



2024 Board of Directors Candidate Profiles

Eight candidates will be elected by an electronic balloting of the membership to serve a two-year term beginning on July 1, 2024.

Members can select up to eight candidates per ballot.

Ballots are due by 5 pm, June 10.

Results will be announced at the General Assembly, and confirmed by the current board.

Nine other board members will enter the second year of their term on the same date.

Ondřej Krajíček

Chief Technology Strategist
YSoft



Board Mission

I see our country, the Czech Republic as a country of innovative, courageous, skilful and hard-working people. We are witnessing worsening competitiveness of Czech Republic and the country is struggling to identify the right path forward. I believe that the only way forward is to seek opportunities in the current affairs instead of pretending that they don't exist or are only temporary. Let's play on our strengths, make bold decisions and follow good examples from abroad. More than 2 years ago, we have started the journey of explaining the Big Bets strategy to key stakeholders in the government, industry and academia and found many who listened and learned from that strategy. We have built meaningful cooperations which deliver value and insight to AmCham members. Our influence and impact have significantly grown.

My goal for the next 2 years is to continue and build on this success – nurture and evolve the business climate in the Czech Republic and create a strategy of sustainable economic growth focusing on digitization of the Czech Government, innovative workforce and bet on Research and Development with public/private partnerships.

Career History

- Chief Technology Strategist at Y Soft Corporation (2017-present)
- Managing Director of Y Soft North America, Inc. (2018-2022)
- CTO @ Y Soft Corporation (2007-2017)

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- Board of Directors (2020-2024)
- Digital Economy Council Chair (2016-present)
- IT Committee Chair (2015-2016)
- AmCham Plus Club Member

Company Membership:

- Corporate Patron since 2014

Martina Kneiflová

Country Managing Partner
EY



Future success of the Czech Republic depends on a number of aspects but one of them is a cornerstone of everything – quality of people, their education, experience and ability to adapt to a fast changing environment. The Czech labour, employment and immigration legislation should support this and should allow a very smooth entry process for highly skilled third country nationals. Given the current demographics, we cannot afford to prevent top foreign talent from moving to the Czech Republic. I would like to use my knowledge, skills, influence and experience to promote the pro-active immigration policy and to make the Czech Republic attractive country for highly skilled foreigners. At the same time I would like to help to make the labour and employment legislation reasonable and practical.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- Workforce and employment topics
- Immigration issues

Career History:

- From January 2022 - Country Managing Partner at EY Czech Republic
- From 2012 partner at EY responsible for People Advisory Services
- Various regional roles at EY including CESA tax talent leader responsibility

Personal Note:

- Czech tax adviser, member of the Czech Chamber of tax advisers
- Singer at chamber choir specializing in renaissance and baroque music
- Passionate downhill skier and fan of pilates
- Wife and mom of two adult daughters
- Dog lover

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- Member, Board of Directors (2022–2024)

Company Membership:

- Founding patron since 1992.

Munir Nanji

Citi's Chief Executive Officer of Central Europe and Citi Country Officer for Czech Republic



Board Mission

My priorities, as AmCham Board Member, would be to promote the Czech Republic as preferred destination for investments and business. Considering Citi's unique position of serving communities, institutions, and governments, in more than 100 countries and jurisdictions globally and a history of over 200 years' globally and a presence of 32 years in the Czech Republic, I am convinced we can work to the benefit of the country and support AmCham objectives at our best. With over 30 years of international banking experience and an extensive industry expertise in Central Europe, Africa, and Asia, I would like to focus primarily on the development local and international businesses and environment, facilitate the transformation to ESG solutions and support the growth of the digital economy and Fintech ecosystem in the country and region.

AmCham Priorities

- Improve investment climate and opportunities
- Advocate and support ESG implementation
- Promote and support growth of Digital & Fintech economy

Career History:

- Prior to his current role, he was the Asia Pacific Region Head of the Global Subsidiaries Group in Citi's Banking Capital Markets and Advisory business, based in Singapore, being responsible for Citi's Multinational Client relationships spanning across 15 countries in the region.
- Munir has previously worked internationally across Asia, Europe, and Africa, in various country and regional corporate banking, product management and legal entity governance roles.

Company Membership:

- Founding Member/ Corporate Patron since 1992.

Personal Note:

- Munir holds a 1st Class Honours degree in Electrical Engineering, an MBA from INSEAD and an MPhil on Strategic Decision Making and Governance from the Cranfield School of Management. He is a Wharton alumnus.
- Munir is an active mountaineer and ultramarathon runner. He also contributes to academic research and teaching.

Michal Pěchouček

Partner with Evolution Equity Partners

Professor of AI, Czech Technical University in Prague



Board Mission

Contribute to the board's strategic objectives in research and innovation by fostering dialogue among academia, governmental officials, and industry leaders, and by promoting startup-led innovation aimed at impact and business success. While the Czech Republic boasts world-renowned scientists, researchers, and successful startups and companies that have achieved unicorn status (\$1B+ valuation), there remains a significant opportunity to amplify this success tenfold. Scaling up the Czech Republic's research, innovation, and entrepreneurial potential requires focused commitment and collaboration among academia, entrepreneurs, the investment community, industry leaders, government officials, and political representatives.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- Recognize the importance of the research and innovation agenda as a key driver of future economic growth. Beyond supporting researchers, the government should invest in research with the expectation of asymmetric returns, enhancing the competitiveness of the Czech economy.
- Create a competitive, startup-friendly environment that encourages entrepreneurs to build innovative companies aspiring for global impact and international business success.

Service to the community:

- Co-founder and chair of PRG.AI, non-for-profit supporting AI in the city of Prague
- Sponsor of People in Needs - One World in Schools educational programme
- Member of the editorial board of DenikN, Czech Daily

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

- 25 years.

Career History:

- 25 years at the Czech Technical University, full professor since 2009
- Founder and chair of the AI Center at the Czech Technical University since 2001
- Co-founder of two, successfully exited Czech startup companies (Cognitive Security and Blindspot.AI), Angel investor in AI startups
- 2019-2024 CTO and Exco member at Avast Software and Gen Digital
- 2013-2016 Director of Engineering, CISCO Systems
- Venture partner with Evolution Equity Partners since 2017

Milan Šlapák

CEO
RSBC Holdings

**Board Mission**

As a company, we believe the next wave of this country's growth depends on larger and more effective investment into research and development. I want to use our recent experience to help shape policies to increase the proportion of private research investment to public research investment, and to share best practices among high tech manufacturers so that the country's manufacturing capabilities are among the best in Europe.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- Effective R&D collaboration between industry & academic sphere
- Transformation of Czech economy from low-value assy operations into high-value research & mfg
- Lack of high-skilled labor force

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

- 25 years

Career History:

- 2023 – now: RSBC Holding a.s. – CEO
- 2018 – 2024: GE – President & CEO
- 2019– 2023: GE Aviation– Executive Director • 2016 – now: GE Aviation – Country Director
- 2009 – 2016: GE Aviation – various leadership roles in Commercial, Program and Product management area
- 2006 - 2009: GE Corporate - Country Director for Eastern Europe & Scandinavia

Personal Note:

- Supervisory Board Member of Technical University of Brno
- MBA lecturer of Operations & Technology Management at Anglo-American University in Prague
- MBA lecturer of Operations Management at Anglo-American University in Prague

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- Board of Directors, 2018-2024.

Company Membership:

- Corporate since 2016

Pavel Sovička

Managing Director
Panattoni CZ & SK



Board Mission

The Czech Republic is far from fully benefiting from its location in the centre of Europe and its position close to a strong trading partner – Germany. The limitation to tapping this potential within real estate is the complicated permitting process and outdated land use planning. It is not only the digitisation of all building permit processes that is a key challenge for the Czech Republic. I believe that by properly regulating the budget determination of taxes and increasing the motivation of municipalities, we can start further economic development. I would like to contribute to positive changes leading to better accessibility not only to residential living but also to all other real estate infrastructure through proposals and discussions with representatives of the state administration and the government.

Career History:

- Managing Director at Panattoni CZ & SK (2008-present)
- Associate at Cushman & Wakefield (1998-2008)

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- Board, 2022-present.
- Real Estate Council, 2018.
- Leading advocacy of land use reform.
- Active in investment recruitment activities.

Company Membership:

- Corporate member since 2018.

Michal Stachník

Country Manager, Microsoft
Czech and Slovak Republic



Board Mission

Czech Republic has a lot of potential and opportunities to improve its digital performance and position in the EU and globally. As AmCham board members, we are dedicated to helping our country undergo a digital transformation, by pushing for sensible policies, sharing best practices, and encouraging cooperation among stakeholders. We think that digitizing government and digitizing business is vital for our economic growth and social welfare. I personally pledge to support collaboration between stakeholders from the public and private sectors and skills development at all levels.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- - Advocate for responsible AI and cybersecurity
- - Promote the adoption of cloud solutions
- - Support the digital transformation of the public sector

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

- 27 years

Career History:

- Country Manager, Czech & Slovak Republics, Microsoft, 2024-current
- General Manager, Czech & Slovak Republic, Cisco Systems: 2016–2023
- General Manager, Czech Republic, Cisco Systems: 2015–2016
- Country Manager, Czech & Slovak Republic, VMware Inc.: 2011-2015

Over 25 years of experience in the local and international IT business. Proven success in the area of international corporate sales, multi-national team management and multichannel business. Extensive technology expertise. Excellent communication and presentation skills coupled with drive, enthusiasm and understanding of business principles as well as strong leadership skills. Ability to effectively operate under pressure in corporate environments.

Company Membership:

- Patron since 2002

Josef Švejda

Finance Controller, Executive Director
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Board Mission

The Czech Republic has several advantages that require promotion and further development. For instance, we possess a skilled workforce. Although our schools are excellent, we face a shortage of students in technical fields. To address this, we must make STEM education more appealing, particularly to women.

However, the Czech Republic also faces deficiencies that need mitigation. One such issue is our lag in digitization. We should start by modernizing the government and public sector. Additionally, we need to increase investments in AI, cloud solutions, and high-speed internet coverage.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- Promote STEM education and technical universities.
- Increase motivation of academic sphere to cooperate on applied R&D with industry
- Increase speed of administration digitization
- Decrease administrative obstacles impeding development of digital infrastructure.

Career History:

- 2024 – now - member of Research, Development and Innovation Council of the government of the Czech Republic
- 2006 – now - onsemi CZ - Finance Controller & Executive Director
- 2003 – 2006 - onsemi CZ - Finance Controller

Personal Note:

Although my whole career was in finance, my major on the Economics University in Prague was actually in Information Technology.

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- Cooperated on AmCham's efforts to attract advanced technology as part of Big Bet Strategy.

Company Membership:

- Corporate since 2008.

Michal Závěšek

Honeywell
VP GM HTS EMEA

**Board Mission**

Honeywell believes Czech Republic with its strong industrial heritage and world class academia is great place to grow our R&D capabilities. We will use our experience from key industries of advanced mobility, digitization, and sustainability to help Czech government and municipalities to define strategies for faster transformation into high tech economy.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- Transformation of Czechia into high tech economy with clear focus on megatrends and key industries.
- Effective R&D collaboration between industry & academic sphere
- Addressing lack of high-skilled labor force. Improving entrepreneurship education.

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

16 years

Career History:

- 2022 – now: HON – VP GM HTS EMEA
- 2021 – 2023: HON – General Manager HTS CZ
- 2018– 2021: Honeywell Aerospace – EMEA Engineering Director
- 2014 – 2018: Honeywell Aerospace – Sr Engineering Manager for Avionics
- 2006 – 2014: Honeywell Aerospace – Various Engineering roles and assignments in Europe and US

Personal Note:

- Various international assignments within HON (EU, US)

Company Membership:

- Corporate Patron since 1996.