

SARIO Newsletter

Representatives of Korean companies and universities in the field of robotics and automation had the opportunity to become more familiar with the university and corporate environment in Slovakia

Seoul, South Korea



Korean universities and institutes have shown a great interest in the mobility of Slovak students and doctoral students to Korean technical universities

Delegation from South Korea to Slovakia

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ECONOMY

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Slovak companies can apply for further subsidies totaling 20 million euros. The Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA) in cooperation with the Slovak Government's Office have prepared two calls for submitting applications for financial contributions for innovation and digitalization. The maximum voucher amount per company is 15,000 euros, while it can cover up to 85% of eligible expenses. Companies will be able to use digital vouchers to develop proposals for individualized solutions for businesses in specific areas, for example in automation, optimization of internal processes, digitalization in industry, production, or finance, but also in ensuring cybersecurity or using artificial intelligence. In this call, 12.195 million euros have been allocated. Support within the call for innovation vouchers will focus on the cooperation of small and medium-sized enterprises with the potential to boost their competitiveness through the innovation of their own products, services, and processes with research institutions, universities, private providers of R&D services, and municipalities. Innovation vouchers can also be used to pay fees related to the protection of industrial property in Slovakia. The allocation of the call is 7.622 million euros. SIEA will accept applications for both calls from August 14, 2023.

SOCIAL

The social security provider Socialna Poistovna has extraordinarily increased all pensions by 10.6%. Beneficiaries will receive them in their August payment dates together with the valorization supplement for July of this year. In the next few days, Socialna Poistovna will deliver the decisions on the pension hike to all beneficiaries affected by these changes, Socialna Poistovna spokesperson Martin Kontur has informed in a press release. The social security provider thus increased pensions for the second time this year. Since the beginning of this year, pensions have increased by 11.8%. The increase was approved in the amendment to the Social Insurance Act, according to which pensions are increased from July 1 of this year if the cumulative month-on-month growth in consumer prices for retired households for the period from July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, exceeds 5%. Minimum pensions have also gone up from July 1.

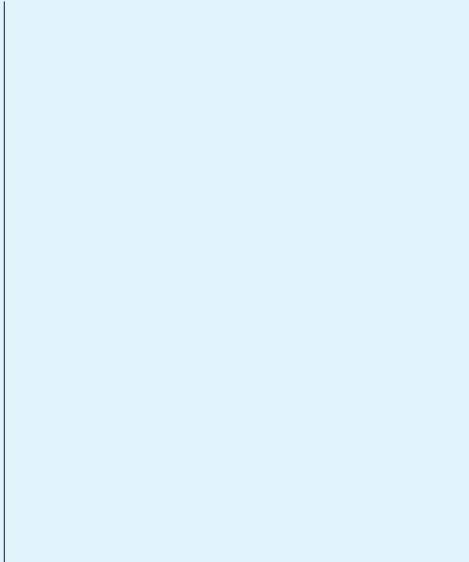


The Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency in cooperation with the Slovak Government's Office have prepared two calls for submitting applications for financial contributions for innovation and digitalization

BUDGET

The state budget deficit was 3.11 billion euros at the end of July. In late July last year, the state budget reported a gap of 1.29 billion euros. Revenues grew 15.7% year-on-year to 12.04 billion euros. Expenditures went up 29.6% year-on-year to 15.15 billion euros, the Finance Ministry has informed. Tax revenues are the biggest income source of the state. They soared by 10.5% year-on-year to stand at 9.83 billion euros. A positive development was reported with value-added tax (+491.5 million euros), withholding tax (+57.3 million euros), excise taxes (+51.5 million euros), taxes on the use of goods and from licenses to perform activities (+3.9 million euros), and other taxes on goods and services (+16.3 million euros). An amount of 325.8 million euros was transferred from corporate tax

revenues to self-governments, nevertheless, corporate income tax recorded a year-on-year growth of 49.0 million euros. Revenues from taxes on international trade and transactions, sanctions included, increased by 4.9 million euros year-on-year. Special levies from businesses in regulated industries reached 15.7 million euros. Solidarity contribution from activities in the oil, natural gas, coal sectors and refineries recorded 259.8 million euros. Income tax paid by natural persons dwindled by 23.3 million euros. Within expenditures, other expenses made up the lion's share. Their drawing went up by 20.6% year-on-year to 11.16 billion euros. Absorption of resources from the EU budget grew 80.7% to 1.64 billion euros and the cost of public debt service dropped by 6.7% to 622.1 million euros year-on-year.



Eurowind Energy plans to build three wind parks in Slovakia — they are to be located in the vicinity of the village of Bab west of Nitra, near the village of Mocenok near Sala, and north of Nitra in the village of Ludovitova



ENERGY

Eurowind Energy plans to build three wind parks in Slovakia. They are to be located in the vicinity of the village of Bab west of Nitra, near the village of Mocenok near Sala, and north of Nitra in the village of Ludovitova. Seven to nine wind turbines are planned to be built in the Mocenok wind park near the Duslo Sala chemical plant. The project is currently at a standstill as they have been waiting for the stamp of approval from the environment ministry for more than two and a half years. Similarly, 15 other wind projects are awaiting environmental impact assessments, several of which have not received a decision for more than two years. For example, Green Energy Holding also wants to build wind parks. Seven turbines with an output of up to seven megawatts could be built near the village of Ruban, south of Nove Zamky, and eight turbines are planned to be built near the

village of Mladeze, this time west of Nove Zamky. Another wind park near the village of Hajske near Sered is also awaiting a decision. There is also a project near the village of Letnicie in Zahorie, where the investor wants to build six wind turbines. Fertiliser producer Duslo Sala wants to build six to seven turbines with a capacity of 6.2 megawatts near its factory in Trnovec nad Vahom.

EMPLOYMENT

On a global and European scale, Slovakia is one of the countries with the most restraint recruitment plans, a regular quarterly survey conducted by ManpowerGroup Slovakia on a sample of 510 employers revealed. The employers are trying to find a balance in hiring people, who are in record shortage in many positions but are worried about a more difficult economic situation in the near future.

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FIRMS & FINANCES

ZAR

A solar power plant and a battery energy storage system are to be built at Sobrance. The company ZAR plans to erect a power station and storage facility for 18 million in the municipality of Bunkovce. The output of the power is projected at 20 MW and the capacity of the battery energy storage system at 9 MW. The power plant is to be put into operation by late 2024. The largest battery energy storage system in Slovakia is projected at the power plant.

SCHAEFFLER KYSUCE

Schaeffler Kysuce has invested 20 million euros in the research and development center and will employ a total of 500 highly qualified specialists in Kysuce by 2025. Its R&D centre will primarily develop products for the fields of electromobility, but also chassis systems with a high degree of autonomous driving. It focuses on the development of powertrains for hybrid and electric vehicles in order to achieve sustainable mobility in the future. The development of system designs is handled in terms of mechanics, electronics, hardware, and software and the centre then performs simulations and tests them according to the specific requirements of international customers from the automotive industry. The two Slovak companies of the German Schaeffler Group in Kysuce and Skalica, which employ about 10,000 people, are also making progress in development. Most of their profits were directed in this area last year, and the latest expansion of their global activities in the field of advanced mobility solutions is the culmination of the company's previous activities. In addition, Schaeffler is also expanding its existing test facility in Kysuce with a new laboratory, test equipment, and test stations.



Kia Slovakia manufactured a record more than 185,000 vehicles in its factory in Zilina

VAILLANT

An investment worth 130 million euros is heading to Palarikovo near Nove Zamky. German heat pump manufacturer Vaillant Group Industrial wants to open its fourth Slovak factory there. The new investor wants to employ 850 people, 700 of them directly in production.

CTP

The company CTP kicked off the construction of the first hall in its CTPark Presov North in May 2023. The logistics park in the east of Slovakia is one of the locations where the company has invested in speculative construction. The hall with an area of more than 11,000 square meters will be part of a 43.2-hectare park. The company did not specify the amount of investment. The construction is currently in an advanced stage and will be available to tenants at the end of this year, the investor assumes.

KIA SLOVAKIA

Zilina-based automaker Kia Slovakia saw a one-fifth increase in revenue and a one-fifth profit drop last year. According to its annual report, revenues reached 6.76 billion euros and profits stood at 175.5 million euros. The automaker's financial results were influenced by global problems in the supply chain of the entire automotive industry. It was most reflected in a shortage of semiconductors, fragility and vulnerability in transportation and logistics, and in rising prices of basic raw materials and energy. The company managed to increase vehicle production y-o-y and even outperform the production plan. Kia Slovakia assembled 311,000 cars and more than 460,000 engines. Its business

plan for 2023 envisages the production of 340,000 passenger cars. The plant capacity is expected to be almost fully utilized by the production of the existing models. In the first half of this year, Kia Slovakia manufactured a record more than 185,000 vehicles in its factory in Zilina. This was a y-o-y increase of more than 21,000. For the whole of last year, the factory made 311,000 cars. As the carmaker further informs, the Sportage model made up 60% of its total production in the first half of the year, and the rest was four Ceed variants. Electrified versions of these models made up 28% of the total output. More than a third of all Sportage models made in Zilina were hybrid and plug-in hybrid variants.

STELLANTIS SLOVAKIA

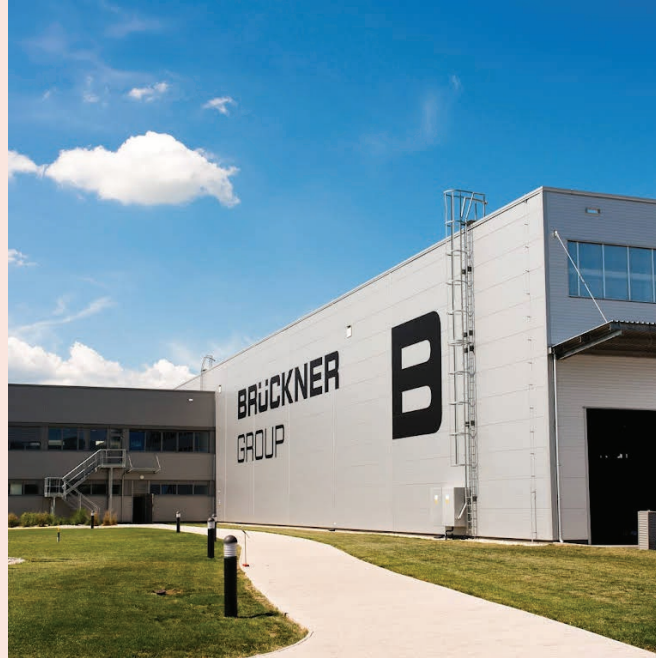
The Trnava-based carmaker Stellantis Slovakia (PCA Slovakia) reduced its profit by 41% to 34.3 million euros last year. However, the carmaker's sales grew by 9% to almost 3.66 billion euros. According to the factory's annual report, last year, the automotive sector was affected by the semiconductor crisis, the shortage of parts, the war in Ukraine as well as the energy crisis, increased prices of raw materials, and high inflation. The company felt the chip crisis and had to limit the volume of production. 81 shifts were canceled, which was reflected in the production volume — in 2022 Stellantis Slovakia made 312,509 vehicles. In the first six months of this year, Stellantis produced 136,023 vehicles. Its current production program includes the Citroen C3, Peugeot 208, and the Peugeot e-208. The company plans to produce 271,000 vehicles in 2023.

ZKW SLOVAKIA

The Austrian manufacturer of automotive lights ZKW Group, one of the largest suppliers present in the Slovak automotive industry through the company ZKW Slovakia, has completed several successful projects and investments on the Slovak market. The plant in the Upper Nitra village of Krusovce near Topolčany has long been one of the region's largest employers. Last year, the company posted record sales and expanded its product portfolio again. In 2018, by teaming up with LG, ZKW secured access to expertise and key technologies for the development of the smart light of the future. Thomas Weier, Vice-President of ZKW Slovakia, talked about this in an interview.

NORDIQ GROUP

The industrial park in Vrable in the Nitra district is being expanded by two new production halls. They are being built by CEHIP for Semecs and NordiQ Slovakia. The construction is being handed over to the users next year. Both companies are planning to expand their production capacities in connection with the new premises, which will result in the creation of new jobs, said Viktor Nemeth, the mayor of Vrable, during the launch of the construction. NordiQ Group, a Scandinavian supplier of sheet metal components for leading manufacturers, mainly in the automotive sector, will expand its production capacity by 1,200 square meters. Semecs, a manufacturer of electronic printed circuit boards, will expand its production capacity and office space by almost 4,000 square meters. The Vrable Industrial Park is the first in Slovakia to be established. In total, two dozen companies employ more than 5,000 people in the park.



The assistance of the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) has contributed to Brückner Group's opening the first phase of its 12,000 square meters assembly plant in Slovakia

VEDOS LOGISTICS

The company VEDOS Logistics, Petrovany plans to build a logistics centre in the industrial park in Zaborske. The construction is planned to start in June next year, the operation is to start in April 2025. The estimated investment costs for the construction are approximately 18.5 million euros. The company plans to build a new warehouse and logistics hall with administration connected to the existing hall, where Garrett Motion Slovakia (formerly Honeywell) is currently located, in the area of the industrial park.

BRÜCKNER GROUP

The assistance of the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) has contributed to Brückner Group's opening the first phase of its 12,000 square meters assembly plant in Slovakia. The new assembly site will offer 200 jobs for mechanical and electrical assembly in a single-shift operation in a clean, high-tech environment in Detva. The German Brückner Group is a family-owned, medium-sized group of companies. The Brückner Group has been operating an assembly plant in Topolčany for almost 20 years, employing 450 people.

MAHLE BEHR

The company Mahle Behr plans to expand the production of exhaust gas

recirculation modules in Orava. By late 2025, it wants to invest more than 9.5 million euros in Slanica, the district of Namestovo, and create 60 new jobs. It also counts on state aid. Based on a proposal from the Economy Ministry, the investment stimuli could be provided in the form of tax relief of 1.5 million euros. The Cabinet will decide on the state aid. The investment includes the acquisition of automated production lines, which is to increase production by around 30%. Production is scheduled to start in June 2024 and reach full planned capacity three years later.

SURANY INDUSTRIAL PARK

The state does not forget the west of Slovakia when building new industrial parks. After progress in the preparation of industrial parks in Valaliky near Kosice and in Rimavska Sobota, work continues on the Surany Industrial Park. Unlike the locations in the east and south of central Slovakia, the arrival of a specific investor in this park has not yet been confirmed, but the Economy Ministry has stated several times that it is only continuing the strategy of building industrial parks before investors are known. Most recently, the state-owned company MH Invest is looking for a company to carry out an indicative engineering-geological survey in the upcoming industrial park.

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SARIO NEWS

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Korean universities and institutes have shown a great interest in the mobility of Slovak students and doctoral students to Korean technical universities



Delegation from South Korea to Slovakia

Under the auspices of the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO), the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Seoul, and the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Korea in Slovakia, representatives of Korean companies and universities in the field of robotics and automation had the opportunity to become more familiar with the university and corporate environment in Slovakia.

The delegation of entrepreneurs and representatives of academia from South Korea visited Slovakia from May 28 to June 2, 2023. The delegation consisted of representatives of eight Korean robotics companies and institutions (Hanhwa Aerospace, Doosan Robotics, Neuromeka, Daliworks, Curexo, Brils, Rifa Asset Management, Vrillar) and one representative of a Korean technical university (Yonsei University). The delegation visited technical universities in Bratislava, Žilina, and Košice, while also visiting important Slovak companies specifically in the field of automation and robotization.

During the mission, dozens of B2B negotiations and several meetings between the academic and scientific-research community were carried out, at which modalities of future cooperation

were agreed upon. e.g., the preparation of a document on mutual cooperation (MOU) between STUBA and Yonsei University, primarily at the level of scientific-technical cooperation.

Korean universities and institutes have shown a great interest in the mobility of Slovak students and doctoral students to Korean technical universities (on the basis of the submitted mobility project pre-negotiated with the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic and subsequently also with the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Slovak Republic).

The result of the targeted support of universities in the training of robotics specialists should be top experts in the field of mechatronics, technologists, designers of production processes, and IT specialists with a focus on robotics,

stabilized for the Slovak labor market with the help of scholarships, development opportunities, business grants, and non-refundable student loans.

The visits of representatives of the delegation to the companies KIA Motors, Matador Púchov, Spinea, and Photoneo confirmed the necessity of personal meetings and the establishment of direct contacts due to the real solution of potential joint projects.

The business mission was organized in accordance with the proposed plan of the Concept of Robotic Cooperation between the Republic of Slovakia and the Republic of Korea with the aim of achieving the systematic development of Industry 4.0 (robotics connected to robotics and artificial intelligence — AI) in Slovakia.



• **BRÜCKNER EXPANDING IN SLOVAKIA
ALSO THANKS TO SARIO**

The Brückner Group has evaluated the need for its next assembly plant in Europe. As part of the analysis of suitable locations in Eastern Europe, Poland and Slovakia were shortlisted for the group. The Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) assisted Brückner in selection of a potential location in Slovakia. **Read more**



• **SECOND BATCH OF SLOVAK
INCUBATOR FOR SPACE STARTUPS
DEMODAY**

The Industry Branch of the Slovak Space Office (SARIO) organized the Demoday event as a finale of the incubation project Spaceport_SK. Seven teams introduced their projects exhibiting the future of the Slovak space industry. **Read more**



BUSINESS MISSION TO WALES

The Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) in cooperation with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in London, Welsh Government and the Honorary Consul of Slovakia in Wales organized business mission to Wales on July 9–12, 2023. Seven Slovak delegates took part in the business mission focused on the circular economy and health innovations.

Read more



THIRTY YEARS OF SPANISH-SLOVAK RELATIONS

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Spain and Slovakia, SARIO CEO Robert Šimončíč gave an interview to the Spanish section of Radio Slovakia International RTVS with a focus on trade and investments. **Read more**



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EVENTS



SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Developing Your Business in Slovakia —
Investment Seminar, Tokyo, Japan



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SEPTEMBER 6 — SEPTEMBER 8, 2023
Business mission to Bucharest, Romania

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
Seminar — Doing business in Poland

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
Developing Your Business in Slovakia — Investment Seminar, Tokyo, Japan



SEPTEMBER 18 — SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
Kenyan business delegation in Slovakia

SEPTEMBER 26 — SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
Business mission to Regensburg, Germany



SEPTEMBER 26 — SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
Business mission to
Regensburg, Germany



Lisbon, Portugal



NOVEMBER 12 – NOVEMBER 17, 2023
 Business mission to
 Web Summit 2023

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OCTOBER 10 – OCTOBER 13, 2023
 International engineering fair MSV Brno 2023

OCTOBER 23 – OCTOBER 27, 2023
 Business mission to Senegal

NOVEMBER 12 – NOVEMBER 17, 2023
 Business mission to Web Summit 2023, Lisbon, Portugal

NOVEMBER 23, 2023
 Slovak Industry Vision Day 2023, X-Bionic® Sphere, Šamorín, Slovakia



NOVEMBER 27 – NOVEMBER 30, 2023
 Business mission to Spain



NOVEMBER 23, 2023
 Slovak Industry Vision Day 2023,
 X-Bionic® Sphere, Šamorín, Slovakia

**Slovak
Industry
VISION Day
2023**

Sustainable industry

**NEW CHALLENGES
FOR COMPANIES & SUPPLIERS**

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FORUM

- planned b2b negotiations & networking
- individual consultations with professional experts
- panel discussions & case studies
- EXPO — interactive exhibition of products & services

**X-Bionic® Sphere, Šamorín,
Slovakia, November 23, 2023**

Registration open until November 8, 2023!

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