

Czech Aerospace Companies Eye Ethiopia's Market

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AERO Vodochody, a Czech Republic company active in the aerospace industry, expressed interest to supply its products and services to Ethiopia's market, it was learnt.

Zdenek Sykora, the vice president of the company which produces trainer and light attack aircraft, was this week in Addis Ababa as a member of a business delegation from the Czech Republic to search for potential markets in the country. In addition to this company, the representative of OMNIPOL, another Czech-based firm engaged in exporting security, defense and aerospace equipment, was also here on similar mission.

Led by the Republic's Deputy Prime Minister Jiri Cunek, the delegation comprised representatives of five companies engaged in the aerospace, telecommunication, environmental protection, media industries.

The delegation, which wrapped up a two-day business trip to Ethiopia on Wednesday, also includes the Republic's minister of defense, the minister of social affairs and the deputy minister of trade and industry.

The Czech deputy prime minister met with his Ethiopian counterpart Addisu Legese. He was also receive by the president of FDRE, Girma W. Georgis, and held talks with him on relations between the two countries.

The Czech minister of defense held talks with Ethiopia's minister of defense on possible cooperation the two respective countries could forge, according to Josef Cilek, Vice President of Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic, who was coordinating the delegation's visit. He said the talks covered the potential export of light aircrafts from the Czech Republic to Ethiopia, among others.

Cilek told The Reporter that the Republic's minister of socials affairs on his part discussed with his Ethiopian counterpart possible assistance his government could pledge to Ethiopia, as well as on potential cooperation the two respective ministries could form.

The vice president of the Economic Chamber said that the Czech Republic's deputy trade and industry minister had talked with Ethiopia's ministry of trade and industry on economic cooperation and the business opportunities between and within the two countries.

The trade volume between Ethiopia and the Czech Republic stood at just over USD six million last year, according to the Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic.

The business delegation was the first one from the Republic, according to Celik.