



AFI expands its membership base

PRAGUE, 3 June 2009: At its Plenary Session in May the Association for Foreign Investment accepted two significant firms as new members. Skanska Property Czech Republic thus joined the association's existing members in providing services in the areas of project management and construction, architecture and consulting in the real-estate sector. The AFI expanded the group of law offices in its ranks with the addition of NWD Legal. Jakub Mikulášek of Hochtief Development Czech Republic was elected to the AFI's Steering Committee, becoming the seventh and final member of the executive body responsible for the association's strategy and operation. The AFI associates a group of leading Czech and multinational companies that provide to foreign investors a broad range of professional services in the areas of, for example, engineering, law, finance and human resources consulting.

"Our office has long been developing relationships with small and medium-sized foreign investors. Our AFI membership gives us the opportunity to be actively involved in cooperation with potential investors. We see the AFI as a very prestigious platform for sharing experience and knowledge with other members of the association," said Michal Kroft, Managing Partner, NWD Legal.

"We are very pleased to commence our cooperation with AFI on this day," expresses Johan Hedve, Leasing Manager at Skanska Property. *"As a part of the Skanska group with more than 120 years of experience from all over the world we know that all successful business relies on the foundation of knowledge and trust. Skanska Property Czech Republic focuses on development of attractive premises for our customers and sustainable investment opportunities for investors in Prague and Ostrava. Together with our colleagues in Poland and Hungary we have broad experience from the CEE real estate market for more than 10 years,"* adds Hedve.

Over the years, foreign investors have played a significant role in the growth of the Czech economy. Despite the current downturn in the segment caused by the drastic decline on global markets and the economic crisis, the Association for Foreign Investment will continue to support particularly projects with high added value that create jobs for highly skilled workers and promote the development of Czech suppliers.

Information for editors:

The Association for Foreign Investment was established in 1996 and its membership base currently comprises 36 firms. The AFI represents a group of renowned Czech and foreign consulting firms that are leaders in their respective fields. Since its establishment, the AFI has closely cooperated with CzechInvest in the area of supporting the inflow of foreign investments to the Czech Republic by jointly endeavouring to raise the attractiveness of the domestic business environment and to enhance the competitiveness of the Czech economy overall. The AFI and CzechInvest work together on a professional basis – in the forum of joint working groups – as well as in the organisation of joint promotional events such as the Investor of the Year 2008 awards ceremony, which will take place at the end of June this year. The association is also committed to supporting formal and informal meetings and discussions between the public and private sectors on issues connected with improving the business climate in the Czech Republic.

More information on the Association for Foreign Investment is available at www.afi.cz.