

## **KOH-I-NOOR HARDTMUTH is looking to make acquisitions**

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Koh-I-Noor Hardtmuth, the Czech, 100% family-owned stationery maker, is looking to make acquisitions in Europe, Asia and South America, its vice-chairman said. The company is about to close an EUR 15m deal in the Czech Republic.

“We want to buy companies with sales of between EUR 10 and 20m and up to 400 employees in order to expand our production segment,” said Vlastislav Briza, Koh-I-Noor’s vice-chairman.

The firm is targeting Vietnam, Brazil and Russia for potential buys, Briza added. Koh-I-Noor is already negotiating a deal to buy a Czech company for a new production segment, Briza said.

The deal, worth EUR 15m, is expected to close within the next four weeks, he said. Koh-I-Noor is expecting to finance any buys it makes internally, as well as using the financing provided by the Patria Corporate Investment, a unit of KBC, Briza said. In addition to its home market, Koh-I-Noor Hardtmuth is now active in Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Russia and China. The stationary division had a turn over of EUR 50m and an operating profit of EUR 10m in 2009.

Koh-I-Noor Hardtmuth is a part of Koh-I-Noor Holding, which also has medical equipment and tool manufacturing divisions. The holding had a turnover of EUR 100m and an operating profit of EUR 10m in 2009.