

Iowa's largest cultural museum building move captured in real-time

Written by Shelby Kraus

Thursday, 27 January 2011 09:37

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National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library Post Webcams to Give View of Historic Move
People all over the world can watch real-time progress on website

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (Jan. 26, 2011) – Anyone around the world will be able to watch the progress of the rebuild and move of The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. With two webcams installed near its construction site, viewers can see a snapshot of the progress of the rebuild in real-time. The video programs will be used to illustrate the history of the museum, the relocation, and flood mitigation efforts. In addition to viewing the live action, cameras are also recording the relocation of the building for production of a time-lapse video of the move at a later time.

“Technology is amazing,” said Gail Naughton, President/CEO of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. “We have so many friends around the globe who have supported our mission that we wanted to be able to include them in our progress and feel a part of what we are trying to accomplish.”

After successfully raising \$25 million, the museum and library broke ground and began construction Dec. 15, 2010. The decision to move and expand the current facility was made last year. According to Jeremy Patterson of Patterson Structural Movers, the 1400-ton structure is thought to be the largest museum ever to be moved in the U.S. It will be moved and elevated three feet above the 2008 flood level. A 30,000 sq. ft. expansion will provide room for additional exhibition galleries, collection storage, a theatre, enlarged programming space, and a Museum Store.

A crew from Patterson Structural Movers of Washington, Iowa, has already begun welding 100 ft. beams to be used in the relocation. Once beams and jacks are in place, the building will move a quarter mile per hour to its new location across the street. The entire move will take 45 to 60 days beginning in May.

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On the museum's website, www.NCSML.org, visitors will find a link to the live webcams at the upper right hand corner of the screen. There viewers can check the progress of the museum at their leisure.

Two Arecont Vision cameras have been installed. There is one that provides a south view and is located on the museum's clock tower on Sixteenth Ave. S.W. A second camera is located on a west side utility pole. Both cameras are recording one frame per second.

"The two high-definition cameras were necessary to get a close up view of the museum being moved off its current foundation. Once the building is turned, the west camera will allow for viewing the elevation and positioning on top of the parking garage," said Naughton.

Sound Concepts of Cedar Rapids installed the stationary fixed cameras that communicate to a wireless transmitter. The NCML's Kosek building at 87 Sixteenth Ave. SW, houses the wireless receiver and the NAS (network attached storage) recorder.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is the leading United States institution preserving and interpreting Czech and Slovak history and culture.