of architecture and art in its interior. This was common in the architecture of the 1970s and 1980s, but unfortunately many similarly impressive buildings have been destroyed," says Matouš Pudil.

Who is Matouš Pudil

A photographer, publicist, guide and enthusiast of architecture, especially brutalist and socialist modernism. He is the creator of the PRGbrut project, through which he documents and promotes Prague's brutalist architecture – buildings from the socialist era that are often overlooked or criticised.



Holiday Inn Prague came alive with art

The management of the Holiday Inn Prague set itself a clear goal: to connect modern art with the friendly, welcoming atmosphere of the hotel. As a result, new works by artist Jiří Macht2 have been installed in the entrance hall, lobby bar, restaurant, corridors and guest rooms, offering visitors and guests a distinctive cultural experience.

➤ **Hundreds of your works now decorate the hotel. Can you tell us about them?**

These are not traditional painted works but photographic artworks created in various techniques, some of which resemble paintings. In the restaurant, I used my favourite, though technically challenging, mirror collage technique, where I transfer portraits of Czech cultural, scientific and sporting personalities onto mirrors. These one-metre photographic collages are displayed in the summer garden, where daylight enhances their positive energy. Inside the restaurant, I placed a series titled Magical Gardens on canvas – they look like paintings and visually extend the view into the garden. There are also several larger mirror collages and compositions around two metres in size in the restaurant and reception area.

Along all the long corridors are two-metre-high works combining fragments of old Prague with modern major cities. Each guest room then continues this theme with two more artworks inspired by the corridor images.

➤ **Most of the pieces were commissioned specifically for the hotel, often linked to the theme of Prague. Where did you get your inspiration?**

Prague is the core theme in the corridors and rooms, but because guests come from all over the world, I combined Prague with, for example, New York graffiti, a city in which I've walked hundreds of kilometres, and it has always been an endless source of inspiration. However, I must say I developed a great artistic rapport with hotel director Kamil Zlomek, who gradually gave me full creative freedom. That's always the best thing an artist can hope for when working on a commission. In a way, I set the creative direction already during the selection process, so our collaboration

was genuinely pleasant and highly professional.

➤ **How challenging was it to install so many works?**

I probably have around a thousand pictures in the hotel, so about 5,000 metres of framing. You can probably imagine how demanding (and physically exhausting) that was. It took us about three weeks to install the paintings in the rooms and corridors while the hotel remained in full operation, and the restaurant installation took three days.

➤ **Is there a piece that holds a more deeper meaning for you personally?**

One of my mirror collages, titled Journey to Freedom, contains many personal memories and photographs that I also use as standalone works. For example, it includes my portrait of President Václav Havel, as well as President Petr Pavel riding a motorcycle

with a dog. This picture is full of subtle details that may not be visible at first glance but become clear the longer you look. That's probably my favourite piece, though I rarely say that about my own work, as I try to keep a certain professional distance.

➤ **What are you working on at the moment?**

My partner Natálie Stejskalová and I are currently preparing for a work trip to the United States, where I'm going to shoot a portrait of Josef Mašín and, in another project, three Hollywood stars. But I have to keep the details secret for now. Together with Art Lines, we're also preparing several exceptional projects – those interested can follow me on Instagram at jiri_macht2. Of course, everyone is cordially invited to our pre-Christmas Pop-up Shop, which you'll find in the summer garden of the Holiday Inn Prague.

→
Vivid, colourful
compositions
are typical of Jiří
Macht2's work.



I feel a positive energy and creativity in the artworks



...which is passed on to our guests," says Kamil Zlomek, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Prague, in our interview

› What originally drew you to the work of Jiří Macht2?

I first came across Jiří Macht2's work sometime around 2017. I had the chance to attend several of his exhibition openings and to see his installations in hotels run by the company I worked for at the time. So when the opportunity came to install artworks in our Holiday Inn Prague, the choice was clear. I presented his proposals to the IHG leadership as well as to the owners, the Prague Congress Centre, and the decision was made. We wanted Jiří Macht2's new artworks in our hotel above all because his style resonates perfectly with

our aim to connect modern art with the friendly, welcoming atmosphere of the hotel. His sense of colour and composition brings a touch of freshness and originality to our spaces, which is very important to us.

› How do you personally like the artworks, and where do you see their added value?

The works really speak to me. I can feel a positive energy and creativity in them, and that carries over to our guests. As far as added value goes, it's the atmosphere they bring to the public areas - they help create a pleasant mood and often become a topic of conversation among guests and staff. The feedback from guests has been overwhelmingly positive. Many appreciate that the hotel is not an anonymous space, but one that also offers inspiration.

› What are your future plans in this area?

Our long-term vision is to continue strengthening the link between culture and the hotel environment. We are planning further collaborations with artists, exhibitions and thematic events that will enhance our guests' experience and support the local cultural scene. We would like to become a place where different forms of art meet. We also support Czech publishers and writers. Our regular events include, for example, the Christmas reading "Vánočtení" organised by ŠULC-ŠVARC publishing in collaboration with Veronika Bašťová.

We warmly invite everyone to our Thursday music evenings, Piano Nights & World Bites, a wonderful combination of live music and gourmet specialties. Every Thursday evening you can enjoy a unique atmosphere, taste themed dishes from our kitchen and relax to the sound of piano music that adds the perfect touch to an unforgettable evening at the heart of our hotel. We look forward to seeing you!



←
Photographic artworks decorate the walls of the restaurant and lobby bar

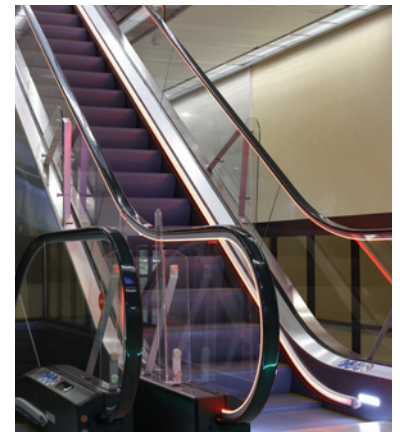
↓
The artworks in the guest rooms link old Prague with modern major cities



23



Every Thursday, the hotel's Bites & Wine bar hosts live music evenings.



Our steps towards sustainability

The PCC continues to move forward in terms of sustainability. We're working to reduce energy consumption, minimise waste and use state-of-the-art, environmentally-friendly technologies to reduce our long-term environmental impact and fulfil our ESG goals.

- Even small steps matter. These include the LOKNI drinking fountains for visitors and employees, which we've added at Entrance 5, on the ground floor of the Sposa foyer and on the 2nd floor. Since then, visitors have used them to fill more than 2,500 bottles, significantly reducing single-use plastic consumption.
- We wash the building's windows with demineralised water, which is gentle on both the façade and the environment. And this year for the first time we used a drone for the job.
- A modernised digital wayfinding system helps reduce paper use and the building's ecological footprint.
- The building's escalators have also been renovated, and now run on more efficient technology.

We've saved more than CZK 300 million in energy costs

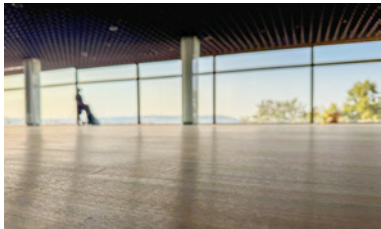
The Prague Congress Centre has been running one of the most technologically complex energy-saving projects in the Czech Republic since 2016. In 2023, it was complemented by a photovoltaic power plant with an installed capacity of almost 1 MW, the largest in central Prague, covering one tenth of the complex's overall electricity consumption.

Energy-saving measures delivered by ENESA from the ČEZ ESCO group meant that we've saved more than CZK 34 million in the past 12 months alone, exceeding the guaranteed savings by almost CZK 8.5 million. Over the nine years that the EPC project has been running, we've saved an incredible CZK 340 million on heating, electricity, gas and water! EPC also helps the environment - we've already avoided more than 90,000 tonnes of CO₂.

"When we launched the project, annual energy costs exceeded CZK 74 million,

→ A modern and above all efficient window-cleaning system for summer





but working with ČEZ ESCO, we've managed to reduce them by tens of percent. This has been achieved mainly by modernising the boiler rooms, ventilation systems, lighting, and now also through solar energy. In addition to the financial benefits, another crucial factor for us is that the entire building is now significantly more sustainable and has a much lower environmental impact. This aspect is very important to our clients and congress guests and positively influences their choice of venue," explains Lenka Žlebková, CEO.

Central shut-down and sensors also increase savings

The EPC project saves the most by upgrading the heating system, with ENESA replacing the old boilers with new, much more efficient gas units. Recuperation of

residual cooling and reconstruction of the ventilation systems also play a major role. Savings are further supported by central shut-down systems, dimmed lighting and building-wide sensors that monitor CO₂ levels and regulate temperature and air conditioning accordingly.

An efficient venue for the most demanding congress clients

"By upgrading outdated energy technologies, we've managed to reduce our annual costs by 35 percent, turning this iconic Prague building into a truly efficient facility for the most demanding congress clientele. Working with the Prague Congress Centre management, we've modernised the building from an energy perspective while preserving its original character and value," said Kamil Čermák, CEO of ČEZ ESCO.

↑ The photovoltaic installation on the roof covers an area the size of a football pitch

News in the ZOOM hall

ZOOM - a unique and visually striking space on the first floor of the Prague Congress Centre, ideal for hosting receptions and banquets. This popular hall with its panoramic views has recently undergone extensive refurbishment, which included sanding and oiling the wooden parquet flooring, replacing the wooden wall panelling, constructing a new partition wall, removing obsolete catering equipment, and installing a new Full HD P1.9 LED screen. It is perfect for displaying event promotions, party visuals, gala dinner content and presentations. State-of-the-art technology, superb image quality and a beautiful view of Prague – all in one place!

Measuring carbon footprint: zero emissions in Scope 2

Thanks to the installation of the PV plant, the implemented measures and the purchase of electricity exclusively with guarantees of origin, the PCC achieved zero Scope 2 emissions in 2024 and significantly reduced its total carbon footprint compared with an unmitigated scenario.

Carbon footprint for 2024 (t CO₂e)	
Without measures	13,783.09
With measures	7,700.86

→ savings 44.13%

» Through our strategy, we are significantly reducing our carbon footprint and actively contributing to climate protection. «

Prague boasts a year-on-year increase of more than 5% in the number of congresses

Wow
Prague
Convention
Bureau

Data, results, future strategic plans, including the city's support for the congress industry, improvements in transport accessibility, infrastructure and service quality, were all discussed at this year's Expert Round Table held at the Prague Congress Centre (PCC) in May, organised jointly with the Prague Convention Bureau (PCB).

According to aggregated PCB and Czech Statistical Office data, a total of 5,139 events of various types took place in the Czech capital in 2024, representing a year-on-year increase of 5.1%. A congress participant in Prague spends approximately three times more than the average tourist.

"Congress delegates make up an affluent clientele that brings not only attractive revenues, but also shows a genuine interest in our culture, architecture and history," said Prague Deputy Mayor Jiří Pospíšil, and added: "The congress industry is important to the city not only economically, but also in terms of reputation. It brings experts, innovation and prestige to Prague, and it elevates inbound tourism as well." According to him, the city is committed to systematically supporting congress activities.

Congress tourism strengthens the image of Prague

"Congress tourism significantly enhances Prague's image as a premium destination, something we have been building for many years. Our marketing campaigns primarily target affluent clientele. Congress visitors have the highest daily spending, stay in higher-end hotels and contribute to the development of the luxury segment in tourism," says František Cipro, Chairman of the Board of Prague City Tourism.



804,000

In 2024, events held in Prague attracted more than 804,000 delegates, who according to PCB statistics stayed for an average of 2.27 days and most frequently discussed topics relating to medical sciences, economics and finance, IT and telecommunications. In terms of the number of medical congresses held, Prague ranked fifth worldwide, and in technology-focused events it came as high as fourth. There was a year-on-year increase in local events, which accounted for 58.5% compared to international ones. Globally, Prague is most frequently sought out by organisers from the United States. This is reflected in Prague's 9th-place ranking on the American platform Cvent, which helps event organisers, especially from the USA, find suitable destinations and congress venues worldwide. Other source markets include the United Kingdom, Germany and France.

5

In the global 2024 ICCA (International Congress and Convention Association) ranking, Prague placed 5th.

"Prague achieved a TOP 5 position despite the growing competition from Asian cities, whose return among the most popular congress destinations has been slower than that of European cities," said Roman Muška, Director of the PCB.

4

Among European destinations, Prague ranked fourth, just behind Vienna, Lisbon and Barcelona. This means it has improved by one place in the global and European rankings.

241

The increasing economic impact of congress tourism is also evident from the Prague Congress Centre's occupancy rate. In 2024 alone, the venue hosted 241 events. "The strong demand for international professional events in Prague needs not only to be utilised but actively supported. At the PCC we're ready for this; we are successfully responding to demand for sustainable events and preparing further investments that will enable us to compete with the world's largest players," said Lenka Žlebková.

Good accessibility is crucial

Accessibility plays a central role among the requirements of international congress organisers. "Václav Havel Airport Prague is the natural gateway to the capital, and its development goes hand in hand with the growth of congress tourism. The significant increase in direct flights between Prague and key regions in Asia, the USA and Europe in recent years has made our capital easily reachable for delegates from all over the world. Things will be made even more convenient by the planned rail connection, which will substantially speed up and simplify transport from the airport to the city centre," said Jiří Vyskoč, Executive Director of Aviation Business Development at Prague Airport.

New ideas are born in Prague

Congresses and professional events bring top experts from various fields of science, research and business to the city and inspire both the local academic and business communities. They often act as a catalyst for investment in innovation and contribute to technology transfer, strengthening Prague's position as a Central European innovation hub. "Prague is not just a romantic backdrop for international events – it is also a place where new ideas emerge, ideas that move entire fields forward and have an impact on real life. For example, arguments presented at the 2016 Particle Therapy Conference eventually played a part in proton cancer treatment becoming accessible and cov-

>> Where meetings matter? Here. <<

ered by health insurance in the Czech Republic. This demonstrates the significant impact that specialist events held in our city can have," said Lenka Žlebková, CEO at the PCC.

Congresses benefit hotels and restaurants

Congress delegates form an important clientele for hotels and restaurants. According to a survey by the Czech Association of Hotels and Restaurants (AHR), the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) segment plays a crucial role for accommodation and dining establishments in Prague. "Unlike regular tourists, congress clients care about service quality, seek out gastronomic experiences and often return. That is why this segment is very important for our members," says Václav Stárek, President of AHR. The benefits, however, extend far beyond hotel operators. Another important role is played by the so-called city tax - the accommodation fee that goes directly into the City of Prague's budget and can be used to further develop tourism, infrastructure or culture.

Winning As One

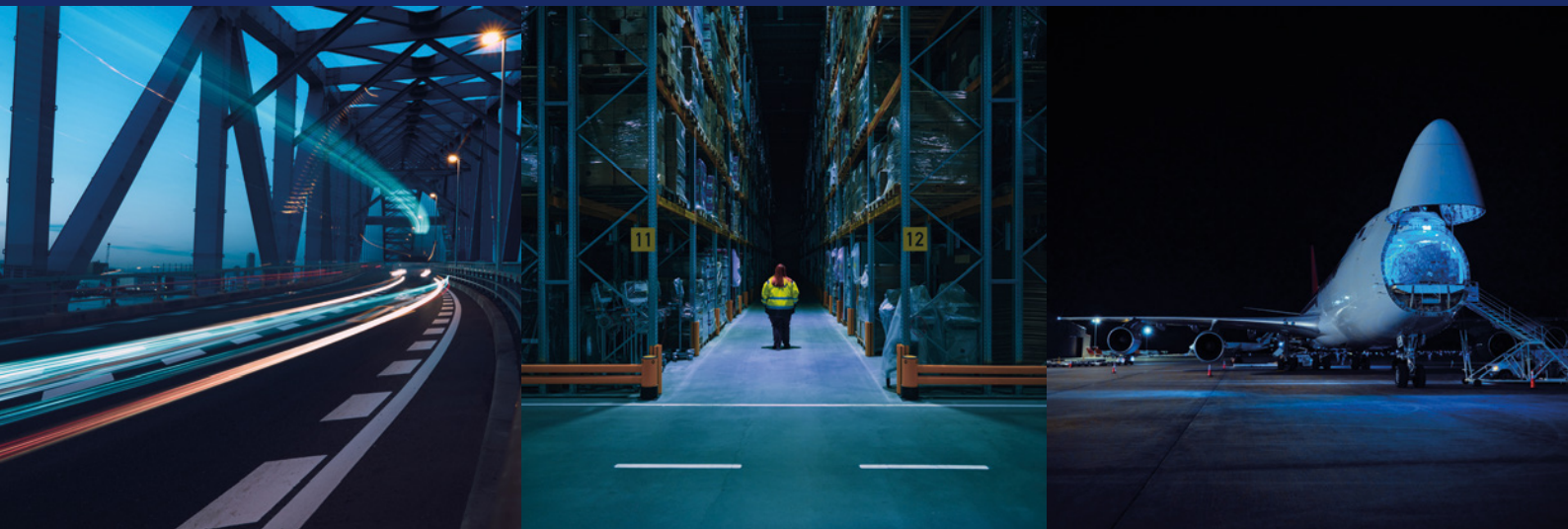
DSV x Schenker



Schenker, a future part of **DSV** as **preferred logistic partner** of Prague Congress Centre offers:

- Complete transportation of goods to fairs, exhibitions and conferences
- Creation of time and process schedules for your transport
- Handling and assembly works using special technology*
- Temporary storage of exhibits and promo material
- Complete customs clearance service
- Collection, storage and transport of empties
- Cargo insurance

* Forklifts



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