

NEW BALLOON FACTORY OPENS!

Marie Cackova, the Town Councilor for Brno, formally opened the new Kubicek Balloon's factory on the afternoon of Thursday 2nd June. Instead of cutting a tape Marie, along with Ales Kubicek, climbed into a balloon basket set up in front of the factory and used the burner to separate the tape suspended overhead.

The factory opening took place on the second day of the Brno 'Balloon Jam' a relaxed and informal balloon meet that uses an assortment of launch sites throughout the town. Twenty-three balloons, from seven countries, attended the meet and other Kubicek dealers flew in for the factory opening. Also in attendance was Robert Kinsinger of the USA. Bob, a retired VP of the Kellogs Foundation, was one of the founding fathers of ballooning in Battle Creek Michigan. Back in, I think 1985, he presented the trophy for the World Hot Air Balloon Championships, a trophy now held by Markus Pieper of Germany.

Ballooning has been established for so long in the West that we tend to forget that, whilst we were playing in the air with our new machines, things in the old Socialist Republics to the East life was not so easy. A large display of photographs showed how the Kubicek team took their own route to ballooning in these difficult times. This new factory, probably the first European factory designed specifically for balloon production, is a fitting tribute to the determination and dedication to 'Team Kubicek'.



The all new Kubicek Xtreme Racer leaves the factory



Alex showing Maria around the factory



Alex and Maria burning out the opening tape



The new factory from the South