

Dear colleagues,

On **26 September 2011** CEITEC officially launched operations. The importance of this event was emphasized in person by the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic and other distinguished speakers. We are very pleased to have this support and we are fully committed to fulfilling the high expectations.

We are building on the tremendous efforts that have been invested in the establishment of CEITEC, and we have finally reached the point where we can put our primary focus on our most important task – to establish CEITEC as an internationally recognized centre of excellence. ●●

**Tomáš Hruďa**, Executive Director



## CEITEC Opening Conference

The CEITEC centre was officially introduced to experts and the general public at the Opening Conference, which was held at **Brno's Masaryk University Campus on 26 September 2011**.

The conference was officially opened by the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, **Mr Petr Nečas**, along with other prominent representatives including the Head of Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic, **Mr Jan Michal**; the First Deputy Minister of Education, **Mr Jakub Hodinář**; the Governor of the South Moravian Region, **Mr Michal Hašek**; the Rector of Masaryk University, **Mr Mikuláš Bek**; the Rector of the Brno University of Technology, **Mr Karel Rais**; and the Executive Director of CEITEC, **Mr Tomáš Hruďa**.

We would like to thank to all participants, speakers and those involved in the organization of the event. ●●

Photo gallery can be found [here](#).



**Petr Nečas**, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

## Positions for Executive Director and Scientific Director of CEITEC already under way

The Ministry of Education opened the selection process (Search Committee) for a new Executive Director and a Scientific Director of CEITEC, who are to take charge of the management of the centre next year. The candidates must meet strict criteria in order to underline CEITEC's commitment to international standards of scientific excellence. Please refer to the respective profiles of the selection process for [Executive Director](#) and [Scientific Director](#). ●●

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## SYLICA – international grant gained amidst difficult European competition

SYLICA has succeeded as one of only 21 projects chosen from 293 (total budget of EUR 4 mil. over 3 years). The SYLICA Project – Synergies of Life and Material Sciences to Create a New Future concentrates on unlocking and developing CEITEC's research potential. SYLICA principally concentrates on interdisciplinary cooperation within CEITEC. In particular, through a series of workshops, seminars, postdoctoral and expert internships and visits, and the reintegration of experienced nationals, the project will strengthen our research potential in methodologies and techniques needed for the infrastructure (especially Core Facilities) on one hand, and on the other hand in interdisciplinary research fields including studies of novel biomaterials and composites with enhanced biological and mechanical properties. In addition, SYLICA will foster strategic partnerships with prestigious EU research institutions and attract external users of the infrastructure and research results including users from the industry sector.

The project is supported under the EU 7th Framework Programme as a “capacities-specific” programme (Contract No. 286154 – SYLICA). ●●

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## The first official meeting of the International Scientific Advisory Board

**The first official meeting of the International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB)** after approval was held in Brno from **19–21 June 2011**. The ISAB represents CEITEC's highest scientific advisory body. Its membership is solely comprised of important representatives of leading foreign scientific institutes. Independent experts on this Board assessed and approved fundamental issues concerning key decisions and principles of management for the centre including the key principles of the Independent Evaluation of the Scientific Excellence to be held in June of next year. ●●

## CEITEC and EMBL set the basis for a new era of cooperation in Brno

Scientists from CEITEC and EMBL met in Brno in order to extend the current contacts and start new specific areas of cooperation. A two day visit took place in Brno on **20–21 October 2011. The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)**, with its main headquarters in Heidelberg and another 4 branches around Europe, represents the European flagship for research in the field of molecular biology. Experts from CEITEC in structural biology, molecular biology and advanced microscopic methods had a possibility to establish new areas of cooperation with leading experts and world-renowned top specialists in their fields.

Several proposals for specific cooperation have already originated as results of the meeting. The topics include bioinformatics, innovative sequencing techniques and development of new methods of advanced optical microscopy, and also the possibility of using the specialized EMBL laboratories. The Czech Republic is not yet an EMBL member country, but negotiations on its membership are in progress. CEITEC fully supports the membership of the Czech Republic in the EMBL. ●●

Photo gallery can be found [here](#).

## CEITEC was presented in Cambridge, UK

CEITEC representatives introduced the centre of excellence in the **Healthcare Technologies workshop** held as part of the Life Science Leadership Series of seminars in Cambridge **in September 2011**. Executive Director, Mr Tomáš Hruďa, presented results achieved through inter-disciplinary R&D. Marketing Manager, Mr Jakub Ondroušek, took part in several discussions with university and research centre deputies, life science clusters and commercial companies. CEITEC initiated new and closer cooperation, predominantly in the area of European grants. ●●



**Jakub Ondroušek**, Marketing Manager at CEITEC, **Tomáš Hruďa**, Executive Director at CEITEC, **Pavel Bobek**, Head of Section for Commerce at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Mark O'Connel**, UK Deputy Representative at BVT Technologies, a.s., **Marián Hajdúch**, Director at Institute of Molecular and Translational Medicine, **Michal Mravinač**, Director UK & Ireland Operations at CzechInvest

## CEITEC representatives visited research institutes VIB and IMEC in Flanders, Belgium

CEITEC delegations, led by CEITEC's Executive Director, Mr Tomáš Hruša, visited the Flemish research institutes, VIB and IMEC, from **13–14 October 2011**. The aim of the meetings was to strengthen cooperation between CEITEC and Flemish research institutes and to discuss topics regarding management of research institutes, technology transfers and primarily scientific evaluation. The Czech delegation discussed the aforementioned topics with the following experts: Mr Jo Bury, Managing Director VIB; Mr Dirk Inzé, Scientific Director VIB; Ms Aurélie Huser, Technology Transfer Team VIB; Ms Eva Benková and Mr Jiří Friml, Research Group Leaders; and Mr Gustaaf Borghs, NERF - Neuroelectronics Research Flanders Coordinator IMEC.

