

# Open Mine

New World Resources magazine

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## Editorial

Dear readers

In the past two years, NWR has rolled out three big investment projects that have delivered more effective and safer coal mining and coke production thanks to new mining technology (project POP 2010), new work protection equipment (project SAFETY 2010) and the modernisation of our coking plants (project COP 2010). The benefits from these projects are in line with the Company's expectations. The initiatives are, however, fast approaching completion, so the time is ripe for taking stock and planning for the future.

Our company foundation has also over the last year accomplished plenty of useful work. It supported hundreds of publicly beneficial projects, including providing assistance to non profit organisations that wanted to apply for subsidies from European funds. For example, the OKD Foundation assisted 'Life without barriers' (Život bez bariér), an NGO in Nová Paka in the north of the Czech Republic, to obtain nearly CZK 30 million from the regional development fund for the creation of a centre for the disabled and other socially excluded groups in Nová Paka.

I wish you a pleasant reading.

Ján Fabián  
*Chief Operating Officer of NWR*



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# 'This is a company that shows significant growth potential'

Leading coal and coke producer NWR published its 2009 financial results on 25 February 2010. The following day, Marek Jelínek, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of NWR, gave his comments on the results to a Czech online portal for retail investors, [www.investicniweb.cz](http://www.investicniweb.cz).



**Investičníweb.cz: What are your expectations for the coal market? How much of your 2010 production have you already contracted?**

Marek Jelínek: Each one of the three commodities has been organised differently for 2010, compared to previous developments. The simplest situation is in thermal coal, where we have maintained the same structure and contract for the calendar year. The contracts specify both volumes and prices. The situation is a little more complicated in coking coal. We are currently trying intensively to change our contracting structure in order to follow the Japanese Fiscal Year in negotiating prices with our customers – from April to March. (On 14 April 2010 NWR published the outcome of its pricing negotiations with its customers. Look at the page 4 for the latest information on the coal prices – Editor's note)  
The reason for this is the increased

demand for coking coal and rising prices, both on the global level and in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. We have already made the first step and agreed prices with our customers for the first quarter only, i.e. for approximately a quarter of our annual production. We are now about to revalue and expect an increase in our prices for the second quarter. If we are successful in our transformation, we will be able to use the price levels agreed in the spring between the Australian coal producers and the Japanese steel producers as a guideline for our own negotiations.

**Can you describe the situation in coke?**

There are no dramatic changes in coke. We continue to negotiate quarterly and now have our first quarter contracted. We expect an increase in coke prices for the next quarter for the same reasons as in the case of coking coal. (On 14 April 2010 NWR published the outcome of its pricing negotiations with its customers. Look at page 4 for the latest information on the coal prices – Editor's note)

**What are your views of the situation in the steel industry? To what extent do you sense recovery?**

When you look at the production capacity utilisation index of some of our customers you can see that some of them have already reached 100%, while others are at 75 to 80%. So

there has definitely been a recovery, and a dramatic one. The same is also demonstrated by our fourth quarter results where the recovery allowed us to even achieve profit, something we had not expected at all at the beginning of last year.

**NWR planned a bond issue that was subsequently dropped. What are the current financing needs of the company? What is your target debt level and its medium term structure?**

The intended bond was meant to provide us with extra liquidity or financial resources. The objective was to refinance the current debt. We had wanted to swap deferral of debt maturity for higher cost as at the time of initiating the process we had considered the credit market in our rating category very strong. We had a clear idea of the target price. However, as soon as the credit market wavered due to problems in the Greek economy, it became evident that our target price could never be realised. And as the Company was under no pressure to take such a step, we could afford to call the whole thing off. I do not rule out restoration of the project when the credit market stabilises again. (On 19 April 2010 NWR announced the launch of EUR 475 million Senior Secured Notes and on 20 April 2010 announced the successful pricing of these Notes. Look at page 4 for the latest information about these Notes.)

### What investments do you plan in the Czech Republic and Poland?

The Debiensko mine in southern Poland remains a priority for us. The economic downturn has afforded us enough time to optimise the process of its commissioning. I can reveal that in the five-year period of its commissioning we plan to invest approximately EUR 350 million. The NWR Board will discuss the project in the latter half of 2010. If approved, the first material investments will take place at the beginning of 2011.

### Do you plan any further acquisitions?

Understandably, we are interested in the Polish market as a whole. The whole mining sector is state-owned in Poland, apart from a few exceptions. We follow closely all the ongoing debates on possible privatisations. We were pleased with the success last year of the Bogdanka Initial Public Offering ("IPO"). We are hopeful that this success may open the door for further projects, more interesting in terms of structure than an IPO of a minority stake on the Warsaw Stock Exchange.

### How and when will the profit from the sale of NWR Energy be reflected in the books?

If we speak of an accounting effect of the sale, we can say there will not be one because NWR Energy had been accounted for as a "discontinued operations" for quite some time. That is also why it has not been included in the income statement, except for one line titled "profit from discontinued operations". A significant impact of the transaction will be the receipt of approximately EUR 120 million in cash when the transaction is finally settled in the second quarter of 2010.

### Do you intend to pay a dividend if NWR is in the black? When will the decision be made?

Our dividend policy remains unchanged. We continue to target to pay half of our consolidated annual net income over the course of the business cycle. Understandably, we have not paid any dividend in 2009 due to our losses. The dividend distribution will be assessed again after the half-year results for 2010. My personal view is that unless dramatic changes occur contrary to our expectations, we could return to dividend distribution this year.

### What is your view of the market price of NWR stock? Have you considered selling your options?

I hold a comparatively small and uninteresting number of NWR shares and certainly do not plan to sell. I think the Company has great growth potential.

## NWR financial results for the first quarter 2010

### Highlights

- 1Q 2010 results reflect higher revenues driven by increased coking coal and coke sales volumes relative to 1Q 2009
  - Coal and coke production of 2,747kt and 251kt, respectively
  - Total external sales of 2,652kt of coal and 279kt of coke, up 30% and 171% respectively due to improved market conditions
  - Consolidated revenues for continuing operations of EUR 329 million, up 37%
  - Change in inventories reduced EBITDA by EUR 8 million in 1Q 2010, having increased EBITDA by EUR 63 million in 1Q 2009. This inventories' movement resulted in a negative impact of EUR 71 million in EBITDA between the two periods
  - Main operating costs up 2% on a constant currency basis, up 8% including the impact of foreign exchange fluctuations
  - EBITDA from continuing operations of EUR 57 million, up 1%
- Mining cash cost per tonne at EUR 72, up 8% on a constant currency basis largely due to a 12% decrease in production compared to 1Q 2009. On a constant production run rate basis, cash cost per tonne was stable
- Adjusted loss per A share of EUR (0.06) for 1Q 2010
- Unrestricted cash of EUR 481 million as at 31 March 2010
- Completed EUR 500 million debt financing in April 2010 with no significant debt maturities until 2015
- Continued improvement in safety with LTIFR in mining operations down 36% in 1Q 2010 compared to 1Q 2009
- Production targets for FY 2010 of 11.5Mt of coal and 1Mt of coke on track
- Expected total external sales of 10.5Mt of coal for FY2010, 5.5 Mt of coking coal and 5Mt of thermal coal
- Successfully negotiated new coal and coke prices in April 2010 securing significant increases in prices as well as more closely aligning pricing with global coal markets
  - 80% of total expected coking coal sales priced at a blended average of EUR 163/t for JFY 2010; the remaining 20% priced quarterly at an average of EUR 135/t for 2Q 2010
  - Thermal coal priced at an average of EUR 65/t for calendar year 2010
  - Coke sales priced at EUR 255/t for 2Q 2010
- Longwall productivity rose 16% on the average performance for 2009 following implementation of the POP 2010 investment programme

## Update on 2010 prices

NWR has reached agreements with its customers for coking coal sales for the next 12 months as well as coke sales for the next 3 months. In line with the Company's strategy, coking coal contracts for 2010 now largely follow the Japanese Fiscal Year ("JFY") since April to March. Some coking coal is subject to quarterly pricing.

NWR has entered into agreements to sell 5.5Mt of its coking coal to external customers between April 2010 and March 2011. Prices for approximately 80% of these sales are agreed for the JFY 2010 period. The average price of the JFY 2010 settlements is approximately EUR 163 per tonne, representing a 66% increase over the Q1 2010 prices of EUR 98 per tonne and 87% higher than average 2009 prices. The Company has also agreed terms for the sale of 338kt of coke during the second calendar quarter of 2010 for an average price of EUR 255 per tonne, which is 32% higher than the EUR 193 average price for Q1 2010 and 71% higher than 2009 average prices. NWR expects to continue pricing coke on a quarterly basis for the rest of the calendar year 2010 in line with previous practice.

"The coking coal and coke price increases of 87% and 71% over 2009 prices are very pleasing and provide strong evidence of a sustainable improvement in demand for New World Resources' products," commented Mike Salamon, Executive Chairman of NWR's Board.

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## Successful pricing of EUR 475 million Senior Secured Notes

NWR announced on 20 April the pricing of EUR 475 million Senior Secured Notes due 2018. The Notes were issued with a coupon of 7.875%. They will be guaranteed on a senior basis by the principal operating subsidiaries of NWR, including OKD, a.s., and will be secured by a pledge over the shares of such subsidiaries. The net proceeds of the offering, together with approximately EUR 186 million cash, will be used to repay in full the outstanding amounts under NWR's senior secured loan facilities, accrued interest and fees.

"The successful placement of the Notes underlines the confidence of the capital markets in our strategy. Our strong financial position has allowed us the flexibility to timely approach the capital markets in order to ensure efficient pricing," said Marek Jelinek, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of NWR. "We were very pleased with investor demand as the offer was significantly oversubscribed. With the issuance of these Notes, we have optimised our debt profile and prolonged our debt maturities, thus further improving our capital structure and better positioning NWR for the long term," added Jelinek.

## Darkovské moře land reclamation finished

At around 145 hectares of land, 5 million cubic metres of earth and an investment reaching CZK 630 million, the Darkov sea project is Moravia's biggest land reclamation project. The next stage will be to plant trees and lay new grass. Darkov Sea is located very near to the town of Karviná. It is thus close to a population, which in the future may enjoy the land as a recreation area and zone for various leisure activities.

## OKD's commitment to continuous improvement

The objective of the Continuous Improvement Programme is to involve the largest possible number of employees in drawing up proposals for improving the effectiveness of work in mines, has brought OKD savings of more than CZK 100 million in 2009. "Many of the proposals relate to work safety," said Chief Operating Officer of OKD Leo Bayer.

## Working together with our Trade Unions

OKD's senior management signed a collective agreement with the Trade Unions for the years 2010-2012. It was agreed, among other things, to retain last year's standard wage rate and a total of 22 average daily earnings as vacation and Christmas bonuses. "The new collective agreement will guarantee stable incomes to the employees and will allow the Company to tackle consequences of the economic crisis in a constructive manner," said Miloslava Trgíňová, Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors of OKD.

# The mines are safer than ever before

The three-year introductory phase of the SAFETY 2010 programme, which OKD is now concluding, has borne fruit. The number of registered workplace injuries in the Company's mines dropped by 17% in 2009 compared to the previous year; in the past three years, it declined by one third.

The Company decided to invest massively in the modernisation of its mining operations (through the POP 2010 project) and an increase in safety (through the SAFETY 2010 programme) at the end of 2007.

"Before I started working at OKD, I went to see the Ostrava mines. I saw that there were quite a few projects that I could propose and then realise. The SAFETY 2010 programme is just one of them," says Klaus-Dieter Beck, Chief Executive Officer of OKD and Executive Director of NWR.

In the first phase the Company invested CZK 500 billion in safety measures, and nearly CZK 9 billion in new mining technologies. "These two areas are connected. The introduction of new mining technologies in our mines has had a great impact on the increase in safety," explains Leo Bayer, Chief Operating Officer of OKD.

It can be difficult to grasp the scale of both projects, even for some experts in the mining sector. The following should therefore provide a sense of the scale of the investments.

POP 2010 is one of the largest projects of its kind in Europe. SAFETY 2010 is the largest purchase of mining work equipment ever realised in the Czech Republic.

As part of SAFETY 2010, between 2008 and March 2010 the miners received new, high spec footwear (32,044 pairs were distributed to the workforce); new t-shirts and shirts with high-visibility reflective safety tape (39,462 and 78,368 pieces respectively); new mining outfits (36,000 pieces); new protective helmets with visors (14,108 pieces); and also T1005 lanterns including charging stands (10,000 pieces) and K07 lanterns (500 pieces), Dräger X-am 5000 gas detection devices

(195 pieces) and OXY K50 self-rescue devices with the service life extended to 10 years (13,000 pieces). During 2010, we aim to completely replace the all of the older equipment.

Like in other technological fields, advances in science allow equipment to become more compact and lighter. For example, the new underground mining lamps are now half the size and weight, which makes a noticeable difference to the miners on a daily basis. Thanks to the use of NiMh dry

*New technology is not everything. What is important is the personal responsibility of each person that goes down a mine.*



accumulators, the new lamps have enhanced safety. Members of the main mine rescue station, HBZS in Ostrava, also participated in their development. HBZS has been in charge of the mining lamps since 2000, the result of which is the modernisation of lights from classic bulbs to halogen bulbs to the latest modern lights with LEDs and dry elements. The producer guarantees that they provide sufficient light even after as long as 10 hours of continuous use.

**Weekly magazine Horník (The Miner) on the new personal lamps:**

"Those who do not yet have one, desperately want one!"

As the weekly magazine Horník (The Miner) wrote recently, "As regards the small, modern T 1005 lights, the only – and totally understandable – negative reaction in the mines was that those who do not yet have one, desperately want one!"

The gas detection devices are also smaller (comparable in size to a mobile phone) and they can continuously measure the presence of all life-threatening gasses: carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. In case of danger, they transmit both audible and visual alarm signals. Furthermore, the relevant data is saved in the memory of the device.

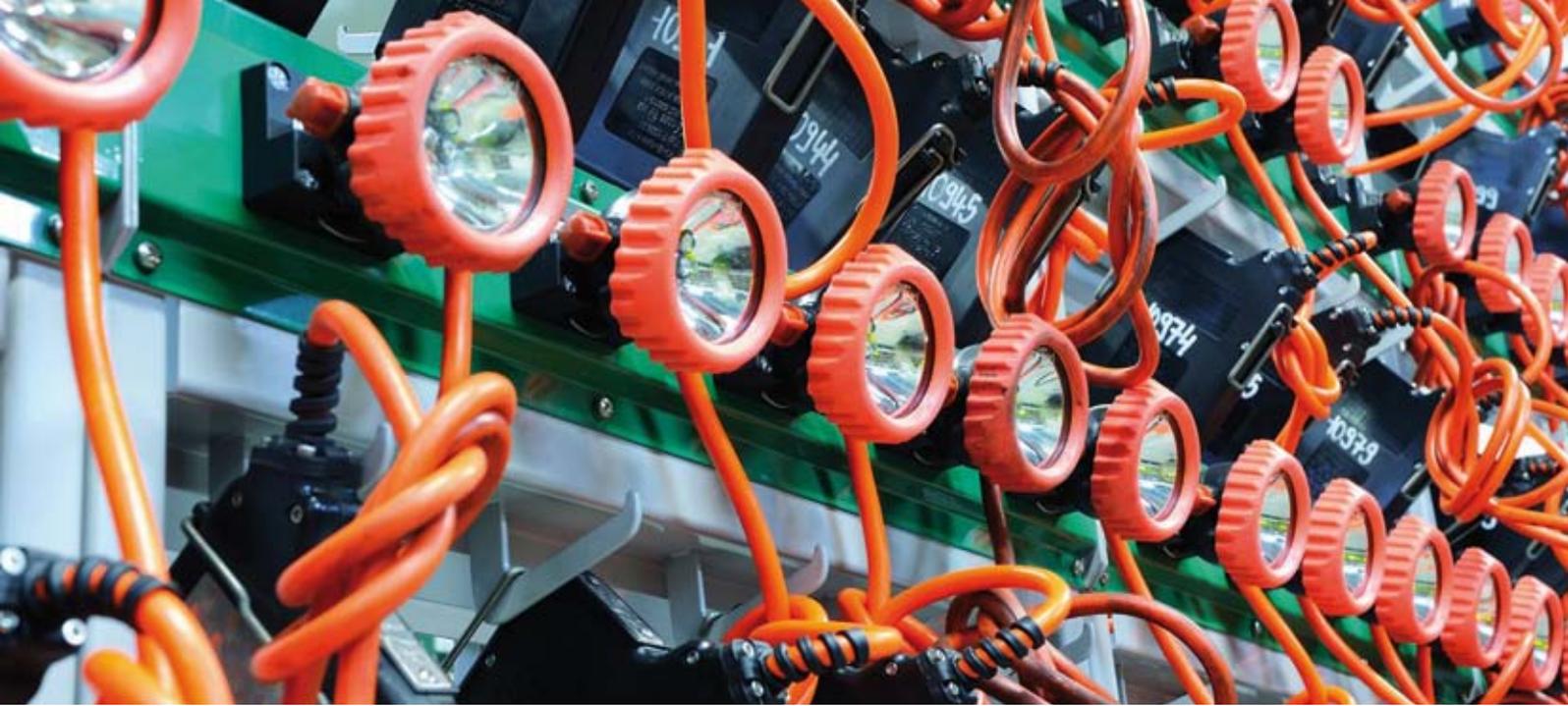
"It's not only about new protective and technical equipment or about modern technologies provided under the framework of POP 2010," says Miroslav Mančář, Head of the Workplace Safety and Protection Department of OKD. "We try to monitor and evaluate all risks, identify possible dangers and set up more effective health and safety measures. By introducing these measures, we want to prevent dangerous situations and increase the safety of all the operations."

The described progress is part of the new strategy that the OKD management recently selected. The



*Like in other technological fields, advances in science allow equipment to become more compact and lighter.*





*Thanks to the use of NiMh dry accumulators, the new lamps have also enhanced safety.*

#### **The numbers say it all**

The number of registered injuries by employees of OKD and of OKD's suppliers in 2009 was 346, 17% lower than previous year. In the same period the number of serious injuries fell from seven to two. Three injuries proved fatal, as opposed to seven in the previous year. Nevertheless, NWR continues to work on improving levels of safety in 2010.

large-scale introductory investment programs were realised on the basis of audits and subsequent decisions of the management. The Company is also trying to regularly involve employees in devising additional methods for increasing safety and work efficiency. "The project called 'Continuous Improvement Programme' enables workers to propose suggestions for improvements and, consequently, to be able to realise their ideas in working teams. We anticipate that the project will, in particular,

make the work of miners and other employees easier and increase safety," explains Ján Fabián, Chairman of the Board of OKD and Chief Operating Officer of NWR.

OKD is also completing a detailed audit under which the circumstances of work-related injuries most frequently occur, and it aims to identify areas in most need of attention. The audit results should become available during the second quarter of this year.

Despite all the measures and investments, however, it is essential that employees also go about their work with rising levels of responsibility. The negligence of a single individual can endanger everyone who works underground, and without the vigilance of each and every employee the Company programmes cannot reach its full potential.

The Company itself will not neglect prevention, thus the miners hear words of caution at every team meeting. Furthermore, at the entrances of mines, short broadcasts are screened to place miners on guard

against possible insufficiencies in their equipment.

Despite quite encouraging results from so far, there is always room for improvement. "In the coming years, we want to continue to significantly decrease the rate of injuries," says Beck.

*High-visibility reflective stripes on clothing greatly improve safety for miners by making them easier to see.*



# Modern coking battery under construction at Svoboda

The average age of coking batteries in the Czech Republic is more than 20 years so the construction of an entirely new battery at the Svoboda coking plant in Ostrava, by OKK Koksovny (OKK), is an event for the whole domestic coking industry while at the same time it signals good prospects ahead for coke production in Europe.

The new coking battery is being established on the site of the original battery no. 10, which was put into service in 1973. After 25 years of constant production, the battery was worn out so it was decided to dismantle all of it except for its base plate. This was retained for the new construction. Most coking batteries in the Czech Republic make use of German technology designed by engineers such as Carl Still, Otto Hoffman and Heinrich Koppers. Even today, their technology retains its pre-eminent market position. The current producer of the technology, Thyssen-Krupp, has further developed it.

The new Still-type battery utilises stamp charging and has 56 oven chambers. Upon its completion, OKK will confirm its position as the largest producer of foundry coke in Europe. It is projected that the battery will produce 214,500 tonnes of quality coke annually, using a coking process that lasts approximately 32 hours.

For the layman it can be difficult to imagine what a construction of this sort involves. In essence, we are talking about a large structure that reminds one of 'Lego principles' with each layer of bricks having a distinct shape and exactly fitting to adjoining parts. Thanks to this it is gas-tight. At the same time, the structure must be extremely resistant to high

temperatures. An insight into this is given by the amount of fireproof materials that the construction will consume – nearly 11,000 tonnes of fireclay, ganister and heatproof concrete. The combined pushing and stamp charging machinery, reaching a height of over 20 metres, moving over a track with a gauge of 12 metres, weighs around 630 tonnes without a load. The charge car weighs more than 60 tonnes, the transfer car weighs nearly 53 tonnes and the production facility, made of steel, alone weighs a further 1,465 tonnes. It is possible to measure the heavy current distribution lines of electrical energy in kilometres. The battery is heated with the use of the unit's own coke oven gas.

Attached to the coking battery is the primary condensation and further chemical units where coke production by-products, benzene and coke oven gas are processed. The new facility will operate within all applicable ecological limits. All waste stemming from its construction and consequent functioning will be disposed of in accordance with the legal requirements. During the trial operation, measurements will be taken of generated noise, concentrations of chemical pollutants and dust in all workplaces. The fulfilment of emission limits will also be verified with independently authorised measuring for three months from the initiation of the trial. The new battery

and operating machinery will be provided with modern equipment for the capture of emissions originating during coke production.

The building of the battery is nearing the concluding phase. By now, the basic construction has been finished, including the assembly of the external casing. Prior to that the base plate and supporting walls were refurbished and new rail tracks were installed. A 70-metre high chimney of monolithic concrete set adjacent to the battery has also been completed. The construction work and the subsequent drying out of the facility will continue under the cover of a heated hangar.

The machine room for the primary condensation facility and the battery discharge side platforms are being constructed simultaneously. The assembly of the pushing and stamp charging machine commenced in August 2009, while the mounting of the main machinery is now also under way. The steel structure of the charge car has been in assembly on the ground at the terrain level since the end of 2009. After it has been equipped with the main parts, the car will be settled on the rail track at the level of the supervisor gallery on the coking side of the battery. The completion of the construction and the initiation of the trial operation should occur later this year, in November.

# NWR sells its energy subsidiary

At the beginning of 2010, NWR concluded the sale of NWR Energy a.s. ("NWR Energy") to Dalkia Česká Republika, a.s. ("Dalkia") for approximately EUR 122 million in cash.

"The sale of our energy business to Dalkia, an internationally reputed energy company, is fully in line with NWR's strategy to focus on its core activities of coal mining and coke production. We believe that outsourcing our energy supplies will enable us to further optimise our core activities. For NWR Energy, the integration with Dalkia will provide the business with the potential for further development. We are pleased with the deal and look forward to long-term cooperation with Dalkia", said Marek Jelinek, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of NWR.

Dalkia is a leading domestic energy group and a traditional producer and supplier of heat for large towns and cities, for example Ostrava, Olomouc, Prague, Ústí nad Labem, Přerov, Havířov, Frýdek-Místek and

Karviná. Dalkia is also a leader in the production of electricity with the use of so-called cogeneration on the Czech market. Cogeneration is the simultaneous generation of electricity and heat, which makes possible a better use of energy from used fuel. It is therefore more effective and sparing where the environment is concerned.

Dalkia is among the key customers of NWR. It is NWR's largest purchaser of thermal coal designated for the production of electricity and heat. More than 40% of the world's electricity is made from the combustion of thermal coal.

Co-operation between NWR and Dalkia is further expanding. NWR Energy and its subsidiaries will on the basis of a long-term agreement,



*Dalkia is among the key customers of NWR.*

## The buyer

Dalkia Česká republika, a subsidiary of French corporation Dalkia and one of the largest suppliers of heat and electric power in the Czech Republic

## Transaction value

EUR 122 million

*More than 40% of the world's electricity is made from the combustion of coal.*



henceforth, provide deliveries of energy and related services to hard coal mines, which are operated by NWR's subsidiary, OKD.

The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2010, following the fulfilment of a number of conditions, including approvals by relevant antitrust offices and NWR lenders. NWR expects to use the net proceeds of the sale for corporate purposes.



# Expansion in Central Europe is on the cards

Flying between European cities several times a week on an endless merry-go-round of meetings, presentations and negotiations. Considering the sheer volume of his everyday workload, he comes across as incredibly composed, good-tempered and good-humoured. The man in question is Marek Jelínek, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of NWR.

**You work in Amsterdam, which is a pretty long way from home. Did you always want to build your career abroad, or is that just the way things have worked out?**

It has just worked out this way. The job I do now is extremely interesting, exciting and fulfilling, and I'm really glad that I have the opportunity to do it. But I haven't the faintest idea what things will be like in 5 to 10 years' time - and I don't even give it that much of a thought.

**When did you decide to go into finance?**

I've always been interested in finance - it's in the family. Both of my parents work in this profession in large Czech construction companies.

**What led you to start working for a mining company?**

Fifteen years ago I started working in the analytical department of the private investment bank Patria Finance, owned by Mr Zdeněk Bakala. At that time it was for me an extremely prestigious job. Later I was responsible for mergers and acquisitions in which Patria participated in the Czech Republic and neighbouring countries. When in 2004 the RPG Group took over the Ostrava OKD mines, I received an offer to join the Group. I then moved on to the parent company, NWR, at a time when it was necessary to prepare the Company for further development, especially in its entry to the capital markets. I found it attractive primarily owing to the planned Initial Public Offering ("IPO"), which we accomplished in 2008. It was an enormous transaction, one that has yet to be surpassed in Central Europe, and it was also an immense challenge - an opportunity I seized with great pleasure. At the

time I didn't care whether my office would be in the Netherlands, in the Czech Republic or somewhere else.

**NWR's IPO was exceptionally large in terms of the local conditions. Weren't you a bit afraid?**

It was a great challenge and also an endurance test. We had no guarantee that it would turn out as well as it finally did. In Amsterdam I managed to bring together a small but excellent team that managed to pull it off. There were about five of us working on a project for which you would normally need 50 people.

**And your most vivid memory of the IPO? What did it bring to you and what did it take out of you?**

It was a once in a lifetime experience, a monumental working commitment. I was living on my nerves and getting hardly any sleep. It cost me several billion brain cells. Yet the main thing was that I had a really good team able to give me the necessary support. I've been tremendously fortunate with the people I've worked with.

**But the transaction was prepared in two parts, first it was interrupted in an advanced phase...**

We were working on it day and night, and when the project was put on hold it was initially very frustrating. In retrospect I can see that it was clearly the right decision. The mood on the capital markets served us very well, and in May 2008 we attained much better conditions than those we could have achieved for the originally planned date, December 2007.

**You hail from the environment of investment bankers, but**

**today you are on the other side of the fence, constantly negotiating with investment bankers. How do you now view bankers?**

It is definitely a great advantage of mine. I think that I understand bankers better than those who haven't had a similar history to mine. I know their mentality, tactics, and ways of doing things. Yet in general the situation among bankers is the same as with other professions - there are many smart people among them, as well as many other types.

**To what extent do banking circles in London or Amsterdam differ from the environment you knew here in Prague?**

Large international banks do not have such limited resources, be it as regards money, technical possibilities or human resources. Hence, it is logical that the transactions worked on in large global centres are totally different from those originating here in Central Europe. Yet, in essence, co-operation works in exactly the same manner. In Prague or elsewhere in Central Europe you can find just as many excellent people in banking as in London.

**You are a connecting link between the exact, pure world of bankers and the world of miners. How do these worlds differ?**

At the present time, there are many discussions as to what role large international banks played in the - finally overcome, I hope - global economic crisis. I think that bankers have the tendency to be out of touch with reality and the physical world. On the other hand, they are extremely aggressive and goal-orientated. Heavy industry is more

conservative, but it appears to me that it has its feet far more firmly on the ground.

### **Where do you spend the most time?**

Between London and Amsterdam. I'm sitting on a plane four to six times a week.

### **What about your family?**

When they recognise who I am, they are pleased to see me! But seriously: my family knew what they were getting into, so it doesn't stress them out.

»Heavy industry has its feet far more firmly on the ground than banking.«

### **What's the "official language" at home?**

My partner has Czech roots. She was born in Prague but grew up in Vienna. When I'm at home we speak Czech. When I'm not around, then they speak German. The children, of course, are learning other languages at school.

### **And where do your children consider "home"?**

Prague, without a shadow of a doubt. During the holidays they're going home.

### **How do you like to unwind?**

With the family, when I actually get to see them! And I also try to ski as much as I can. That really helps – even though the Netherlands isn't exactly the greatest place for it.

### **Those who know you say that it is practically impossible to see you rattled, you never raise your voice. Are you simply of such a nature or is it that you can keep your temper so well?**

It does have a lot to do with self-control. But I too have moments when – metaphorically speaking – I am climbing the office walls! Not often, but it does happen.

### **When was the last time you felt like giving someone a piece of your mind?**

I can't remember. It must have been a banker or someone like that.

### **Coal mining is an industry whose position in society is sensitive since it transforms our environment. How do you personally cope with the fact that you work in this branch?**

We must look at it realistically. For the time being, there is no substitute for coking coal and coke in the production of carbon steel. Our responsibility lies in the fact that we must ensure that coal mining takes place in a sustainable manner, that it doesn't destroy the areas in which we operate. And this is exactly what we are doing. I think that our company really does do its utmost to minimise as fully as possible the impact of our activities on its surrounding environment.

### **Mining companies are frequently the target of attacks on the part of environmental organisations...**

That is simply part and parcel of our business. I strive to hold an open and constructive dialogue with everyone. Yet if some attacks still occur, we can certainly handle it.

### **How often do you visit the mines that NWR owns?**

Hardly ever, which is a pity. Mainly owing to time pressure. But I am more beneficial for the company in other places.

### **Have you had the chance to see other mines than those in the Karviná area?**

Besides our mines, I have only visited open-pit, not underground, mines.

### **Open-pit mining (of brown coal – Editor's note) is not something that interests NWR?**

It is a totally different manner of business, with a different product, on a different market with different customer networks. I don't see any potential synergies.

### **How is NWR's planned expansion into other Central European countries continuing?**

The question of expansion in Central Europe is increasingly topical. We are intensively dealing with several manners of entry into the Polish market, which, in our opinion, is extremely promising. One of them is Debiensko. A similar project has not been implemented in Central Europe for decades. I am really looking forward to it, even though my role will primarily rest in securing the money to open the mine.

### **Are you satisfied with the performance of the Ostrava mines?**

Definitely. But the greatest success in the past three years has been the replacement of mining technologies at OKD. It is a truly revolutionary change. I think that Klaus-Dieter Beck (Chief Executive Officer of OKD and Executive



Director of NWR – Editor's note) and his team have done an enormous amount of work. It is amazing that they managed it considering the difficult period we experienced last year. In this project too, my role was primarily limited to paying the bills. It wasn't easy, but we succeeded.

**It appears that selecting Klaus-Dieter Beck for this position was a masterstroke by NWR.**

It certainly was.

**You talk about your role in the company very modestly, yet you are not only in charge of**

**finance but also responsible for managing the whole executive...**

Yes, NWR doesn't have a Chief Executive Officer, as is usual in the case of the holding structures of Dutch companies. There are Chief Executive Officers of OKD and other operating subsidiaries of ours. I am Executive Director of NWR and thus really do manage the Company's everyday operation. But I wouldn't overestimate it; every one of us is replaceable.

**You have a plethora of personalities with diverse experience from all over the**

**world sitting on the Board of Directors, the Supervisory Board and in other positions. Which of your colleagues has captivated or inspired you the most?**

Working with Mike Salamon, our Chairman of the Board, a leading personality in the international mining industry, is truly a great experience.

**Why did you choose to headquarter the company in Amsterdam in particular?**

London is an important centre for us with a relevant capital market

and financial sector. Yet London is unnecessarily expensive as a headquarters, both for companies and employees. And the flight from Amsterdam to London lasts 45 minutes and thanks to the time difference you land in London before you've taken off in Amsterdam, which is helpful. It must also be said that the Netherlands has a favourable tax environment.

»The job I do now is extremely interesting, exciting and fulfilling, and I'm really glad that I have the opportunity to do it.«

**How does the corporate environment differ in the Czech Republic, in Amsterdam, in London? Are there significant cultural differences between them?**

The corporate environment doesn't vary that much, but one thing about the Netherlands never fails to surprise me. Throughout my Czech schooldays we were being prepared for a life in a socialist society, but it is only now that I'm experiencing true socialism. In the Netherlands they've really got it made! I still can't get my head around it, since at first glance the country looks the same as the rest of Europe. Everyone understands English, there's no problem communicating with the Dutch, but it's a completely different culture. The people here place a far higher value on their health, their general wellbeing, and these values are much higher on their scale than success at work and the money they make. For me it was quite a shock, because I'd perceived the Netherlands

as one of the countries that invented capitalism. And I expected that it would look like that.

**How many people in the Amsterdam team are Dutch?**

About half of them are Dutch, the rest are from other countries – we're a truly multicultural team, which in my opinion contributes to our good functioning. We've got people with different experiences and perspectives on things.

**Today we also work with modern communication means after leaving the workplace, yet the other side of the coin is that direct interpersonal communication is on the wane. Don't you miss it?**

I still have enough direct contact. I think that it is good that everyone can be reached through email, for example. Matters can be sorted out much faster and more efficiently, which suits me down to the ground. I'm also in love with my iPhone!

**Can you describe a typical work day?**

Very frequently I spend the work day outside the office, travelling. In London, for instance. If so, then I get up at five, board the plane at seven, land at seven London time, crawl through the traffic jams to meetings. These last all day long, I mostly manage to attend five or six meetings. Then crawling through the London traffic jams back to the airport again. At nine or ten I land in Amsterdam, go home and collapse on the sofa. Check my email, which I haven't had time to do all day since I've been haring around London, and soon after go to bed. That's one variant. The second is that I come to the office in Amsterdam in the morning, go

through those 300 e-mails I didn't read the day before, all my colleagues try to get me on my own for a while before I leave again, and all of a sudden it is late in the evening and I'm on the way home. There isn't really a third variant.

**When was the last time you went for a walk? Or to the theatre?**

To the theatre? About six months ago in London, but I can't remember exactly what it was I went to see. Oh, yes: "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert". I went for a walk on Saturday, by the sea with the kids. A biting wind, around zero. Within 10 minutes all of us were chilled to the bone and had to get some hot chocolate, which, needless to say, met with far greater success than the walk itself.

**What would your ideal holiday be?**

My ideal holiday is one spent in the mountains. I really hope I'll be able to go there in the summer.

**When was the last time you bought something on impulse?**

I haven't the foggiest idea. I only go shopping once in a blue moon.

**So you never treat yourself?**

Not by shopping. Although... today I made use of my visit to Prague to buy some "Jelení lůj" (sort of lip-salve – Editor's note). You can only get it in the Czech Republic, they don't have it in the Netherlands.

**Is it the same as Labelo (sort of lip-salve – Editor's note)?**

No, it's not the same. Jelení lůj is Jelení lůj!

# A custodian of mining memories and traditions



In 1958, Josef Kimer (second from left) worked in Afghanistan as an expert in mine surveying and geodesy.

"At 76 years of age, I am constantly on the go, which has an advantage in that I don't have time to visit the doctor," says Josef Kimer with a smile. All his life has been devoted to mining. For a good number of years he could have been enjoying the peaceful life of retirement, but his character and the tumultuous events that were unfolding around him did not allow him to stand in a role of disinterested observer. He wants to be "in the thick of things", to influence public life and to "push" things forward. He wants to be useful and successful, just like a young man. That's one reason why he took on the job of Director of the Landek Foundation in Ostrava – that and his experience, abilities, desire and perpetual enthusiasm.

"Everything began when I was already quite old and I became Head of the Mining Division of the Unigeo enterprise, which is involved in

monitoring a decline in mining," Kimer recalls. "At the time, a great effort was being made to build a mining museum and to save technical monuments. The Directors of the Landek Foundation, Pravoslav Vokřínek and Stanislav Vopasek, were in the vanguard of this initiative. At Vopasek's suggestion, I was elected a member of the Board of Administration of Ostrava's Landek Foundation and in September 2006 I became its Director, right after the late Vopasek. At that time, I had already been a member of the Club of Friends of the OKD Mining Museum in Ostrava-Petřkovice for two years."

It was thanks to Josef Kimer's efforts that funds were secured and a number of technical monuments were preserved for the burgeoning museum. Now 15 years old, the Landek Foundation has a broad mission. It continues to conserve and maintain unique mining facilities, and it also works to preserve and renew mining customs and traditions. It acquaints the public with the history of mining and its importance, whilst simultaneously pursuing a wide range of publication activities. Besides this, it supports culture in the region and beyond, and sponsors activities for children and young people. "I really appreciate the accommodating attitude of OKD's management," says Kimer with emphasis. "For the sake of comparison, last year's grant from the OKD Foundation amounted to one third of our total funds obtained from all sponsors. We spent a significant portion of this on the OKD Mining Museum's projects, which underscores the main goal of the foundation."

In recent years, the Landek Foundation has endeavoured to ensure that four industrial mining monuments in the Ostrava region (Dolní Vítkovice and the Petr Cingr, Vrbice and Anselm mines) are included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Getting listed among the world's outstanding historical monuments would undoubtedly help increase interest in industrial tourism and the entire Ostrava region.

And what is Kimer's current priority? "To keep the Foundation's activities at a sustainable level and, above all, to cooperate with our sponsors," he says. "I would consider the OKD Foundation headed by Blanka Týřová to be the most important of these."

## Goals of Landek Foundation

- Preserve and maintain mining monuments and documents, particularly in the Ostrava-Karviná coalfield.
- Preserve and maintain localities connected with mining or localities which have been connected with mining at any given time in the past.
- Acquaint the public with the history of mining as well as its development and importance.
- Preserve and renew old mining customs and traditions.



# The OKD Foundation is for Europe

Are you in favour of Europe? The OKD Foundation certainly is – if it simultaneously helps people in the Czech Republic, that is. That is precisely why the ‘For Europe’ programme was launched two years ago. It is a programme that has taken a while to bear fruit, but it has been all the sweeter for that. What does the initiative specifically involve?

“Non profit organisations often have to deal with major difficulties in accessing the financial resources necessary for their very operation and investments in their own development. Sponsors prefer to provide financial support for activities with particular tangible results and public benefits. They seldom contribute to the electricity bills or printer repairs of non profit organisations, as these needs lack appeal for the sponsors despite the fact that such bills are inherent to any project,” explains Miroslav Kundera, Director of the Partnership Foundation (Nadace Partnerství) explains. One of the options available to non profit organisations for obtaining the necessary support come in the form of

European Union funds. Receiving any support from these funds, however, requires the presentation of a flawless application that stands up to a rigorous approval process. The process of developing an application requires an extensive pool of experience, expertise and, in many cases, some initial funding as well. But non profit organisations seldom have access to the necessary experience or financial resources. This was the line of thinking that guided the OKD Foundation in launching a grant programme unparalleled in the Czech Republic, and perhaps Central Europe. “Projects applying for EU funding may obtain support from the OKD Foundation and use it to obtain

professional services in project development, a feasibility study and other required documents that will improve the chances of success in obtaining European financial support,” said Blanka Týřová, Director of the OKD Foundation, explaining the essence of the grant programme. “The For Europe programme receives applications from organisations presenting sophisticated and long-term activities. The demand for the programme is lower than the demand levels for other OKD Foundation grant programmes, but this means there is a higher likelihood of success in applicants obtaining support,” added Vladislav Sobol, spokesperson for the OKD Foundation.

## They wagered two evenings of brainstorming, and received 50,000 They wagered again, and gained 30,000,000

Gambling, however, it most certainly was not. What we are talking about here is the success achieved by Life without barriers (Život bez bariér), an NGO from Nová Paka, with the support of the OKD Foundation. The organisation was the first to fulfil the essential aims of the For Europe grant programme. Thanks to an OKD Foundation grant of CZK 50,000, Life without barriers obtained nearly CZK 30 million in subsidies from European funds to help build a centre for disabled and elderly people in the

Podkrkonoší microregion at the foot of the Krkonoše Mountains. We took a trip there to see how life is in the area.

A small town between the hills. Red ferrous soil in the fields. Traffic flowing from Prague to the Krkonoše Mountains at the start of the weekend, and flowing back again at the end of it. All the cars going straight through the centre of the town – a ring road, despite 15 years of government promises, does not exist. Perhaps the lowest-placed ski-

jump facility in the Czech Republic. The traditional motocross event held every July. A town where residents, 5,000 altogether, are charged nothing for refuse collection thanks to waste separation. All this is Nová Paka, a place where people can achieve notable feats.

The local hospital compound, where the new centre for the disabled and elderly is to be built, looks a little shabby and derelict from a distance. And more than a little from up close,



*Virtually everyone contributed to the preservation of the hospital compound in Nová Paka, sometimes by purchasing goods from the local sheltered workshop.*

but that is not much of a surprise since the hospital has been shut for years and there has been no investment since the closure of the hospital. However, the site overlooking the town has retained its unique atmosphere.

"Life without barriers? No idea." is the most frequent answer from randomly quizzed passersby. "The monastery? That's a completely different matter! The monastery lives on!" To many of the locals the NGO's name "Life without barriers" is not familiar, but nearly everyone has contributed in one way or another to the preservation and restoration of the hospital compound and the adjacent former monastery, which remains one of the town's dominant structures. People from near and far are familiar with the multi-genre festival "The monastery lives on". The revenues from the festival also go towards the same purpose.

The civic association offices are adorned with photos of numerous well-known faces: ex-prime minister Mirek Topolánek and the popular TV commentator Miroslav Bosák among them. The desks are manned by Jitka Fučíková and her husband, the driving force behind the majority of activities concerning the compound. Josef Fučík has been confined to a wheelchair following a car accident many years ago, yet it hasn't stopped him from managing an amazing amount of activities. The monastery compound could very well be non-existent by now if it had not been for the efforts of this husband and wife team.

They speak of the unselfish help from 15 colleagues who have also put their hearts into the project. They also speak of the summer festival that saw the power to the main stage cut off shortly before the festival was due to start because on non-payment. Association members quickly pooled their own money to settle the bill. The festival took place, enjoyed perfect weather and was deemed unforgettable by a record number of visitors. And none of the visitors had any idea of the threat that had been posed to its very existence. Similar occasions, for which every penny counts, are the daily lot of the non profit sector.

Nová Paka now looks forward to better times. With its CZK 30 million grant, restoration of the compound is bound to pick up from its previous snail's pace, and the town will be able to provide an environment for the numerous socially excluded people who have lacked such a facility in the area, offering an opportunity for them to cross barriers and return to normality in life. The monastery lives on!

## CZK 65,000 raised for mining orphans and diabetic children



Donations and the provision of mutual support have a long tradition in Czech mining communities. The OKD Foundation, however, managed to engage a much wider array of people in a fundraiser for the St. Barbara Civic Association, which supports mining orphans and the Ostrava NGO Children with diabetes (Dítě s diabetem), which cares for diabetic children. In the weeks leading up to last Christmas, the Foundation initiated the sale of small ceramic carp fish made in the sheltered workshop of the St Alexander Charity. The first public collection received contributions from OKD employees and from collaborating companies, including OKD, the OKD, Doprava transport division and the Central Mine Rescue Station. The collection was also open to the public in Ostrava and Karviná. The proceeds of CZK 65,000 will be divided between St. Barbara and Dítě s diabetem.

"The miners were familiar with St. Barbara because a collection had been held for it before, while Children with diabetes was chosen by employees and the public in an internet poll," said OKD Foundation Director Blanka Týřová, explaining the reasons for choosing the two beneficiaries of the Christmas collection.

# Diamond Route opened

A quarter of a million hectares of land in a diamond mining area have been opened to the public thanks to the cooperation of the De Beers mining company and its majority owner, the Oppenheimer family.

Diamond Route is a project aimed at acquainting the public with the past, present and future of diamond mining in South Africa as part of the country's cultural and natural heritage while at the same time providing support for environmental protection. It is also an attraction for the local tourist industry – the route winds through nine diamond mines, including Kimberly's world famous "Big Hole", as well as unique natural wonders of local national parks. The project will also open the door for research and educational projects.

The idea to set up Diamond Route was born in 2004 when De Beers signed a memorandum with Birdlife, an organisation that also cooperates with a number of other large mining companies. In recent years, new accommodation capacities and other services have been established along the trail, while cultural events have proliferated as well. A number of areas have been made accessible by means of pedestrian paths or roads for off-road vehicles.

A group of guides has been trained for the project. They possess detailed knowledge of local wildlife, which can be observed from dedicated viewing spots.

A similar project, inspired by opportunities in a coal mining



Big Hole in Kimberley  
(Source: commons.wikipedia.org)

locality, is currently being prepared by OKD in the Ostrava region. Details will be available in a future issue of Open Mine.

# Stricter environmental protection may affect energy prices

While the last two decades have been marked by global discussions concerning air pollution and efforts at addressing it, the future may see similar developments in the area of water resources. This was predicted by some US coal producers in reaction to steps taken by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA has lately intensified its monitoring of wastewaters produced by mining activities.

Stricter environmental protection may lead to reduced investment in coal mining development and a long-term increase in energy prices, according to the American mining companies.



Waste management is governed by strict European legislation.  
(Source: en.wikipedia.org)

Decreasing water and energy consumption is also a big topic for NWR. (Source: en.wikipedia.org)



# BHP Billiton approves USD 267 million investment for Australian coal projects development

World mining leader BHP Billiton announced at the beginning of the year its intention to speed up the development of its coal-related projects in Queensland, Australia. Its commitment will entail the biggest coal mining investment of the last three years – the biggest since NWR launched POP 2010.

Investment initiatives will help to expand mining at the Caval Ridge and Peak Downs sites. Altogether, around 8 million tonnes of coal should be annually extracted from these locations. Financial resources will also support feasibility studies for new sites and a 20% extension of the Hay Point coal terminal's capacity. This currently stands at 44 million tonnes of coal per year.



Hay Point, one of the largest seaports in the world specialising in coal shipping. (Source: [www.greenaward.org](http://www.greenaward.org))

# China to investigate iron ore pricing

China, the world's largest consumer of iron ore, said it is investigating the possibility that the world's three largest producers of iron ore may be monopolising control over pricing of the steel-making material.

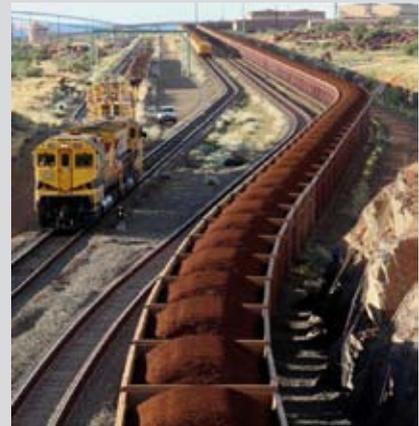
Ministry spokesman Yao Jian said at a press conference: „The commerce ministry's anti-trust bureau is currently studying the issue.“

In recent weeks, Vale SA, Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton have announced a move from the traditional annual iron-ore

agreements to shorter-term contracts, prompting vocal concerns from Chinese steel-makers.

The Chinese detractors join steelmakers elsewhere who have also commented about the pricing control of the three mining companies.

Eurofer, the European Confederation of Iron and Steel Industries, last month notified the European Commission about possible anti-competitive practices and abuse of dominant position by the main suppliers.



Red gold. (Source: [commons.wikipedia.org](http://commons.wikipedia.org))

The World Steel Association (WSA) has also weighed into the debate, saying there is an urgent need for competition authorities to examine the market.

WSA Director General Ian Christmas said earlier this month that authorities must review „the market behaviour of the three companies that dominate the business. They need to decide whether the uncompetitive nature of this business is in the public interest given that is used in virtually every aspect of the modern economy.“

The situation in iron ore is becoming increasingly sensitive. Not long ago, China accused members of Rio Tinto's top management of corruption. They face long sentences if convicted. (Source: [britannica.com](http://britannica.com))



# New World Resources among best managed companies in Central and Eastern Europe

New World Resources Company has been awarded 'Best Managed Company in the Metals and Mining Sector in Central and Eastern Europe' in the Euromoney magazine Best Managed Companies in Central and Eastern Europe Annual Poll.

The poll rewards those companies with the most convincing and coherent business strategies by region, country and industry, as well as highlighting those that demonstrate sound practise of corporate governance.

The ranking is based on a survey of market analysts at major banks, consultancy firms and research institutes focusing on Central and Eastern Europe. Respondents were asked to nominate the top three companies in each of the countries or sectors they covered, taking into account their market strength, profitability, growth potential, quality of management and earnings.

In the same poll NWR also received second place for Most Improved Company in Central and Eastern Europe.

Petra Masinova, Head of Corporate Communications at NWR, said: "We are delighted to receive these awards, which recognise the hard work, diligence and talent of our managerial team. The awards are particularly pleasing as they reflect the views of professionals and industry peers in the markets where we operate."



*The top places in individual categories are occupied by companies with the highest standards of corporate governance.*

Published in the May 2010 issue of the magazine, the Best Managed Companies in Central and Eastern Europe Annual Poll is one of the most prominent recognitions given by Euromoney magazine to corporations in Central and Eastern Europe.

The full results of the poll and the methodology are available online at [www.euromoney.com](http://www.euromoney.com) as well as in the May 2010 edition of Euromoney magazine.

# Seven good news items

The media is full of catastrophes and the last issue of Open Mine was marked by restrained optimism with regard to the uncertainties that had been generated by the financial crisis. So allow us to present you with at least one page that brings you good news, guaranteed.

## 1. Record interest in grants this year

The OKD Foundation began its third year of existence with a new round of grants. Although the interest shown by non profit organisations has always been significant, this year has exceeded all expectations. The Foundation has registered almost a thousand applications, the best of which can expect to be rewarded with a share in approximately CZK 20 million. The results of the approval process will be announced in May.

## 2. Protection of wells in the Beskydy Mountains

Conservationists from Valašské Meziříčí continue with the Mapping of Wells and Marshes project in the Beskydy Mountains. This project, supported by the OKD Foundation, aims to collect data on wells, springs, pools and marshy mountain meadows. The project database currently holds 229 sites that receive regular care from the conservationists.

## 3. Jan Amos Komenský celebrated in Fulnek

Lately, the Czech Republic has been represented abroad primarily by ice hockey players and fashion models. In Fulnek, they decided to change the situation. Support from the OKD Foundation helped to revive the legacy of the town's most famous native: Jan Amos Komenský, a pioneer who changed education systems across Europe. The project resulted in a three-kilometre educational trail, a literary

contest, various public undertakings and a quiz being included in school curricula. Besides local students and clubs, students from as far as Japan, Korea and Tibet participated in the project.

## 4. The best-kept public area

Some 800 hours of work and CZK 350,000 from the OKD Foundation went into creating the entry that won a contest for the best-kept public area in the Czech Republic. The award went to the leisure time facility within the housing estate in Klimkovice, near Ostrava. The community project, designed and carried out by the locals, changed an empty patch between blocks of flats into a place teeming with life.

## 5. Solidarity at a time of hardship

The Saint Barbara Civic Association, which looks after mining orphans, has a good reason to rejoice. A collection on its behalf, which traditionally takes place during gatherings of OKD employees, fetched a record CZK 256,900. It will enable the Association to increase its contributions towards the education of all the children under its auspices. The Association will now provide subsidies for the acquisition of computers, quite indispensable in education nowadays, of up to CZK 10,000.

## 6. Manual work in itself has yet to harm someone...

Young people, however, prefer arts or working with information technology while people in general gradually lose their dexterity. The contest called "Craft has a Golden Base", which took place at elementary schools across Ostrava, allowed pupils to experience various skills. They could try working with ordinary nuts and bolts or wood saws, or connecting wires to bulbs



*Fulnek is a witness to the revival of the local Capuchin monastery as well as the heritage of John Amos Comenius (Jan Amos Komenský).*

or making pancakes. Six-strong teams also competed in cutting tiles, making artistic photos or bouquets, or recognising car engine parts. They were assisted by students/trainees, who in turn were monitored by their teachers and supervisors. This event, which provided pupils with a chance to learn about various industries and provided schools with the opportunity of presenting their curricula, received CZK 55,000 from the For Joy grant programme of the OKD Foundation.

## 7. Focus on senior citizens and children

At 100 square metres, Fiducia ranks among the largest second-hand bookshops in Northern Moravia and Silesia. It includes an adjacent cultural centre with a small gallery specialising in photography exhibitions and another gallery in the basement. With support from the OKD Foundation, the bookshop holds artistic workshops for children and lectures for senior citizens. "Topics of the lectures include prominent natives of Ostrava or the anti-communist resistance," Marcela Lysáčková, Head of the Project, explained. Her father used to work as a miner at the Máj Mine and later as a trainer at the mining apprentice training centre.

# Green oases continues to grow

The freshly sown grass is already being grazed by brontosaurus.



New hunting grounds have taken the place of slag heaps.



Throngs of children pour into the new dinopark in Macurůvka, near Orlová.

A new feature of the landscape, the St Barbara Church in Louky nad Olší, by the architect Ladislav Mirta.



The northern part of Louky had to give way to mining. Today, the preserved church serves as a reminder of what once was.





A walk by Lazecká Stream.



Setting out in the footsteps of OKD.



It is partly thanks to mining that Northern Moravia ranks among the greenest regions.



The leaning tower in Karviná. The Church of St Peter of Alcantara, the local baroque jewel.



Within sight of the largest deep mine in the country.



People left because of coal. What remains is a paradise for fish, amphibians and birds.