



## PRESS RELEASE

**Nupharo, a new technology park and incubator focusing on the support of innovations in the field of electricity generation, transmission and consumption, is being developed in the Czech Republic.**

- **Situated near the D8 motorway on the border with Germany, the technology incubator works with the best of businesses, start-ups and universities across the globe.**
- **Nupharo Park is a unique platform – it is not just a technology centre, but also it focuses on final incubation of technology products and their real use in practice.**

**Prague, 20 November 2013** – Nupharo, a technology incubator with the ambition of attracting established companies as well as start-ups from all over the world and playing a major role in the development of technologies utilising direct current, is being developed in the Czech Republic. Direct current has been experiencing a renewed wave of interest in recent years based on its potential in terms of cost effectiveness and environmental friendliness. Called the Nupharo Park, the facility is being built near the D8 motorway in Žďárek in the Ústí nad Labem area and it will have an area of 16,000 square metres. The completion of the project is slated for 2015. The estimated investment in the construction of the park is CZK 500 million.

*“We believe the Czech Republic will become the incubator for new technologies that can change the world,”* says Jana Ryšlinková, member of the Management Board of Nupharo, a.s. *“We have located our site in almost the very heart of Europe, a place well accessible to transport. In addition, the existence of the technology park can boost the development of the north Bohemian region which has been struggling with poor economic performance for a long time.”*

Nupharo Park offers companies a unique environment for testing commercial applications and the business potential of new technologies. In addition, it includes amenities such as offices with DC infrastructure, board rooms and rest and refreshment areas such as restaurants and a fitness centre. Nupharo aims to attract primarily companies that have completed the first stage of development and are looking for ways to test their projects and ideas in the industrial manufacturing environment in short production runs that will help them to prove their market viability. *“There have been so many inventions developed all over the world, so many innovative thoughts as well, but we are here to turn new technology products into reality. We estimate that we will receive hundreds of project applications every year, and we will choose seven to ten of them for further incubation. We will offer them a range of services including the required investments. Our collaboration may take about three years,”* Ryšlinková adds.

### **Investments to amount to half a billion crowns**

The planned investments in the construction of the park amount to CZK 500 million. Private investors should provide about 40%, and the European Union participates in the financing with EUR 12 million (about CZK 300 million). The EU also offers grant project support to the companies that will apply for the technology park's services. Until 2020, applicants may obtain financing up to a total of EUR 800 million (about CZK 20 billion) for their business from EU grants as part of the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation.



Another goal that Nupharo is pursuing is to create an international community that will network investors with the representatives of industry and science interested in direct current. *“Nupharo has not just initiated the inception of the incubator – it is also the initiator behind the platform that will connect the expert community all over the world and share know-how. Our goals will also include educating the general public on the benefits of direct current,”* explains Jana Ryšlinková, member of the Management Board of Nupharo, a.s. At this point, strategic partners of the project include major corporations such as ABB, CISCO, E.ON and PHILIPS. In the academia, Nupharo works with the University of Pittsburgh, Delft University of Technology in Holland and with Czech universities including Prague’s CTU and ICT and the Technical University in Liberec. Early in October, Nupharo Park and the University of Pittsburgh organised a conference on direct current in Prague, attended by experts from the US and Europe as well as India.

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### **Direct current and its utilisation**

Alternating current was the global standard for the distribution of energy all over the globe in the past century. It prevailed over direct current primarily because it is easier to transmit over large distances. These days, however, the problems of long distance direct current transmission (under high voltage) have been resolved, and direct current can be also generated locally, for example from solar energy, creating energy self-sufficient “island systems”. This puts the previously suppressed benefits of direct current to the forefront. The benefits include better compatibility with renewable and local energy sources, greater efficiency, and environmental friendliness. LED-based lighting is a good example: it is based on direct current and is about 75% more efficient than standard artificial lighting. As a result, direct current is ultimately much more environmentally friendlier than alternating current because less energy and consumption is needed for its utilisation. The transition to direct current could also help to save energy because electronic appliances such as computers, telephones, LED lighting and TV sets as well as electrical bicycles and cars actually use direct current today. They have to incorporate converters or batteries transforming alternating current into direct current. This process involves about 15% energy loss. The quantity of electronic appliances that we need for living constantly increases – and the amount of lost energy is increasingly greater.

Major electricity users include international companies such as Google, Apple, Microsoft and others, and they use direct current in their data centres and server farms. Their financial losses due to the energy losses resulting from electricity transformation are considerable. Major hotel chains are now thinking along the same lines, as hotel operations may save considerable sums resulting from the transition to direct supply of direct current to appliances available in the guest rooms.

A new USB format, the USB Power Delivery, is expected to appear on the market in 2014. It will enable electricity transmission via telephone (data) lines for much more powerful utensils (100W). This means more savings in the construction, as we will draw energy from thin wires using USB PD.

### **Nupharo**

Nupharo, a technology park and campus currently under construction will not only be a business incubator and an innovation technology centre, but also a platform to bring together a community of the most competent global experts. The goal of the project is to help innovations and new ideas in smart energy and direct current and to enable their commercialisation. Nupharo provides space as well as finance, advisory and marketing services to companies. Slated for completion in 2015, the



technology park has a good position in the Ústí Region near the D8 motorway with excellent access to Prague and Dresden. Major partners to the project include ABB, CISCO, IBM, Philips, E.ON and others. The European Union also participates in its financing through the European Regional Development Fund, Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation. Nupharo also cooperates with major Czech and international universities, including the University of Pittsburgh, Delft University of Technology, Indian Institute of Technology, Czech Technical University, Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague, and the Technical University in Liberec.



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