
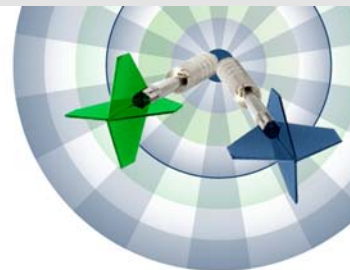


Privatizing Czech Television

The old joke is that PPF doesn't need to invest in the media, because it has Petr Dvořák at Czech TV. When [MFD](#) related this to Petr Kellner in April 2012, he let it go without responding. But when MFD asked Kellner's government-relations chief, Vladimír Mlynář, about the censorship situation at ČT, he said he would almost consider it a conflict of interest to comment, because of Dvořák. Yet Dvořák hasn't worked for PPF for nine years, at least not officially. Milan Uhde, who heads the ČT Council, told [Respekt](#) that he doesn't believe the rumors about Dvořák wanting to privatize the TV station or its land, but he hinted that PPF had a hand in installing Dvořák in the CEO post. To fill out the picture, the tablet-only publication [Dotyk](#) wrote last week that ČT, under Dvořák, has rapidly been depleting its Kč 3.5bn reserves. A cash-strapped ČT might have to move to cheaper quarters, allowing its prime land to be sold. Privatizing the station itself wouldn't be so easy, though, and might require creating a disaster of the magnitude of ... Sazka.

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