

Karel Torn: Jubilee IDET Offering New Branches

In nine years of its existence IDET, International Exhibition of Defence and Security Technologies, has become one of the top events in this field. Its jubilee tenth session will take place at the Brno Exhibition Centre on 5 – 7 May 2009. We asked director Karel Torn what attractions this trade fair is going to introduce.

IDET is celebrating its decennial this year. If you should summarise the previous years, what is the development trend of the fair, in what direction is it evolving?
 If I should briefly summarise the previous nine years of the fair, I would mention three milestones that influenced the conception, development and heading of the fair. The first important milestone was obviously the first session of IDET in 1993 and the closely associated participation of the Czech Armed Forces that used IDET as a platform for presenting itself in the new democratic society. The second milestone in the trade fair development were the first (1999) and second (2004) waves of enlarging NATO to new member states from Central and Eastern Europe. In this way the trade fair gained a new dimension and gradually it was able to build its position as an ideal place for signing contracts as well as for making new contacts. The third, currently topical milestone is the general and remarkable change taking place in the area of defence and security within the last few years. Due to the changing risks to the democratic society notable integration, cooperation and convergence of military and security structures are taking place in the defence of states and their interests as well as in the defence of civilians. This applies not only to the situation in individual countries but to entire strategic military groups.

How will IDET reflect this situation? What is the outlook?

The situation will clearly affect the development of the fair. Based on these global trends in the security and defence technology and on the evaluation of marketing surveys among exhibitors and visitors to this year's PYROS/ISET (International Fair for Fire Fighting Equipment, Security Technology and Services) we decided to offer a new nomenclature to exhibitors in the field of fire and security technology: Fire fighting technology and services and a highlighted area – Security technology and services. IDET will thus offer its exhibitors a chance to present both “classical” defence technology and almost the entire scope of technology and services associated with the integrated rescue system operation. The transformation of IDET into an event offering a comprehensive overview of the entire military and civil security will be completed in the next session in 2011 when a new trade fair of integrated rescue system will be launched.

Several notable jubilees and events are taking place this year. As well as ten years of IDET it is the tenth anniversary of the Czech Republic joining NATO and sixty years of founding NATO. Besides, the Czech Republic will be presiding over the EU at the time of the fair. Will these facts be reflected in the fair in any way?

This year's fair will mark some anniversaries and important events indeed. They will certainly be reflected in events accompanying the fair, such as important visits and guests. In cooperation with the Ministry of Defence and Czech Armed Forces we are organising a number of official delegations from abroad. Two years ago we had such



delegations from 23 countries. This year the Minister's invitation will be sent to 75 countries worldwide. She will invite ministers of defence and persons in the positions of chiefs of general staff, national directors for armament, ambassadors, military air force attachés. Among the invited guests is Jiří Šedivý, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning, Richard Froh, NATO Head of Lands Armaments Section, or Alexander Weis, EDA Chief Executive, and many more important persons. As part of the jubilee fair and anniversary these official delegations and important guests will be invited to spend full three days at the fair. On top of this, the traditional special flight from Brussels will bring in representatives of states accredited at the NATO headquarters. The Czech Armed Forces wish to use IDET to support the defence industry and to facilitate the meeting of Czech exhibitors with important guests. Once again IDET will strengthen its prestigious position in the new NATO area and will celebrate its decennial as well as other jubilees and events with dignity.

In odd years IDET is usually the biggest European fair of defence technology associated with the land forces. Is it going to be the case again this year?

I suppose so. If we compare the progress of preparation for this year with the situation before the previous session, everything suggests that it is the case. Right now we have more applications from exhibitors than we had at the same period two years ago. From the Czech companies in the defence industry that have already applied I can mention for example MPI CZ, TATRA, A.M.T. Group, RETIA, DAHER KARBOX, state companies VOP-026 Šternberk and LOM Praha. Among international companies there are for example Patria, Rafael Israel or Austria PIK-AS. We must not forget the traditional number one among exhibitors – Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic and Armed Forces of the Czech Republic.

What will the Czech Armed Forces presentation look like this time?

Compared to the previous session the presentation of the Czech Armed Forces will have changed. This year the army will occupy halls G1, G2 and open-air areas G and Z. All important military segments will be presented, like at every previous IDET. The principle that all Armed Forces decision-makers on acquisitions will be present at the army stand has not changed. It guarantees that every decision-maker who has a say in the Czech Armed Forces acquisitions will be available to exhibitors and international delegations. The Armed Forces will also participate in the accompanying programme presenting, among other things, dynamic demonstrations of technology on the terrain polygon.

What more will this accompanying programme present?

The specialised accompanying programme is being prepared by the trade fair organiser and also by the Defence and Security Association of the Czech Republic, Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, University of Defence, AFCEA CR and other institutions. If I should highlight some of the events, it would be the CATE Conference, part of which will be the 9th International Symposium on Weapon Systems, Military Technologies 2009, Distance Learning and Simulation, Security and Protection of Information, 10th seminar Materials and Technologies in Production of Special Equipment, international conferences Economics, Logistics and Ecology in the Armed Forces or Training of Military Professionals in Defensive and Security



Forces. Part of the CATE Conference will be RAT 31 Support Conference which will cover the topical radar issues.

What would you say to invite exhibitors to participate in IDET 2009?

IDET is the best opportunity to present your businesses on the market that covers the majority of NATO countries, especially those from the last two enlargements. Exhibitors do not have to visit these countries. On the contrary, important representatives of the armed forces, ministries of defence and businessmen from these countries will come to see them.

What can visitors look forward to?

For the visitors this trade fair offers a unique chance to get to know new products and trends in the branch in one place, directly from professionals and in a pleasant environment.

press release

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