



New Modern Energy Union promises to be the fastest ticket to a low-carbon future in the Czech Republic

The newly founded Modern Energy Union brings together all the elements of modern energy—renewables, energy storage, combined heat and power, electromobility, and up-and-coming digital solutions. Its objective is to support the development of new technologies that will increase the competitiveness of the Czech economy, improve the environment, and foster innovation.

“The basic goal of the Modern Energy Union is to ensure good conditions for technological growth that will boost the Czech economy. Our efforts will revolve around a common aim: powering the Czech economy with modern energy sources. In our envisioned energy system not only will cleaner power plants and advanced heating stations play a key role, but so too will energy services and digital solutions. Of critical importance will be ensuring reliable and accessible sources of energy for all types of users, while ensuring air quality, energy independence, and low prices over the long term,” says program director Martin Sedlák about the Modern Energy Union’s priorities.

The founding members of the Union are the Alliance for Energy Self-Sufficiency, the Association for Energy Storage and Batteries, COGEN Czech, the Czech Smart Grid Technological Platform, and the Solar Association, the largest Czech association of photovoltaic businesses. The Union also has two university-based research facilities as members: the University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings of the Czech Technical University in Prague and the ENET Centre of VSB – Technical University of Ostrava. The Union will also collaborate with experts from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of Brno University of Technology.

The Modern Energy Union is headed by Martin Sedlák (program director) and Tomáš Buzrla (executive director). The board of directors comprises three members: Marek Lang (Alliance for Energy Self-Sufficiency), Josef Jeleček (COGEN Czech), and Jan Fousek (Association for Energy Storage and Batteries).

“Modern energy has a dynamically evolving agenda that requires coordination on technological innovations. This is the only way the Czech Republic can be ensured a sufficient supply of clean energy under conditions favorable to the consumer. It is our goal to help Czech households and companies implement new solutions in digitalization, modern energy, and transportation. We will advocate for changes in legislation and regulations that will make the Czech Republic a technological leader, not just in terms of development, but also in terms of the practical application



of innovative solutions that will benefit the economy,” says executive director Tomáš Buzrla of the Union’s objectives.

The Modern Energy Union plans on playing a proactive role in finalizing the proposals of the EU Winter Energy Package and its objectives for the coming decades. It will also actively contribute to the national debate about implementing key aspects of this package in the Czech Republic. In collaboration with innovative Czech companies, the Union aims to support consumer-produced electricity as well as to develop energy storage capabilities, electromobility, and the application of new digital energy technologies.

Another goal of the Union is to spark debate about the aims of the Czech State Energy Policy. The Union believes this policy should be updated to take into account the dynamic development of technology and its decreasing price over time. It should also include mechanisms for flexibly reacting to the emergence of new technologies. The Union will therefore propose concrete possibilities for using modern energy in each sector of the economy.

“Within the Modern Energy Union we all share the belief that modern energy can be understood as a broader framework that includes modern technologies, measures, and procedures that lead to an energy system that is efficient, safe, and environmentally sound,” adds Josef Jeleček, member of the Modern Energy Union’s board of directors and chairman of COGEN Czech’s board.

“The Modern Energy Union wants to introduce to the Czech debate European stimuli that will make the Czech Republic a leader in developing and producing progressive technologies. Our goal is to ensure for the Czech energy industry and development facilities conditions that will transform the Czech Republic into a tiger economy in innovative energy solutions for the 21st century,” says Marek Lang, member of the Modern Energy Union’s board of directors and the vice-chairman of the Alliance for Energy Self-Sufficiency.

“We believe that Czech inventors, developers, and entrepreneurs have the right skills. To best take advantage of emerging opportunities, however, we need to coordinate efforts in utilizing each emerging source of energy, energy services, and digital solutions. This is the basic stimulus that sparked the idea of founding the Modern Energy Union, which strives to guide the way in helping move modern Czech energy forward to become a European and global leader”, adds Jan Fousek, member of the Modern Energy Union’s board of directors and executive director of the Association for Energy Storage and Batteries.



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The Modern Energy Union Team

Martin Sedlák, program director of the Modern Energy Union

Martin Sedlák has been working on modern energy issues for more than 10 years. Currently, he is also the executive director of the Alliance for Energy Self-Sufficiency, an independent organization dealing with modern energy issues. At the Alliance, Martin Sedlák focuses on commenting on legislation and government policies and writing proposals for developing renewable resources in the Czech Republic. In 2017 he cofounded the news site Obnovitelně.cz, which provides readers with information about smart solutions for everyday life. Martin Sedlák holds a degree in power engineering from Brno University of Technology's Faculty of Mechanical Engineering.

Tomáš Buzrla, executive director of the Modern Energy Union

Tomáš Buzrla is currently the chairman of the Solar Association's board of directors. He has worked on renewable energy issues for many years. In the past he acted as a consultant on several new photovoltaic projects totaling dozens of megawatts of installed capacity in the Czech Republic and elsewhere in Europe. He also founded and headed the Energy21 group. He is the former owner of a company that traded carbon dioxide emission allowances; after selling it, he invested in his own solar power plant. Tomáš holds advanced degrees in finance and banking as well as in business and marketing from Silesian University's School of Business Administration.

Marek Lang, member of the board of directors of the Modern Energy Union

Marek Lang is the director of the energy division of JRD, a leading developer of low-energy residential buildings that has also been investing in renewable energy projects for nearly the past



10 years. The company's portfolio currently includes several photovoltaic power plants as well as the second largest wind farm in the Czech Republic with a capacity of 26 MW. He is also the CEO of Millennium Technologies, which develops plasma gasification technologies; the CEO of REsolar, which provides solar-panel-recycling services; and the vice-chairman of the Alliance for Energy Self-Sufficiency, an independent organization working on modern energy issues. Marek Lang holds a degree in cybernetics and control engineering from the University of West Bohemia.

Josef Jeleček, member of the board of directors of the Modern Energy Union

Josef Jeleček is the general director and chairman of the board of directors of TEDOM a.s. TEDOM produces cogeneration units using internal combustion engines. The TEDOM group also includes the German company SCHNELL GmbH and is thus one of the largest suppliers of cogeneration technology under 5MW in the world. Josef Jeleček is also chairman of COGEN Czech, an association of companies operating most cogeneration plants with capacities under 5 MW in the Czech Republic. After completing his studies at the Brno University of Technology's Department of Nuclear and Energy Systems, he began his career in developing internal combustion turbines at PBS Brno; he later worked at the Dukovany Nuclear Power Plant before founding TEDOM.

Jan Fousek, member of the board of directors of the Modern Energy Union

Jan Fousek is the executive director of the Association for Energy Storage and Batteries, which supports the development of large-scale storage solutions. He is also the chairman of the Czech Solar Association's supervisory board, where he is responsible for European affairs; he regularly speaks at conferences in the Czech Republic and abroad as well as engages in public and media outreach. Jan Fousek is also the director of the renewable electricity brokerage firm Solar Global Energy a.s., a daughter company of Solar Global a.s. He has been working in energy since 2007. Between 2011 and 2016 he was co-owner and executive director of one of the largest European emissions and electricity brokers, Virtuse Energy. In the past he also helped start up the Chinese emissions market based on his experiences in Europe.