***27th INFOTHERMA international exhibition***

**INFOTHERMA – A PLACE FOR DISCUSSION AND IDEAS**

Convening the international exhibition Infotherma in the second half of January has become a tradition. Formerly hosted in Frýdlant nad Ostravicí, now at Ostrava’s Černá Louka exhibition centre, each year leading manufacturers, sales representatives, assembly and service companies, and experts gather to introduce exhibition-goers to the latest news, innovations, and trends in modern heating and buildings that reduce the cost of living.

On 20–23 January 2020, the Černá Louka exhibition centre in Ostrava will host the 27th Infotherma exhibition, dedicated to heating, saving energy costs and the intelligent use of renewable resources in small and medium-sized buildings. It is the biggest exhibition of this industry in the Czech Republic, bringing together domestic, European as well as global brands and products specialized in making our homes nice and warm. Since the inaugural event, all the exhibition nomenclature has practically remained the same, but each year sees the arrival of new technology and systems.

There are many topics up for discussion at this year’s Infotherma, and these will be examined during the launch of the exhibition and over the following four days – whether in the context of the expert accompanying program in the Conference Centre and A1 entrance hall, or during individual business and social gatherings. For example, new laws have been approved and more are being prepared that are highly relevant to the conference topics. A law banning outdated first and second emission-class boilers will take effect in September 2022. The Ministry of the Environment has launched the last wave of grants for replacing old solid-fuel boilers for new sources of heat. This grant has been offered since 2015 and there should be at least 90 thousand boiler replacements realized before 2020. Grants for replacing old boilers will still continue, and in future become part of the New Green Savings Programme within the sub-programme Adaptation and Mitigation Measures.

Another hot topic will be how to improve funding for home renovation under the New Green Savings sub-programme Financial Guarantees.

There are also minor changes in New Green Savings funding: Energy Cost Savings – *thermal insulation,* Low-Energy Construction *– passive and almost passive house construction*, Efficient Usage of Energy Sources – *replacing and updating heating and ventilation systems etc.*, Adaptation Measures in Buildings – *green roofs, shading etc*.

Like every year, discussions will be held about whether funding and support will reach those who need it most, and whether it is a good idea to give more powers to municipal mayors.

There are substantial changes coming to the Czech energy industry in the years to come which will result in a dramatic decrease in fossil fuel usage, so this issue will be highly topical at the 2020 Infotherma. After 2021, an amendatory act will bring in many new financial tools that will enable us to invest in developing low-emission technology. There is also a new Modernization Fund for the advancement of renewable energy sources, increasing energy efficiency and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. This fund is offered to both companies and households.

The New State Energy Policy, now being updated by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, foresees the Czech Republic using more nuclear energy, renewable energy and gas in future. In the upcoming 25–30 years, nuclear energy should increase its share of the energy market from 30% to 40–50% and renewable energy up to 25–30%. Around 2040, approx. 80% of electricity should be produced using zero-emission sources such as nuclear and renewable energy. It is assumed that, in accordance with EU recommendations, renewable energy sources should increase their share from 14% to 23–24% by 2030. The Czech Republic is also planning further support for smart green power engineering using EU structural funds, focusing mainly on small decentralized sources. The focus is on solar panels on the roofs of homes and commercial property. The government is counting on combining solar energy with accumulation, which will not only enable solar energy to be stored, but also sold. Photovoltaic energy will become part of “small smart power engineering”, thus electric vehicles will be powered this way as well. We are happy to announce that some of these topics have already been presented at Infotherma, and will again return at the Infotherma 2020 exhibition.

The exhibition will open with an exposition named “HOUSE FULL OF ENERGY AND INFORMATION”. We want to show visitors the current state of technology and introduce potential alternatives for heating homes, and present new construction features. The exposition will be guided by experts from TZB-info, so visitors can ask them about individual heating products, energy costs or how such homes operate.

Today, Infotherma 2020 is already almost sold-out, so the exhibition centre will once again be fully occupied. This shows that heating and energy savings are hot topics not only among owners of detached family homes, but also for a majority of households.

In the past 26 years, Infotherma has hosted 7,454 exhibitors for 680,600 visitors.

We are looking forward to seeing exhibitors and visitors – first-timers and old hands. We believe that once again, this exhibition will be a gathering point for everyone interested in heating and energy savings.

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