

PRAGUE, 17 July 2020

Formal Event Symbolically Began the Reconstruction of the Station Building in České Budějovice

Although the construction work itself on the reconstruction of the historic station building in the South Bohemian metropolis has been underway since June, the formal launching event of this large-scale construction took place today. The total renovation of the listed building will cost CZK 689,485,000 without VAT and it is carried out by Společnost Metrostav – EDIKT – AVERS, consisting of these companies. It will be completed by the end of 2022.

"České Budějovice is another city where people will see the reconstructed station building. 63 station buildings are currently undergoing repairs or renovations. This year alone, it will be managed to open renovated buildings or new platforms, for example in Přerov, Letohrad, Šternberk, Cheb or Lysá nad Labem. Last year alone, we spent over 1.5 billion crowns on the renovation of station buildings," says Minister of Transport Karel Havlíček. *"And we will continue to make large investments. A record CZK 52 billion will be directed to the railways this year, which we will use to build new lines, ensure better safety and security on the existing lines and invest in facilities for passengers,"* adds Minister Havlíček.

The aim of the extensive modernisation of the building from 1908 is primarily to increase comfort for passengers and the public, improve conditions for employees of the railway lines operator, optimise premises designated for the provision of transport services, better commercial use of other areas and, last but not least, energy savings. *"In cooperation with Národní památkový ústav (National Heritage Institute), we want to restore the lustre to this building which it had after its completion more than 110 years ago, while providing passengers, station visitors and employees with a dignified environment corresponding to the 21st century,"* says Jiří Svoboda, Director General of Správa železnic.

"The reconstructed building is one of the most important buildings in our regional city, and therefore it is a matter of the heart for us. We are aware of the complexity of the project and the coronavirus shadow that is currently hovering over us, yet we will make all efforts to complete the realisation in a timely manner and minimise traffic restrictions at the České Budějovice railway station," stated Martin Stašek, Director of the Regional Office of Metrostav, on behalf of the association of contractors.

The construction work will focus not only on the main building, but also on the adjoining ground floor wings below the 1st platform on the north and south sides of the building. It will include the reconstruction of the perimeter cladding, windows and doors, roof, interiors and technical facilities, the existing unused spaces will also be revived. Simultaneously with the reconstruction of the station building, the revitalisation of the adjacent outdoor areas is

expected, where new parking spaces will be created for immobile citizens. A quiet zone will be created in the northern area.

The use of the repaired building will be multifunctional, there will be premises to ensure the railway operability, for the traveling public, for shops and services, there will also be new offices. A new elevator will be built in the central part of the building, which will connect the underpass with the 1st platform, other elevators will be created in the north and south towers. The building will also be equipped with a new orientation and information system for passengers.

The reconstruction will also include the construction of a passage connecting the north tower with the main check-in hall, i.e. an imaginary connection with Lannova Street, in other words, the main connection between the railway station and the centre of České Budějovice. This will alleviate the influx of passengers heading for the pavement in front of the building along the busy Nádražní Street and thus their safety will be increased.