# **AURA CODIFICATION AGENCY SUCCESSFULLY ENTERS INTO FOREIGN** CONTRACTS

AURA Codification Agency operates mainly on the domestic market and in Slovakia, but also indirectly in other countries using the MC CATALOGUE information system for codification support, developed and implemented by this Brno-based company.



# **AURA Codification Agency**

The codification agency forms an integral part of the company's portfolio. The developers at AURA use the practical experience of their colleagues, the codifiers, in the development of the MC CATALOGUE codification tool so that it fully meets the real needs of its users, the National Codification Bureaus. This also contributes significantly to the popularity of MC CATALOGUE, which is currently used in more than 20 countries around the world.

Throughout the twenty years of its existence, the AURA Codification Agency has been the most requested agency in the Czech Republic for activities related to the cataloguing of products supplied to the armed forces. Its services have been used by almost 400 Czech companies, including the largest giants of our defence industry supplying the armed forces with equipment, weapons and combat technology. In recent years, the agency has also been involved in major foreign contracts, such as the delivery of American Venom and Viper helicopters to the Czech Armed Forces.

### Codification services from A to Z

AURA Codification Agency provides its customers with the first step in the codification process, which is an accurate search for information on whether a product has already been codified – the so-called screening. For the processing of the draft product codification data, it uses WEB-KAT, the codification software of the Czech Ministry of Defence, which is based on MC CATALOGUE. It handles requests for the processing of codification data from abroad, in other words, it handles

the international data exchange together with the National Codification Bureau of the Czech Republic (whose role is fulfilled by the Defence Standardisation, Codification and Government Quality Assurance Authority). With the Property Section of the Ministry of Defence, the agency will certainly appreciate future cooperation in the processing of reliable and accurate basic property information by individual contractors. Last but not least, the agency processes requests for the assignment of a manufacturer/supplier cataloguing code – NCAGE.

## AURA, more than a codification agency

AURA is the largest Czech exporter of information systems for military logistics. In the NATO Codification System (NCS), its MC CATALOGUE has become the most widely used in the world. Of course, these qualities explicitly predestine the company to be at the forefront of certified codification agencies and to provide its customers with other related services in addition to the codification itself:

- training and methodological support in the field of property cataloguing and NCS,
- support in foreign codification,
- consultancy and preparation of commercial and technical documentation (CTD), teach-

ing aids with support of the S1000D standard,

- cooperation in the field of technical translations,
- cooperation in the development of multimedia spare parts catalogues and an eLibrary for technical documentation with secure distribution.

### **Preparation of new codifiers**

In addition to the development of MC CATALOGUE, its implementation in specific conditions of the countries involved in the NCS, or participation in the establishment of National Codification Bureaus, AURA pays particular attention to the training of new professionals, whether in the positions of managers, logisticians or codifiers of the products supplied to the armed forces.

This topic was already the subject of the founding meeting of the "MC CATALOGUE User Group" in Brno in 2006 and continues to the present day, when AURA is preparing the 7th edition of the "NCS College". These international codification courses are organised every two years by the University of Defence in Brno, in cooperation with the National Codification Bureau of the Czech Republic. Of course, with the all-round support of AURA.

It is almost unbelievable that in the past six editions this college has trained more than 170 new codification experts from all over the world. The training of new codifiers is proving to be a hot topic not only in this country, but also abroad, e.g. in the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, or in the Arab countries that are newly implementing the NCS. And no wonder. The codifier really has a lot to do, constantly acquiring new information, keeping up with new technologies and being responsible for the accuracy and credibility of the codification data.

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It is obvious that the existence and operation of the AURA Codification Agency is essential for this company. The link between theory and immediate reaction when applied to practice in the codification of mainly military material gives immediate feedback into the development and innovation of the MC CATALOGUE codification software and other codification applications. It also reinforces customer confidence in a company that deals with the whole complexity of the NATO Codification System and has something to say in its further development.

Text: Antonín Svěrák Schema and photo: AURA archive

