Britest Limited

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Prof. Ing. Jiri Drahos DrSc.,dr.h.c. President Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Narodni 3 117 20 Prague 1 Czech Republic

21<sup>st</sup> July 2009

Dear Sir

I write on behalf of Britest Ltd, to express our concern regarding proposals to cut the funding of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic by more than a half over the next three years.

Britest is a not-for-profit international SME owned by its members who are predominantly chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturing companies. Britest has built an international reputation for delivering substantial competitive benefits through the understanding and development of innovative process and manufacturing design and through its dissemination and knowledge transfer activities.

Britest holds a bank of Intellectual Property for a range of tools and methodologies that have been developed through unique collaborative programmes between members and world class research organisations. We have collaborated closely with colleagues from ICPF in several EU funded projects. We value this collaboration and would hope to sustain it.

In our view, the proposals for severe cuts in funding would compromise the ability of ICPF to continue to conduct world class innovative research and to collaborate at an international level. Whilst acknowledging that at a time of severe economic downturn cuts in public funding may be inevitable, we are gravely concerned at the extent of the proposed cuts.

We are firmly convinced that further development of the Academy of Sciences is in the best interests of the Czech Republic. We urge the government to reconsider the planned cuts and keep the funding of the Academy of Sciences at a level that will make this development possible.

Yours faithfully

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Susan Fleet CEO, Britest Ltd

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