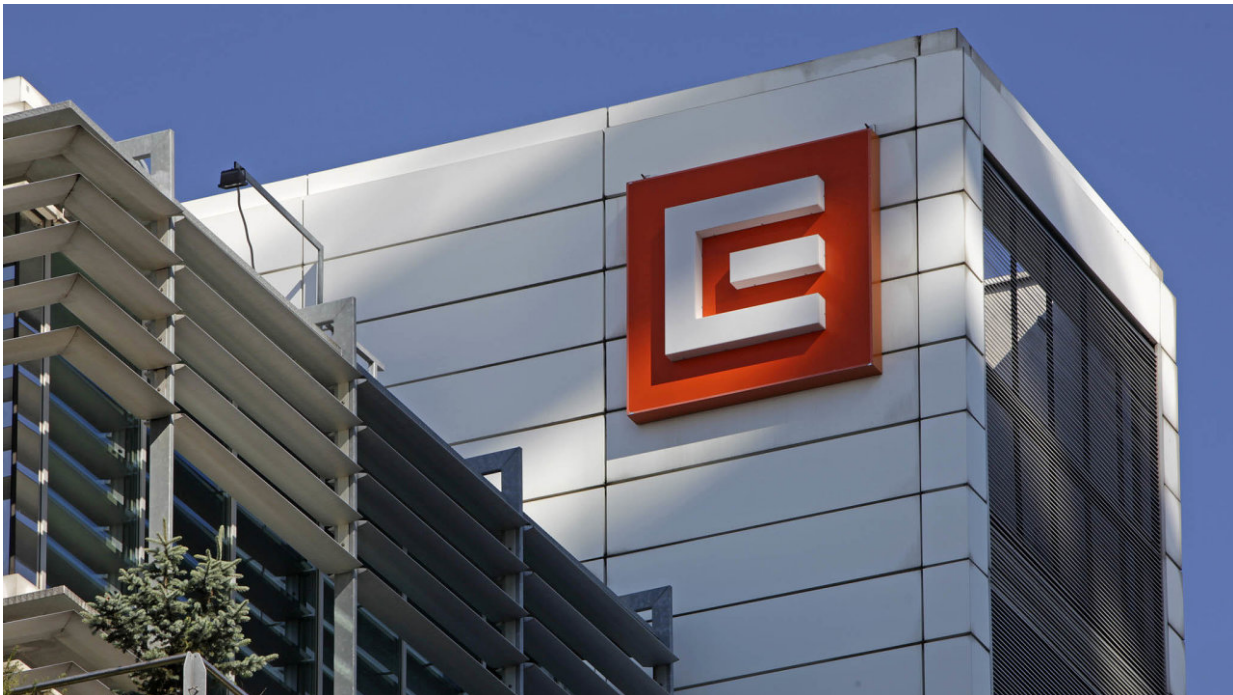


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Memorandum between the state and ČEZ: The state will support the construction of a Czech gigafactory for batteries for electric cars



The government approved a memorandum with ČEZ on the project of a factory for batteries for electric vehicles.

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On Monday, the government approved a memorandum between the state represented by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and ČEZ on support for a project for a battery factory for electric vehicles in the Czech Republic, the so-called gigafactory. This was stated on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/KarelHavlicek/status/1419679992041156611) [by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Transport Karel Havlíček \(for YES\)](https://twitter.com/KarelHavlicek/status/1419679992041156611). According to him, the expected investment of over 50 billion crowns will bring at least 2,300 jobs. The investment should amount to at least 52 billion crowns in the first phase. Havlíček and ČEZ CEO Daniel Beneš will sign the memorandum on Tuesday morning.

Havlíček announced last year that CEZ Group was considering building a factory for lithium batteries for cars in northern Bohemia in the next few years, which it described as a gigafactory project. Together with investors from the automotive industry, the company wants to use lithium from the Cínovec area in the Ore Mountains for the production of batteries. "We are dealing with two main entities of an international nature. It's a sensitive thing, they don't want us to comment too much. We respect their opinion," the minister told the daily Právo last week.

At the beginning of June, the minister stated that the government should decide in the coming weeks on an incentive in the order of billions of crowns for the establishment of a factory for batteries for electric cars in the Czech Republic. In mid-March, the minister told *Hospodářské noviny* (<https://archiv.ihned.cz/c1-66896520-cesko-jedna-s-volkswagenem-o-vystavbe-tovarny-na-baterie-nesmime-si-to-nechat-uniknout-rika-ministr-havlicek>) that the Czech government was negotiating a project with the German carmaker Volkswagen. Volkswagen, which also includes the Czech carmaker Škoda Auto, announced in March this year that it plans to have six battery factories in Europe by 2030.

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March 18

The German Volkswagen Group is planning to invest tens of billions of euros in Europe in the construction of several battery factories. Minister ...



"CEZ is interested in implementing and the government is interested in supporting the gigafactory project producing batteries for electric vehicles in the Czech Republic as a strategic project that will accelerate the transformation of both the energy and automotive industries. The intention of the project is also to create a unique opportunity for the transformation of structurally affected regions in the Czech Republic," says the text of the memorandum.

The document also states that ČEZ is ready to become an investor in the project, a supplier of energy, energy services and lithium from local sources, to provide suitable premises and facilities for the project implementation and is also ready to provide financing for the intended project. The government, through the Ministry of Industry, is then ready, among other things, to support the intended project with a suitable form of public support.

According to the material, its amount is to provide an "effective incentive incentive for the investor". The Cabinet also wants to support the investor by providing the necessary transport and educational infrastructure, public health services, social services and other necessary public services. CEZ and the government together want to develop the so-called battery value chain, which includes a wide range of activities from the extraction of raw materials to the processing of batteries for secondary use and their recycling. According to them, a large part of it should be placed in the Czech Republic.

Lithium is considered the metal of the future; in the Czech Republic, according to estimates, there are about three percent of the world's lithium sources - the vast majority in Cínovec and a small amount in Slavkovský les. The deposit near Cínovec is the largest in Europe. Lithium and its use was one of the main topics of the parliamentary elections in 2017 and caused disputes in the then government of the CSSD, ANO and KDU-CSL.



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