



KONICA MINOLTA

Press Release

Konica Minolta investor of the year in the Czech Republic for 2015

Brno, Czech, 27 October 2016

Konica Minolta has been awarded by the Association for Foreign Investment (AFI) and by CzechInvest for its significant achievement in the field of investments in 2015 in the Czech Republic. The establishment of the Business Innovation Centre (BIC) and Konica Minolta Laboratory Europe (KMLE), focusing on innovation and on research and development activities, respectively, represent the primary justification for the assignment of the award. Both of these centers are setting the basis for the transformation of Konica Minolta to be a digital company that provide software and solutions that employ cyber-physical systems and thereby create new value for people and society.

The ceremony around the announcement of the competition's result was held yesterday, 26 October 2016, in Prague (in the building of Slovansky Dum) with the participation of the Czech Minister of Industry and Trade, Jan Mládek.

"The establishment of an R&D and Innovation center has required an investment of approximately 40 million CZK. Konica Minolta has selected Brno from more than forty other European cities, not only for its strategic location, but also due to the very real prospect of a significant number of high-quality partners and IT professionals in the region. Moreover, this year, we have invested an additional 91.000 CZK reinforcing the research team," said Paul Čurda, CEO of Konica Minolta Business Solutions Czech. "Both centers are of fundamental importance for the future development of the company in Europe. The AFI award demonstrates that this project has a professional impact not only for the company, but for the IT research community throughout the whole Czech Republic".

The AFI Award is annually appointed to the company, which distinguishes for significant achievement in the field of investment. "The establishment of BIC and KMLE in Brno has captured our attention for its potential development of skilled jobs in the South Moravian Region. We also appreciated the choice of the company to locate its European center for research and development in the Czech Republic" said Kamil Blazek, chairman of Association for Foreign Investments.

The benefits of Research and Innovation

The Research and Development (R&D) within Konica Minolta Laboratory Europe, in combination with the Open Innovation projects managed by BIC, together engage the work of more than 60 highly qualified Czech IT professionals and scientists. The centers focus primarily on the development of advanced technologies and services in the field of 3D printing, augmented reality, smart systems and digital workplace. The results of the activities developed in BIC and KMLE contribute to the transformation



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of products and services in the global portfolio of Konica Minolta. "The long-term objective of the research center is to develop our products within the new domain of IT services," said Matej Dusik, R&D Strategy and Technology Manager of Konica Minolta Laboratory Europe in Brno.

Konica Minolta has become an important contributor to the industrial development of the South Moravian Region. It cooperates with universities in Brno, South Moravian Innovation Centre, local partners and with other local start-ups. It is active in all stages of the process of creating new products from research and design through development to testing and implementation of new solutions.

About Konica Minolta Laboratory Europe (KMLE)

Since its establishment in 1873, Konica Minolta has had a long history of innovation and is now expanding its business in various fields including the digital workplace, healthcare, sensors and information automation, and business technologies. For Konica Minolta, innovation and research are key elements for creating new value for society overall. With this ambitious objective, in 2015, Konica Minolta Laboratory Europe (KMLE) has been established as part of the Konica Minolta Corporate R&D. Having its headquarters in London and its R&D laboratory in Brno, Czech Republic, and later this year a second KMLE centre focusing on healthcare technologies will open in Munich, Germany.

Exploiting the long standing and robust experience of Konica Minolta, KMLE is the hub where innovative solutions in the field of information and communications technology come to life to transform the next generation of products and services from Konica Minolta. Leveraging on close collaboration with Business Innovation Centre Europe and other external research organizations, Konica Minolta Laboratory Europe takes advantage of the most advanced technologies to support new business opportunities driven by innovation and customers' needs.

For Press & Media Enquiries on Konica Minolta Laboratory Europe please contact

Elisabetta Delponte

R&D Communication Specialist of KMLE

T: +39 342 1637290 E: elisabetta.delponte@konicaminolta.eu