

CorD

SPECIAL EDITION

“WORLD’S MARKETS AND OPPORTUNITIES”

BELGIUM



2015

New “Competence Centre” in Smederevo

Photo by Nataša Cvetković



Metech is an example of a successful merger between a Belgian mother company, in this case METES, and its Serbian investment, METECH. The Smederevo based company invests continuously in new equipment and the education of its workforce

On 25th April this year, Belgian company “Metech” opened a new production facility in Smederevo and launched a new project to assemble products for company “Agfa”. With its own engineering, programming, sheet processing, shading in bending, welding and painting departments, in which it has invested €17 million, Metech exports around 95 per cent of its high quality products to clients in all European markets, including compressors, telecoms equipment, printing machines, heating, airco, construction products, health, pharma, diamonds and others.

• You’ve been in Serbia since 2008. In which domains do you see the most significant effects of synergy between the parent company in Belgium and your firm in Smederevo?

There is a good feeling between the two companies when it comes to working together. The synergy is the language of knowledge, the drive to go forward and try to find a solution. They know that there is “a better way to follow every time”.

• Recently, after a series of investments in equipment, you decided to expand your company in Smederevo. What are the key advantages of doing business in Serbia and, in addition to expanding capacities, does it imply a transfer of knowledge and technology to Smederevo?

We created a new “competence centre” in Smederevo and that is an intangible investment that we are implementing now. First

comes investing in people, then in machinery, and finally in the buildings and space.

We feel that customers are coming because we organise the best solution to meet the needs of professional consumers in Smederevo. We know that our investments are long-term, as are our people, and we trust that they will stay and grow together with Metech. Metech’s staff

members continuously receive all the necessary training and education! And Metech people also invest time in education after their working hours.

• Which industries do you work with and which market segments do you target in Serbia?

At this moment we are working for all industry markets in Europe, like compressors, telecom, printing machines, heating, airco, construction products, health, pharma, diamonds... there is no limit at present. Everybody who needs sheet metal products or a total concept is welcome at Metech Serbia. I think we must wait a little bit in order for new companies who are coming now to find a good match between us.

• Are you satisfied with the support you receive from the state and local government, and where do you see room for further support to be provided for investors?

The state and local government do their job and try to help us if they can. The state provides support when it comes to connections between the world of work and the world of education. Schools are ready to accept our support in terms of innovation and investment in knowledge and practical education.

The open issues are streamlined administrations at all levels, with clear procedures, and

The state provides support when it comes to connections between the world of work and the world of education, but it should do more to ensure clear procedures at all levels of administration

then we can bring more investors to Serbia. At present Serbia is losing a lot of time and money without improving value for the country. Every year more than 40 business leaders from Europe come to visit Metech and Serbia to see what the possibilities are, and every time they are surprised how many potential opportunities exist here. •