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VŠE and MSD Signed an Agreement on Cooperation

The director of MSD's Global IT Innovation Center in Prague John Westby and the Rector of the University of Economics, Prague (VŠE) prof. Ing. Hana Machková, CSc. signed earlier today an Agreement on Cooperation. This Partnership builds on informal cooperation of VŠE and MSD, which has started after the decision of American company to establish own global IT innovation center in Prague.

Prague June 27th, 2014

Leading multinational pharmaceutical company MSD (in the United States and Canada known as Merck) opened its Global IT Innovation Center in Prague at the beginning of this year. Within two years it intends to create two hundred new jobs, and therefore has already started to closely cooperate with universities in the Czech Republic. *"The Partnership between VŠE and MSD includes a great number of activities related to cooperation with talented students, participation of MSD experts in education or specialized thematic workshops for students and business professionals,"* said the doc. Ing. Ota Novotny, who coordinates the cooperation on behalf of VŠE. An important part of the Partnership is also creation of a competency center at the Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, student team focused on finding and pilot testing of innovations in the areas of deployment of information technology in the healthcare and pharmaceutical industry.

By signing the Agreement MSD joined the major partners of VŠE from the corporate sector. *"The MSD Global IT Innovation Centre in Prague is primarily interesting for not seeking cheap labor, but rather supporting cooperation with talented students on innovative projects using modern information technology. We are very happy that VŠE can participate on creation of this center through established Partnership,"* stated the Rector of VŠE Hana Machková.

This Partnership is also the first step towards cooperation in science and research. Research teams from the VŠE will be able to work on extensive innovation projects of MSD. *"We have established a center of innovation in Prague, because we believe in the quality of Czech universities. Under such a cooperation, we want to offer our experiences and to create a platform for sharing these experiences and mutually beneficial discussion. In this respect is VŠE an important partner for us and therefore we have decided to sign a cooperation agreement,"* said the director of the MSD's Global IT Innovation Center in Prague John Westby.

Among the main activities of the MSD's innovation center belong research in the field of information technology, information security, mathematical modeling, social media and big data analysis. Global technology hub of MSD will also develop specific solutions for internal



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use in research and development, production, management and project management. It will also control the management of infrastructure platforms and applications.

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The University of Economics, Prague (Vysoká škola ekonomická v Praze) is the leading university in the field of management and economics in the Czech Republic. The University of Economics, Prague is composed of more than 20,000 students and has six faculties – five in Prague and one in Jindřichův Hradec in South Bohemia. These include: the Faculty of Finance and Accounting, the Faculty of International Relations, the Faculty of Business Administration, the Faculty of Statistics and Informatics and the Faculty of Economics and Public Administration. The faculty based in Jindřichův Hradec is specialized in management. Graduates of the University of Economics, Prague occupy responsible positions in the private as well as in the public sector. Most of them are employed in the sectors of industry and services, trade, marketing, banking, public administration, accounting, audit, tourism and the field of information technology. Many significant Czech and foreign economists have obtained the University's honoris causa title; for example, the Nobel Prize winner Prof. Robert A. Mundell, Prof. Milton Friedman and Prof. Gary S. Becker. More information at <http://www.vse.cz/index-en.php>.

MSD belongs among leading global providers of products and services in the field of health care with a goal to improve the lives of people around the world. MSD is a trade name of Merck & Co., Inc., with headquarters in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, in the United States. Through prescription drugs, vaccines, biological pharmaceuticals, OTC drugs and veterinary health products this company delivers innovative solutions in healthcare to its customers and patients in more than 140 countries worldwide. Its commitment to improve patient's access to health care is implemented through global programs and partnerships. For more information visit the website www.msd.cz and connect with us via Twitter, Facebook or YouTube.

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