

# SLOVAK CLUSTER MATCHMAKING ROADSHOW

Prosperity through Cooperation

## PROFILES OF CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

### Martin Hlinka



Martin Hlinka is an expert in the field of innovation. He was responsible for the creation of the Innovation Policy for 2011 – 2013 with the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic. The key measure of the Innovation Policy rests in the support to innovative industrial cluster organizations. Currently, his department is working out a detailed implementation plan. Mr. Hlinka is also an experienced manager. He used to hold different positions at various companies operating in real economy. His presentation will give an overview of the State innovation policy and detailed plans in the field of the cluster development.

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### Michal Janovčik



Michal Janovčik is a Chairman of the association board of the Slovak Productivity Center (SLCP). He has been involved in SLCP' activities since 2001. He possesses vast experience in the implementation of international cooperation projects as well as R&D projects. His main focus is innovation, mainly assessing innovation performance and evaluating the commercial potential of innovation projects. From 2005 – 2008 he managed the Regional Innovation Strategy of the Žilina region, where he supported the establishment of several regional clusters. Since 2007 he has been developing the technology transfer system with the University of Žilina and has also participated at the National System for Establishment and Development of Technology Transfer Centres in Slovakia. He has completed his professional training in the United States „Higher Education Institutions in the U.S.". His presentation will show that innovation is not the result of luck, but it comes out from a hard work and an intensive cooperation. In addition, the real commercialization of innovations in the Žilina-Self Governing Region will be also presented.

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## Emil Pícha



Emil Pícha is an experienced expert focusing on the development of economy. He has held various positions in the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Slovak Government Office, the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He has also worked at managing positions with various private companies. Currently he is a director at the Support Programmes Section with the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic. He is responsible for the monitoring of a currently implemented project and also for the preparation of the new programming period.

His presentation will focus on the funding of innovation activities through operational programmes (OP) of the Ministry of Economy. He will present a short overview of activities financed through the OPs Industry and Services as well as the Competitiveness and Economic Growth, together with the draft of the National project on the improvement of innovation performance.



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## Štefan Reháč



Štefan Reháč is an Associate Professor at the Department of Public Administration and Regional Development with the University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia. His research interests cover innovations, clusters and networks, regional development and regional policies with a special focus on the experience of Central and Eastern European Countries. Since 2007 he has been a Chair of the Slovak Section of the European Regional Science Association. Mr. Reháč will be a leader the conference.



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## Adriana Shearman



Adriana Shearman is a member of the technology transfer team with the Technology Transfer Centre (TTC). The TTC evolved from the Technology Transfer Department with the Slovak Centre of Technical and Scientific Information (SCSTI) in Bratislava on 21st March 2011. For two years she has been working on the national project the National infrastructure for supporting technology transfer in Slovakia – NITT SK. She has also rich experience in the chemistry and she acted as an internal auditor for quality for more than five years. At this stage, her core activities within the project concentrate on the conceptual work in evaluating the potential of research institutes for technology transfer, and the preparation of materials of a methodological character for researchers and technology transfer centres at Slovak universities in order to facilitate technology transfer. Her presentation will give a brief introduction to the project of national importance the National infrastructure for supporting technology transfer in Slovakia – NITT SK, the principal investigator of which is the Slovak Centre of Technical and Scientific Information in Bratislava, including its main activities as planned and achieved to date, with some practical examples of support provided to the research institutes.

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## František Simančík



The scientific work of Dr. František Simančík is dedicated to the research on advanced metallic materials, such as metal matrix composites, metallic foams or ultrafine grained materials for lightweight constructions or for applications working in extreme environments (high temperature, high heat flux, chemical attack, irradiation, etc.). He is (co) author of more than 200 scientific publications and (co)inventor of more than 30 international patents, mostly devoted to the development of technologies for manufacturing of aluminium foams. His work resulted in 5 successful serial applications in automotive industry, including aluminium foam stiffeners or crash boxes. He is a coordinator of the Competency Centre for Lightweight Materials and Composites bringing together the Slovak Academy of Sciences, 2 major universities and 8 industrial partners from machinery and automotive sectors.

His speech will be devoted to current research results in the development of advanced materials with highest potential for innovations aiming at a lightweight design. Moreover, he will also present a few successful applications in automotive construction.

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## Elena Stieranková

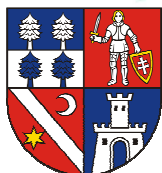


Elena Stieranková is an experienced innovation expert and a project manager currently working with the Office of Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region. She has been working with several public and private organizations acting in the area of regional development and innovation and providing support to clusters and small and medium-sized enterprises. She has been involved in many projects either as an expert or as a project manager. These included projects co-financed from the Phare, Structural Funds, Framework programme, Transnational Cooperation Programmes such as Interreg, Central Europe or the SEE. She has also worked for the Innovation Regions in Europe Network providing the support to European regions in the area of innovation.

Her presentation will focus on the support of innovation and clusters in the Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region and it will include results of the analysis carried out among European clusters within the CNCB project in 2011.

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## Zuzana Vašeková



Zuzana Vašeková is a project manager at the Business development department, Foreign direct investment section with the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency. She specializes in business development state strategies and also in the attraction of foreign direct investments to Slovakia.

Her presentation will give an overview of the business environment in Slovakia with the focus on automotive, engineering, automation and robotics sectors. Moreover, she will briefly present investment incentives which can be gained by investors when doing business in Slovakia.

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## PROFILES OF CONFERENCE SPEAKERS - CLUSTER MEMBERS

### Carl Zeiss Slovakia, s.r.o.



Carl Zeiss Industrial Metrology is a world leader in CNC coordinate measuring machines (CMMs) as well as in complete solutions for multidimensional metrology in the metrology lab and production. It offers bridge-type, horizontal-arm and inline measuring machines, as well as form, contour and surface measuring machines, METROTOM Computed Tomography system, and the O-INSPECT multi-sensor CMM. The company develops and manufactures all key components, such as controllers, software, measuring systems, and sensors to provide the best metrology experience. Carl Zeiss Industrial Metrology has three manufacturing locations and more than 100 sales and service centers to supply customers around the world. The international headquarters, offices, and production facilities are located in Oberkochen, Germany.

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### Matador Industries, a.s.

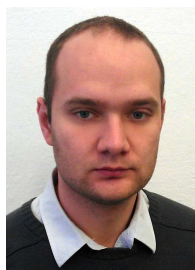


Matador Industries is a company belonging to the Matador Group which is a respected industrial and investment group.

Matador Industries focuses on the customized and low-volume series production in the area of mechanical engineering – metalworking, welding, including the design and manufacturing of machinery. Main business activities concentrate on tools for stamping parts production, industrial automation like welding cells, single purpose machines & equipment or process automation solutions (robots / manipulators). The company is a leader at the Slovakian market.

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## PPS Group a.s.



The PPS Group is an internationally respected production company focusing on the production of large welded constructions – arms, booms, frames for construction, mining, forestry, and handling equipment. At present, the PPS Group has about 1 400 employees, 100 000 m<sup>2</sup> of production areas, 560 000 m<sup>2</sup> site, 450 types of weldments manufactured for foreign clients which all together generate € 70 million of the annual production volume. A high production quality accredited by many certificates makes the company a global player in the engineering.



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## ZTS VVÚ KOŠICE, a.s.



ZTS VVÚ KOŠICE, a. s. is a private joint-stock company operating in the field of machine engineering and electrotechnical products. The company launched research and development of a new generation of robots in the beginning of the 80's of the previous century. Since that time it has become the pioneer company in the field of heavy duty hydraulic robots, teleoperators, and robotic carriages for an in-plant transport (AGV) in Slovakia. In the following period the company extended its activities into the field of very sophisticated robots for the nuclear power industry and of IED and EOD robots for military and police use as well as supplied precise robotic cryodipols positioning equipment for the CERN.



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