SARIO
SLOVAK INVESTMENT AND
TRADE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

English version

2026 10

SARIO Newsletter

SLOVAK INDUSTRY VISION DAY 2026

5TH EDITION
210 companies
from 12 countries
took part in
over 500 B2B
meetings

INDUSTRY 6.0 | TECHNOLOGIES | AI | EXPANSION | B2B | PARTNER

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ECONOMY



According to data from the IT Association of Slovakia, the direct annual contribution of ICT and the digital sector to GDP reached almost €9.52 billion, representing approximately 7% of GDP

S&P CONFIRMS A RATING FOR SLOVAKIA

Credit rating agency Standard & Poor's affirmed Slovakia's A rating with a stable outlook shortly after the state budget for 2027 was approved. According to the Ministry of Finance, the agency also took the parameters of next year's budget into account. Slovakia therefore retains a rating one notch higher than those assigned by Moody's and Fitch. The ministry considers the decision confirmation of its fiscal policy settings despite challenging global conditions. At a recent government bond sale, investor demand was more than double the amount offered, and the state raised over €530 million. **(SOURCE hnonline.sk)**

THE IT SECTOR GENERATES BILLIONS — AI PROMISES FURTHER GROWTH

In 2025, Slovakia's information and communication technology (ICT) sector generated revenue of €11.3 billion and paid €366 million in income tax. According to data from the IT Association of Slovakia, the direct annual contribution of ICT and the digital sector to GDP reached almost €9.52 billion, representing approximately 7% of GDP. Around 59,000 IT specialists work in the sector, and their tax and social-insurance contributions are significantly above average thanks to higher–than–average wages. According to the cited survey, artificial intelligence is already making work activities worth €6.96 billion per year more efficient. Full use of AI could bring the economy as much as €20.4 billion annually by 2035. **(SOURCE zive.sk)**

MOCHOVCE UNIT 4 BEGINS SUPPLYING ELECTRICITY TO THE GRID

After being connected to the grid on 15 October 2026, Unit 4 of the Mochovce nuclear power plant began supplying its first megawatt–hours of electricity. Its launch is expected to make Slovakia self–sufficient in electricity generation and create opportunities to export surplus power abroad. From 2027, the government expects that around 400–500 MW of electricity could be exported. The new unit has an electrical output of 471 MW, and its launch also increases the share of low–carbon sources in Slovakia's energy mix. **(SOURCE hnonline.sk)**



The transformation of the former mining site in Handlová into an industrial park aims to attract investors, create jobs, and support the transition of the Upper Nitra region following the decline of coal mining

SLOVAKIA AND TURKEY STRENGTHEN COOPERATION

Slovakia and Turkey agreed to deepen economic cooperation and signed a memorandum of cooperation in the energy sector. Bilateral trade grew by 41% in 2025 to nearly $4.3 billion, or approximately €3.84 billion. Talks focused on the automotive and engineering industries, construction, transport, logistics, IT and cybersecurity. In energy, the countries intend to explore ways to diversify natural gas supplies, including the use of Turkish infrastructure to transport gas from Central Asia to Central Europe. They also discussed cooperation on the development of small modular nuclear reactors. An investment and trade forum in Istanbul in January 2027 is expected to follow. **(SOURCE sme.sk)**

HANDLOVÁ IS TURNING MINES INTO AN INDUSTRIAL PARK

The conversion of the former mining site in Handlová into an industrial park is continuing, with site clearance and preparation of approximately 4.5 hectars of land underway. 26 above–ground structures have been removed, generating more than 26,000 tonnes of concrete waste, some of which is being recycled for reuse. The project is being prepared by state–owned MH Invest, which is also arranging the legal settlement of land ownership and project documentation. The industrial park is intended to attract investors, create jobs and support the transformation of the Upper Nitra region following the phase-out of coal mining. **(SOURCE sita.sk)**

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COMPANIES & INVESTMENT



Foxconn Slovakia is starting to recruit new employees in Nitra in response to growing demand for technologies used in AI infrastructure (PHOTO foxconn.sk)

FOXCONN PLANS TO CREATE HUNDREDS OF JOBS IN NITRA

Foxconn Slovakia is starting to recruit new employees in Nitra in response to growing demand for technologies used in artificial-intelligence infrastructure. The company has already opened its first engineering and technical positions for specialists with electrical–engineering qualifications and plans to expand recruitment later to manufacturing and assembly. According to company management, at least 300 jobs could be created, although the company has not yet officially confirmed the exact number. The new positions may be linked to the development of manufacturing for AI infrastructure and could bring higher-value-added jobs to the region. (SOURCE techbox.sk)

EV–GP TO BUILD A BATTERY STORAGE FACILITY IN LUČENEC

EV–GP has begun preparing to build a new manufacturing plant in the Juh industrial park in Lučenec. It will produce battery energy-storage systems, electric-vehicle charging stations and wind turbines. Construction is scheduled to begin in November 2026, with completion planned for November 2028. Production is expected to start in December 2028, and the investor anticipates creating around 30 jobs. The project is intended to expand the company's manufacturing capacity and enable it to respond to demand in Slovakia and international markets. For the region, it represents an opportunity to develop energy technologies and cooperate with local suppliers. (SOURCE teraz.sk)



EV–GP is preparing to build a new plant in the Juh industrial park in Lučenec, which will manufacture battery storage systems, charging stations for electric vehicles, and wind turbines

DS SMITH IS TURNING ITS MARTIN PLANT INTO A SERVICE CENTRE

DS Smith Turpak Obaly is revising its plans for its operation in Martin, which had originally been facing closure. Following a review of the group's strategy, the plant is to remain open but gradually transform into a comprehensive service centre for the company's manufacturing and support activities in Slovakia. The plant currently employs just over 190 people, and approximately 60–65 jobs could be lost following the change in operations. Activities from smaller facilities in Galanta and Ilava are expected to be transferred to Martin by the end of 2026. The transformation forms part of a broader optimisation of the group's activities aimed at using capacity and resources more efficiently. For the Turiec region, this is a less severe scenario than the previously planned cessation of production and more extensive redundancies. **(SOURCE trend.sk)**

BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEMS MAY GAIN NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ELECTRICITY MARKET

From 2027, the Slovak Electricity Transmission System (SEPS) is considering broader participation of standalone battery–storage systems in services designed to stabilise the electricity grid. In addition to rapid frequency regulation, batteries could help balance deviations that require electricity to be supplied or consumed over a longer period. SEPS is currently awaiting the results of an expert study; any introduction of a new model would also require approval by the Regulatory Office for Network Industries. Expanding these options could create new opportunities for battery-storage operators. The company is also assessing the participation of photovoltaic power plants in the provision of ancillary services. **(SOURCE teraz.sk)**

TATRA BANKA WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR DIGITAL BANKING

Tatra banka received the title 'Best Neobank of the Year' from Global Finance magazine in the consumer digital banking category for 2026. The award is part of the 27th annual World's Best Digital Bank Awards, whose global winners were announced in Singapore. The evaluation considered the quality of digital services, the ability to open an account online, the speed of introducing new features and the user experience. Tatra banka had previously received 14 national and two regional awards from Global Finance. The achievement confirms its position among significant players in digital banking. **(SOURCE techbox.sk)**

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SARIO NEWS





The event was opened by Denisa Saková, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic, followed by Egon Zorád, Director General of SARIO

SLOVAK INDUSTRY VISION DAY 2026

The Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO) organised the 5th edition of the international business forum Slovak Industry Vision Day 2026 on 27 October 2026 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Bratislava hotel. This year's forum marked the 25th anniversary of SARIO and brought together Slovak and international companies, investors, representatives of business organisations and innovation experts.

A total of 210 companies and other organisations from 12 countries, including Slovakia, registered for the event. The forum welcomed 383 participants, who held more than 500 individual B2B meetings in a single day.

The event was officially opened by Denisa Saková, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic, who highlighted SARIO's 25th anniversary in her opening address. The opening ceremony was broadcast live by Slovak Television and Radio (STVR).

Individual B2B meetings formed the core of the programme, enabling Slovak companies to establish new business contacts, showcase their manufacturing and technological capabilities, and explore cooperation opportunities with domestic and international partners. In this context, SARIO Director General Egon Zorád emphasised that the high number of meetings confirmed Slovak companies' ambition to grow and seek new partners both at home and abroad. The aim of the event is to ensure that companies leave not only with new insights but also with concrete contacts and business opportunities.

SARIO paid particular attention to sourcing activities aimed at identifying suitable Slovak suppliers for major industrial companies. For GIB EnergyX Slovakia, SARIO prepared a qualification process through which Slovak companies could present their capabilities and apply to become part of its supply chain. For reflexGroup, part of the Winkelmann Group, SARIO organised face-to-face meetings with potential suppliers. These activities provide a tangible example of how SARIO connects Slovak manufacturing companies with the needs of domestic and international investors.

210
registered companies and organizations

12
countries (including Slovakia)

500+
B2B meetings



EVENT PHOTO GALLERY



The goal of the event is for companies to leave not only with new knowledge, but also with concrete contacts and business opportunities

As part of the expert programme, SARIO Director General Egon Zorád presented the agency's strategic vision for its future direction and its role in promoting investment, foreign trade and the internationalisation of Slovak companies. Thematic panel discussions addressed the investment environment, export performance, technological transformation and the development of internationally competitive companies. Slovak businesses also shared their experiences of operating in foreign markets. Particular attention was given to the use of artificial intelligence in research, development and industrial applications.

Alongside the main conference programme, expert workshops provided participants with practical information on doing business and expanding into South Korea, the United States, China and the German-speaking DACH region. Other sessions explored business opportunities in India, the Western Balkans and Central Asia. A dedicated workshop focused on the results and future direction of the national project Support for the Internationalisation of SMEs 2, through which SARIO helps Slovak small and medium–sized enterprises establish themselves in foreign markets.

The event also featured the parallel Emerging Space programme, organised by the Slovak Space Office, which operates within SARIO. The programme highlighted opportunities in the space industry and possibilities for cooperation between Slovak technology companies and international partners, with a particular focus on Slovak–Bavarian cooperation meetings. The connection between space technologies and traditional industry demonstrated how Slovak companies can diversify their activities and establish a presence in high–value-added sectors.

Slovak Industry Vision Day 2026 highlighted the importance of aligning investment and export support with the specific needs of the business sector. Over its 25 years of operation, SARIO has contributed to attracting foreign investment, developing the business environment and creating opportunities for Slovak companies in international markets.

The event was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, in cooperation with innovation partner SAPIE — the Slovak Alliance for Innovation Economy. ČSOB and SPP were the General Partners. The Exclusive Vision Partners were Slovakia Travel, MH Teplárenský holding, the Slovak Space Office and the national project Support for the Internationalisation of SMEs 2. The Vision Partners were Eximbanka SR, P3 Logistic Parks, Takenaka, Nippon Steel Slovakia and Teraz.

The event was also supported by other business, sourcing, product and media partners, including SITA, TASR, STVR and TouchIT. Slovakia Travel, the national tourism promotion organisation, also supported the event.

For more information visit slovakindustryvisionday.com

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EVENTS



NOVEMBER 3 — NOVEMBER 7, 2026
Business mission to South Korea for Robotworld 2026

NOVEMBER 3 — NOVEMBER 7, 2026
Business mission to South Korea for Robotworld 2026
SMEs

NOVEMBER 5 — NOVEMBER 10, 2026
National pavilion at CIIE 2026 in Shanghai
SMEs

NOVEMBER 7 — NOVEMBER 14, 2026
Business mission to the Philippines and China

NOVEMBER 9 — NOVEMBER 13, 2026
Business mission to Web Summit Lisbon 2026, Portugal

NOVEMBER 12 — NOVEMBER 15, 2026
Business mission to Levi for White Winters, Finland
SMEs

NOVEMBER 12 — NOVEMBER 13, 2026
Rebuild Ukraine 2026



NOVEMBER 12 — NOVEMBER 15, 2026
Business mission to Levi for White Winters, Finland

NOVEMBER 16 — NOVEMBER 21, 2026
Business mission to Singapore Fintech Festival, Singapore

SMEs

NOVEMBER 17 — NOVEMBER 21, 2026
Business mission to Helsinki, Finland

SMEs

NOVEMBER 24, 2026
Webinar — National Innovation and Technology Centre: Concept, vision and opportunities for Slovak companies

NOVEMBER 25, 2026
Webinar — Asset and liability inventory for 2026 for SMEs

SMEs

NOVEMBER 25, 2026
Webinar — Evidence-Based Marketing: How to build a brand on evidence, not impressions

DECEMBER 3 — DECEMBER 4, 2026
Business mission to ADOPT AI Summit 2026 in Paris, France

DECEMBER 7 — DECEMBER 11, 2026
Business mission to Ethiopia and Rwanda

JANUARY 25 — JANUARY 28, 2027
World Health EXPO Dubai 2027, United Arab Emirates

SMEs



NOVEMBER 16 — NOVEMBER 21, 2026
Business mission to Singapore Fintech Festival, Singapore

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