

The Electro-Optical Systems Specialist



Photos: EVPÚ Defence

Prior to the IDET exhibition in Brno, Czech Republic, ESD had the opportunity to speak to Patrik Hlůšek, the Commercial Director of EVPÚ Defence, a Czech IDET exhibitor celebrating its 20th anniversary 2021.



EVPÚ Defence headquarters and production facilities in Uherské Hradiště, Czech Republic

Patrik Hlůšek is the Commercial Director of EVPÚ Defence.

ESD: We have learned that the management and staff of EVPÚ Defence are celebrating a major anniversary this year. Can you elaborate on the company's history and current figures? How many of your employees work in Research & Development?

Hlůšek: We are celebrating 20 years in business. EVPÚ Defence was founded in 2001 with the aim of providing innovative electro-optical security solutions for border zones and other areas of interest. Some of our first surveillance and monitoring vehicles were produced shortly after the company's foundation and went to protect the Latvian borders. Nowadays our portfolio also includes electro-optical devices for military vehicles. Around 20% of our highly qualified staff work directly in the R&D department. However, many other specialists are involved with the development of our customised products indirectly through prototype production and testing.

ESD: EVPÚ Defence has been known as a company specialising in Remote Controlled Weapon Stations (RCWS). What does your product portfolio look like and what features distinguish your products from those of your competitors?

Hlůšek: The RCWS segment of our portfolio is where our customers can expect the biggest changes this year. Currently we offer two types of RCWS. The smaller RCWS can be integrated with machine guns up to 7.62 mm while the larger RCWS can carry heavy machine guns up

to 12.7 mm and a range of other weapon systems. We plan to show our innovations in this field at the IDET 2021 exhibition in Brno, Czech Republic.

ESD: How many company sites/subsidiaries/field offices do you operate and where? Can you refer to established industrial partnerships?

Hlůšek: Our design, development, production and servicing activities are concentrated in Uherské Hradiště. Of course, our customers come from all over the world. In order to serve them better, we have a network of local partners in many countries. These partners are companies that employ qualified technicians who are experienced in the integration of our products into the local end users' devices and applications.

ESD: What does your customer base look like? How many EVPÚ Defence products are in service with the forces of how many countries and for what applications?

Hlůšek: We supply our products to more than 40 countries in the world. Typical end users of our products are the Police, Army, Coast Guard, Border Guard and organisations such as Frontex. Although the majority of our projects are land-based, in recent years there has been a growing demand for our gyrostabilised solutions for naval applications.

ESD: Why should visitors and delegations at this year's IDET in Brno plan to visit the EVPÚ Defence exhibit?

Hlůšek: This year's EVPÚ Defence exhibits will focus on our defence segment. As previously mentioned, we plan to in-

roduce our innovations in the field of remote controlled weapon stations, commander and gunner sights, and additional protective systems for light armoured vehicles. Visitors and delegations are also welcome to discuss any special security and defence needs they might have as we are able to offer complete customised solutions.

The interview was conducted by Jürgen Hensel.



CRANE-XSR gunner sight – a ruggedised electro-optical container for short and middle range applications

Photo: EVPÚ Defence