

NTK

50°6'14.083"N, 14°23'26.365"E
Národní technická knihovna
National Technical Library

Press release
9 September 2009
Praha

09\09\09: Revolution in Czech information services

National Technical Library opened. »Hi-tech living room« not only for students.



National Technical Library (NTK) is opened on “magic 09\09\09” date. New building will not be merely place for lending of books but will also provide space for meetings and comfortable studying as well as for simply passing a free time. Its location in the middle of CVUT university campus, building concept and above all services provided, they all reflect its purposes. With comparison to former State Technical Library, NTL ancestor, the principal change in overall approach to space and subsequently different concept of services provided was demonstrated. *“We would like to furnish the students as well as all library visitors not only with elegant access to growing number of information but also with comfortable ambience for study, mutual meetings and relaxation. This is truly revolutionary change: the user becomes the customer able to decide freely where and when to exploit library information resources*

or whether to use the library "only" as his alternate living room. Thus the library gets new social dimension, among other," NTL Director Martin Svoboda said.

The first visitors may examine the library during Open days (10 and 11 September, 2009). NTK will start its regular services on Monday 14 September 2009.

Having more than 1,5 million volumes in its collections, NTK is our **most comprehensive source of literature on technology** as well as publications from applied sciences and social sciences areas. The users will find here complete collection of former State Technical Library, substantial holdings of Central Library of Czech Technical University as well as (on interim basis) bound periodicals of Central Library of Institute of Chemical Technology. The most demanded titles would be available on the spot in open access collection with capacity of more than 500 000 volumes (on opening day of NTL **imposing 220 000 volumes** would be available).

NTK will offer its customers – compared with local Czech conditions – **unique level of comfort**, e.g. individual carrels and teamwork study rooms, almost 1 300 places for study as well as nearly 500 places for relaxation; WiFi reception all round the building, self-check in and check out facility (*the publications are labelled with RFID chips – see Annex "RFID helps to save, search and sort"*), fully equipped conference hall and a study room that will offer promised 24/7 opening hours. 300 places for cars in underground parking and 200 places in bicycle park. Use of modern information and communication technologies is an obvious necessity. *"Comparing the initial proposal, we have updated and enhanced IT and AV systems. The requirements and demands of our library and universities have changed dramatically since the submission of the project (before 2004),"* Martin Svoboda said.

In freely pass-through parterre (1st level) of the building that is accessible for all, not only for NTK users, you will find Municipal Library of Prague branch, café, exhibition gallery, PC accessories shop and university bookseller. Visitors Centre where any NTK user must register is also located in the parterre. Visitors interested in library services or simply wishing to visit may pick single-day pass here.

Second level is dominated by spacious hall with main desk where you may access all services provided by the library. Opposite to the entry staircase you will find terminals for access to NTK catalogues and web pages of universities and libraries. Free access area, individual carrels, teamwork and AV study rooms and PC labs occupy third through sixth levels. Periodicals study room and rare books study room are also located there. Three underground levels house book magazine and parking with carwash facility. About 165 NTK personnel will attend library operations and administration.

National Technical Library expects up to 900 000 customers and visitors annually: they will find room for study, mutual meetings and use of modern information resources and technologies there.

NTK building combines modern architecture with not-so-typical and **innovative technological solutions** of bearing structures (e.g. so called tied columns that hold from above ceiling plate/ atrium floor above ground floor while its weight is distributed to upper level by tension bars hidden in columns; unprecedented 15x15 meters of columns span required use of prestressed ceiling plates. Such solutions avoided the necessity to divide visibly Level 1 (ground floor) and levels above so that they allow unobstructed passage. The library stands on floor plan of rounded square and it is conceived as **symbolic technology textbook**. From building core to facade, surfaces and furniture, everything is ruled by clear expression with simple undisguised forms. Built-up area is 5 000 m².

The construction of NTK building started in Autumn 2006, the rough framework was finished by the end of December 2007 while complete building was delivered in December 2008. Architectonic design was drafted by Projektil Architekti, s.r.o. that also participated with Helika a.s. on construction documents of the building. General contractor is Sekyra Group Real Estate while construction work contractor was Metrostav a.s. /OHL ŽS a.s. combine.

Building of the National Technical Library was one of priority projects funded by Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Library is conceived to reflect the requirements and needs of users in the third millennium. The requirements embrace not only high demands on modern electronic services but also need for real, clearly structured and friendly space within which visitors may move with confidence and where they can refuge.

NTK logo is available at <http://www.techlib.cz/cs/o-nas/pro-media/loga/> and **you can find this press release at** <http://www.techlib.cz/cs/o-nas/pro-media/archiv-tiskovych-zprav/>.

For additional info see www.techlib.cz pages or simply ask – we will convey it gladly.

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