

RESTORATION monuments
buildings **CONSTRUCTION**
CONSERVATION landmarks



GEM

COMPANY PROFILE

GEMA ART has been active in the field of conservation and the restoration of cultural heritage since 1990 and thanks to the quantity of remarkable projects and the integrity of services has gained a unique and irreplaceable position in the Czech Republic. Permanent co-operation of experienced restorers with experts from related scientific branches creates an efficient and professional body for the organization of any projects in the field of conservation. Thanks to the collaboration with consulting engineers and historic preservation specialists, GEMA ART is capable to respond dynamically to the challenges that arise from any single project in the field of cultural heritage. GEMA ART successfully completed numerous projects of all sizes ranging



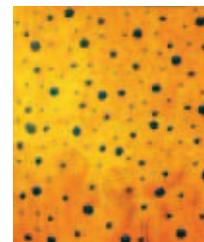
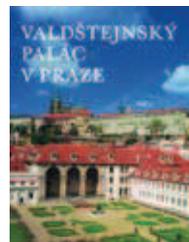
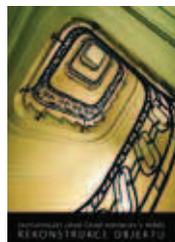
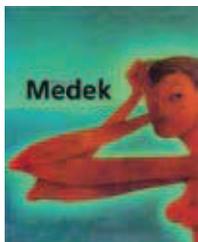
from restoration of paintings or statues to large architectural complexes such as churches, palaces or archaeological sites in many countries. Our clients have included governmental and municipality bodies, churches, museums, architects and private collectors ranging from Lyons Demesne, a private castle in Ireland, to the conservation projects in Ancient Mesopotamia carried out within the Governmental Post War Aid to the Republic of Iraq. GEMA ART offers complex services in full range of restoration and conservation disciplines: architecture, stone, stucco, mural and easel paintings, masonry, wood, metal, textiles, gilding, graphic art, wall-papers and other techniques of decorative art. An integral part of GEMA ART activities is also the education of a new generation of conservators both within the Faculty of Restoration of Pardubice University and as an organizer of its own conservation courses. GEMA ART GROUP a.s. will guarantee that all its restorers, suppliers or subcontractors comply with the appropriate legal regulations, material quality, conservation services and documentation of works. All Gema Art restorers are authorized by the Czech Ministry of Culture to operate with monuments protected by the state. Numerous projects that were carried out in participation of Gema Art, were honored by Europa Nostra Awards for the conservation of cultural heritage.

GEMA GALLERY

Gallery Gema was founded in 1991 as one of the first private galleries showing contemporary Czech art. From the beginning, Gallery Gema has oriented its exhibition plans towards the very best living Czech artists, and it rapidly gained a solid reputation for artistic quality and integrity among both art professionals and the broader public. One year after its founding, Gallery Gema was selected by the Czech Ministry of Culture to take part in the presentation of the five best Czech galleries. The next year it was entrusted with the exhibition of Czech art at the international EXPO 92 in Seville, Spain. After its success in Seville, Gallery Gema became the most sought after private partner for the staging of major exhibitions in the Czech Republic. The scope of its exhibition work expanded to include collaborations with the most significant public galleries and museums in Prague, including Prague National Gallery, Czech Museum of Fine Arts, Gallery Rudolfinum and Prague Castle. Gallery Gema provides all organizational services, including the loan of the art works, transport, insurance, conception and construction of exhibitions.

PUBLISHING

Gema Art's publishing house supplements its gallery work by printing catalogs and monographs to accompany exhibitions. Cooperating with the Czech Republic's top graphic art designers and reproduction studios, Gema Art consistently produces books, which are recognized at the Finest Czech Book of the Year competition as well as at competitions abroad. Many of the Czech Republic's best galleries and museums choose to co-publish their books with Gema Art. In addition to the exhibition-related materials, Gema Art also prints titles relating to graphic design, decorative arts, history and urban studies as well as selected restoration projects. Many of these titles are available in multiple languages.





WALLENSTEIN PALACE, PRAGUE

The Wallenstein Palace built 1623–1634 by Albrecht of Wallenstein is now the seat of Senate of the Czech Parliament. The architecture of the palace is derived from Mannerism and Early Italian Baroque accompanied by a large amount of beautiful decorations namely mural paintings, stucco and gilding. GEMA ART restored the original architectural design of all palace sections, including interior decorations, palace gardens, fountains and large original grotto. The restoration works implemented in Wallenstein Palace were one of the most extensive events of this type ever executed in the Czech Republic. The project was awarded by Europa Nostra for comprehensive approach to the restoration and reconstruction of the palace in 2000.



NOSTITZ PALACE, PRAGUE

One of the largest early Baroque palaces in Prague, attributed to Francesco Caratti, is dated to the 60th of 17th Century, and is now the seat of the Ministry of Culture. The Nostitz palace is an exceptionally well preserved architecture and belongs to the important part of the city's historical UNESCO Heritage site area. GEMA ART GROUP performed both historical studies and the restoration and reconstruction of all exterior facades and decorations including stucco, stone statues, gilding and metalwork.



KYNŽVART CHATEAU

Formerly built as an early Baroque chateau of the Metternich family in 1691 on the remnants of the Renaissance castle, then rebuilt in style of Viennese classicism by P. Nobile for Chancellor Metternich in 1821-1839 to the present appearance. Object destined to demolition in mid 1980th was completely rehabilitated and restored to its original shape in 1998-2001. This project was awarded with the Europa

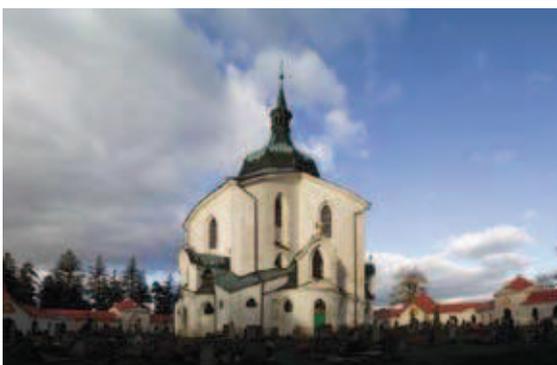


Nostra Medal which covered a broad range of restoration disciplines including stucco, stone, metal, mural paintings, wall papers, gilding, etc.



NELAHOZEVES CASTLE

This renaissance castle, an example of the castello fortezza, was built by the royal master builder Bonifaz Wolmut for Florian Griesbeck von Griesbach, secretary of the Emperor Ferdinand I, and was completed in 1553 as the Italianate Northern Mannerist castle. In 1623, the family's financial difficulties forced Florian's granddaughter to sell the encumbered estate to Princess Polyxena Lobkowitz, whose family have owned the castle ever since. The restoration project, implemented in 1991-2001, covered exterior facades including stone sculptural elements and namely the large figural sgraffito decorations. Restoration of the castle was awarded by the Europa Nostra Heritage Diploma.



PILGRIMAGE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN OF NEPOMUK ON THE GREEN MOUNTAIN, ZDAR NAD SAZAVOU

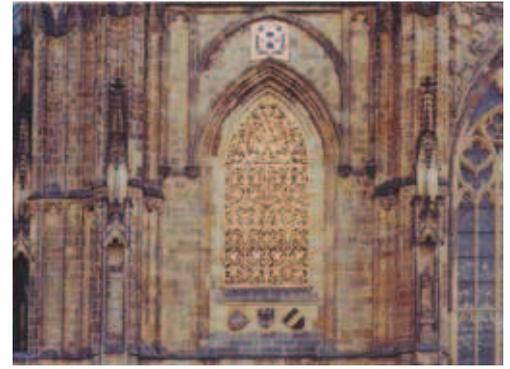
The pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk, as a part of Cistercian Monastery, was built by architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichl in the peculiar Baroque-Gothic style in 1719-1722. The church, surrounded by a cloister, is one of the splendours of Czech Baroque architecture and is registered within the UNESCO world heritage list. A long term rehabilitation and restoration project has been carried out in several phases since 1999. The project included restoration of the cloister (1999-2002), restoration of the church (2004-2006), historical reconstruction of the cupola (2006-2008), and covered restoration of stucco, stone, historic renders, mural paintings, gilding and polychromed wood.





ST. VITUS CATHEDRAL – SOUTH TOWER, PRAGUE

The monumental three-storey South Tower of St. Vitus Cathedral is the dominating image seen in the Prague Castle panorama. The tower foundations, together with the massive pillars of its Golden Gate, were completed in 1367 by Master Petr Parler, while the entire tower frame was provisionally completed in the 1550s, reaching the height of 55 meters. The stone masonry decorations are undoubtedly the most artistically valuable elements of the St. Vitus South Tower. The project covered the general conservation of the South Tower including general repointing of stone ashlars, stone conservation, gilding, metal works and paintings. The first large scale use of laser technology was carried out within the project. All restoration works were funded by the Messerschmitt Foundation (Germany).



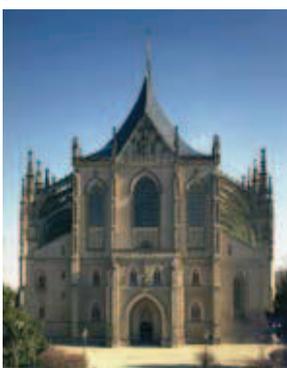
STATUE OF ST. WENCESLAS, ST. WENCESLAS CHAPEL OF THE ST. VITUS CATHEDRAL, PRAGUE

The most valuable Bohemian stone statue of St. Wenceslas dates back to the 1372 when the Roman Emperor Charles IV commissioned Peter Parler to design a statue of the main Czech patron. The St. Wenceslas statue is an outstanding representative of the collection of artworks located in St. Vitus Cathedral. GEMA ART has carried out the most comprehensive scientific assessment of the statue followed by its restoration. The research using the application of latest scientific methods and technologies has confirmed the statue to be original artwork sculpted in Peter Parler's workshop.



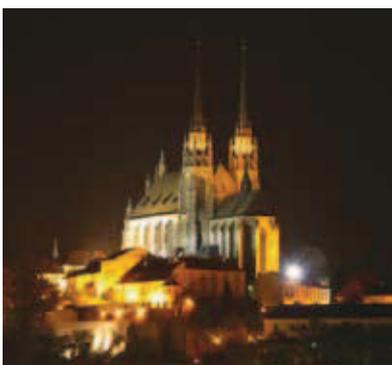
TOMBS OF PRINCES BŘETISLAV II AND BOŘIVOJ II, ST. VITUS CATHEDRAL, PRAGUE

These two of the six gravestones of the Přemyslid sovereigns is the heart of the sculptural decoration found in the Gothic choir of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague Castle. Their creation is linked to the ceremonial transport of the remains of the Přemyslid princes to the St. Vitus Cathedral, which took place in December 1373 based on an order of Emperor Charles IV. General assessment and restoration of tombstones was financed by the World Monument Fund.



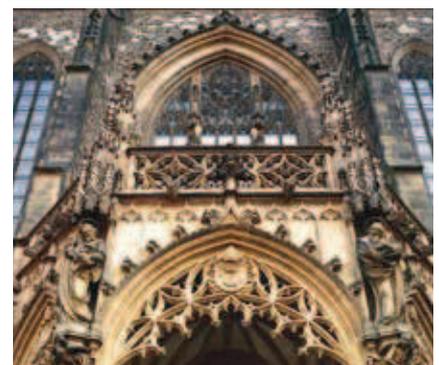
CATHEDRAL OF ST. BARBARA, KUTNÁ HORA

One of the most famous Gothic churches in central Europe and the UNESCO world heritage site. Construction of the church started in 1388 by its first architect Jan Parler followed by several reconstructions until the end of 19th Century and was fully completed in 1905. The stabilization and restoration project was intensively running for 7 years between 2003-2009. The heavily structurally damaged object had to be reinforced and stabilized first before general restoration of all exterior and interior could be carried out. The project covered sophisticated scientific research. A stained glass windows restoration project followed.



CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER AND PAUL, BRNO

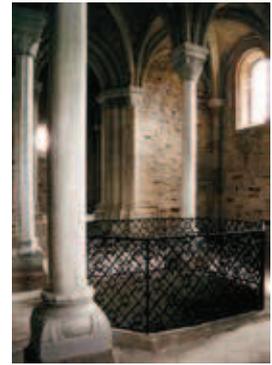
The Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul is one of the dominating sites of the historic city of Brno. The cathedral, located on the top of the Petrov hill, is a follower of the free-standing Romanesque basilica that was rebuilt as a Gothic cathedral in the 13th century. The overall reconstruction was finished by the Vienna architect, August Kirstein, in the year 1909, when the cathedral received two towers and other civil adjustments were implemented. Since the 1980s, systematic reconstruction has been underway at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul. GEMA ART took part in the renovation of the exterior stone structures, stone sculptures, various tombstones and the original Gothic statues in the Cathedral.





ROMANESQUE CHAPEL OF ST. MARTIN, ST. URSULA AND ST. ERHARD, CHEB

This two storey Romanesque chapel was built by the German emperor Frederick I of Barbarosa of the Staufen dynasty at the end of the 12th century, and stands on the location of a former Slavic fortified settlement. The simple, compact, block-shaped exterior with its rubblework masonry and inset granite wall supports stands in stark contrast to the stylistically dissimilar interior layout. With its four massive granite piers, cross vault and square nave it is a textbook example of Romanesque architecture. The upper section of the chapel is adorned with slim marble columns and the cross vault. The restoration work fully respected the results of the analytical research carried out by GEMA ART in 2000 and covered 100% of the entire body of the Chapel. A ventilation project was designed and subsequently implemented to stabilize the interior climate. The project was completed in 2003.



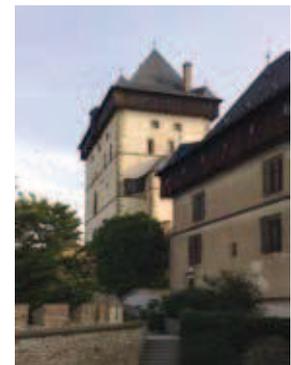
SÁZAVA MONASTERY

The history of Sázava monastery dates back to 1032 and is well known as a place where the development of Slavic literature and liturgy has continued. The original cathedral has never been finished but the monastery itself took an important religious role for centuries. The monumental torso of the Gothic church of St. Prokop from the 13th century was the main part of the long term restoration project that has been carried out over a decade. The conservation of the ruin made from red arkosis was the main goal of the project. A general assessment of the site preceded the implementation.



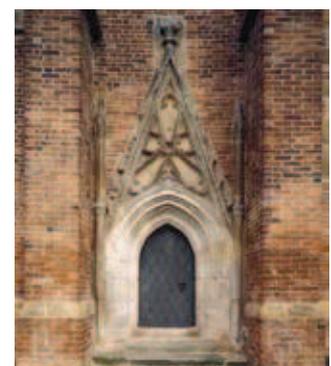
KARLSTEJN CASTLE

The Gothic castle Karlstejn, founded in 1348, was built by the Bohemian King and Roman Emperor Charles IV as a place for safekeeping of the royal treasures and the royal coronation jewels. The construction of the castle was finished in 1365 when the Chapel of the Holy Cross situated in the Great tower was consecrated. Later, the castle was reconstructed in several periods: in late Gothic style after 1480, in the Renaissance style in the end of the 16th century and lastly, in the purist neo-Gothic style at the end of the 19th century. GEMA ART implemented works in scope of the restoration of exterior facades and wooden ceilings in the Imperial palace.



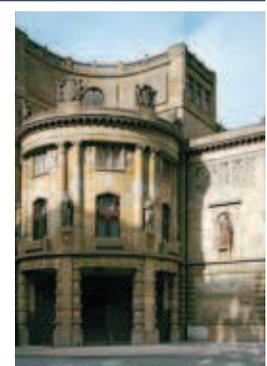
CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, ČEČOVICE

The rediscovered monument with a high artistic level of Gothic architecture represents an exceptional composition of art and craftsmanship, which proves the quality of contemporary work in a wider Central European context. During the overall renovation work a new roof surface was set, and the belt frieze of the cornice was restored as well as all stone sculptures and architectural elements of the western façade, the outer plasters of the tower and the panes of Gothic windows. A unique southern entrance portal was artistically rehabilitated. The original remains of Gothic mural paintings in the nave and murals from the early 17th century were preserved in scope of general restoration project and was completed in 2001.



MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE, PRAGUE

Standing out as a visual landmark on Prague's Vltava riverbank, this building was built in the style of late Art Nouveau architecture, with a strong touch of Classicism in 1926-1930 by the famous Czech architect Josef Fanta. GEMA ART was general contractor for all exterior restoration works that included namely general cleaning of facades, restoration of dozens of minor statues, ornaments and other decorative elements. Reconstruction of balconies according to the original design, copper cupolla and lead sheet flashing supplemented the project that was completed in 2003.





RESIDENCE OF U.S. AMBASSADOR, PRAGUE

Built by Otto Petschek as a home for his family, according to the design of architect Maximilian Spielmann, in 1924–1928 in the French Beaux Arts style as a loose interpretation of Versailles. The United States of America gained ownership of the palace after WW II as a Chief of Mission Residence. GEMA ART carried out the general reconstruction of the external shell in 2007 in scope of the restoration of all architectural elements, statuary, decorative metal railings, restoration and replicas of historical lanterns and restoration of decorative art glass components. There was a comprehensive investigation of renders to imitate stone ashlars carried out before the 100% of plastered area was reconstructed using grinded stucco plaster. New retaining walls and the complete reconstruction and insulation of the external terraces followed.



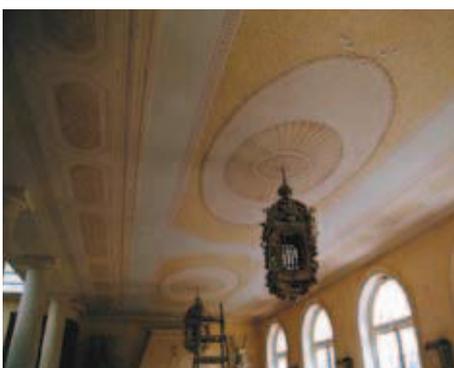
EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, PARIS, FRANCE

Situated in one of the most prestigious districts of Paris, the embassy is located in the immediate vicinity of the Eiffel Tower. The palace-like structure was built in 1909 as a residence of its owner, Princess de la Rochefoucauld. The building has been used as the Embassy of Czechoslovakia and the Residence of the Ambassador since 1924. The heavily deteriorated building was renovated in 2002-2004 and Gema Art was the general contractor for all restoration works that included statuary, stucco, stone, murals, paintings, marble decorations, gilding, metal, crystal chandeliers, mirrors, fire places, doors and windows including brass fittings etc. proceeded the implementation.



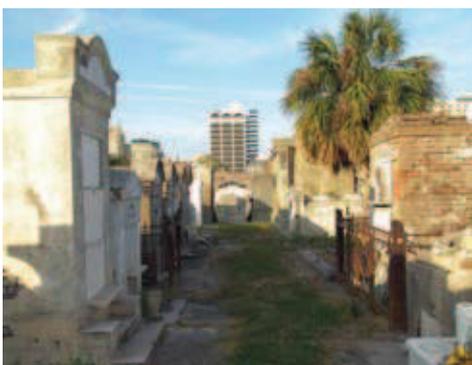
P. P. RUBENS, ASSEMBLY OF THE GODS ON THE MOUNT OLYMPUS, PRAGUE CASTLE PICTURE GALLERY

Peter Paul Rubens (Siegen 1577 - Antwerp 1640) painted this masterpiece in Mantua about 1602. The large scale painting on canvas was examined and restored in 2003 in cooperation with our best experts. IR reflectography and other non-destructive methods were used for examination. The goal of restoration was the removal of the previous interventions and aged varnishes followed by reconstruction retouching of missing parts. A final varnish protecting the painting from climate changes was applied.



LYONS DEMESNE RESIDENCE, KILDARE COUNTY, IRELAND

The history of Lyons House takes us back to ca. 1785 when Lord and Lady Nicholas Cloncurry commissioned the Dublin architect Oliver Grace to design a mansion choosing a site of the 17th cent. Castle of the Aylmers. The quadrangular mansion was built of grey Irish granite. The neglected building was bought in 1996 by Dr. Tony Ryan who has taken a very sensitive approach to the faithful restoration of this architectural jewel. Gema Art was contracted for the gilding, stucco, wood and painting restoration works and namely for the historic reconstruction of a large mural painting in the Orangery and decorations of columns and a glass roof.



ST. LOUIS CEMETERY NO. 2, NEW ORLEANS, USA

One of the largest and most spectacular of New Orleans' early Creole cemeteries. The cemetery was opened in 1823 and since 2001 has been listed in Save America's Treasures list of endangered sites. The three organized Squares on an orthogonal alley grid contain a superb collection of monumental family and society tombs including works of such notable architects as James Gallier and N. B. de Pouilly. Hurricane Katrina significantly multiplied damages of these very precious tombs. The experts from GEMA ART completed the urgently needed assessment that resulted in the general database of all cemetery. The pilot conservation treatment of selected gravemarks and tombs was carried out.





MINARET CHOLI, ERBIL, IRAQ

The National treasure of cultural heritage, Choli Minaret, dated back to the 12th century is situated in Erbil, a city located in the foothills of the eastern Iraqi mountains. The structure of minaret was built from low burnt bricks using gypsum based renders and mortars. Due to the long term effect of deterioration, the essential part of the architecture has disappeared and thus the leaning minaret is the last survival part of the past mosque. The general assessment covered photogrammetric documentation, 3D visualization, a geo-physical and geological survey, material research and static measurements. Conservation treatment covered joints re-pointing, consolidation of bricks and restoration of fragments of the decorations. The stabilization was improved by complete reinforcement of the minaret using HELIFIX system and drainage of the surrounding area from rain water.



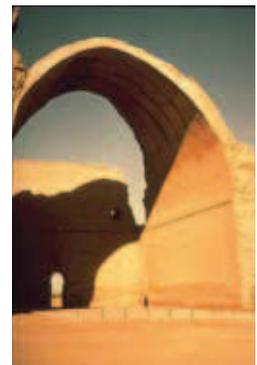
FATAH CHALABI HOUSE, ERBIL CITADEL, IRAQ

The reconstruction of Fatah Chalabi House in the Erbil Citadel has been carried out for the purpose of the GEMA ART office and the Documentation and Archaeological Center of Erbil Citadel. A complete reconstruction of interior and exterior, design and implementation of electricity distribution, water supply and sewage drains, renovation terraces (using local natural marble); isolation of roof and partly conservation of stone elements. The premises of the house are ready to be used as a training centre for conservators and archaeologists and a documentation centre for archaeological projects.



IWAN AL-MADAEN, CTESIPHON, IRAQ

Ctesiphon, an ancient city on the Tigris river served as the winter capital of the Parthian and Sasanian Empire. The Iwan al-Madaen is famous for the remains of a gigantic vaulted hall with the largest single-span brick arch in the ancient world. Within the framework of general assessment of the Ctesiphon palace the samples of brick and masonry fragments were collected and tested. The two year projects resulted in the material study and project proposal conservation. The palace is listed among 100 endangered monument by WMF.



ERBIL CITADEL, IRAQ

Located in the historical center of the city of Erbil, which is the capital of Kurdistan Region in Iraq. It is considered to be one of the oldest continuously inhabited cultural settlements in the world. GEMA ART took part in several projects connected with the rehabilitation of the Citadel. The scientific, historical, archaeological and restoration research was funded by the aid of the Government of the Czech Republic. A 3D Model and Database of the Erbil citadel was developed by GEMA ART is available at <http://lfgm.fsv.cvut.cz/citadel>



OLD JEWISH CEMETERY, PRAGUE

The Old Jewish Cemetery is situated in the historic centre of Prague. The oldest extant gravestone is dated 1439 and belongs to the scholar Avigdor Kar, however, most of tombstones date between the 16th and 18th centuries. Today there are nearly 12,000 gravestones. The most famous person buried in the cemetery is Rabbi Löw (who died in 1609). The general assessment of the cemetery was completed in 1993 in collaboration with the Jewish Museum in Prague. The comprehensive conservation treatment of approximately 100 gravestones per year has been carried out since then.





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GEMA ART GROUP a.s. is internationally certified:

Quality System ISO 9001:2001,
Environmental Management System ISO 14001:2004,
Health and Safety Management System ISO 18001:1999

European Environmental Registration:
EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme)
Acc. Reg. (EC) No. 761/2001 under No. CZ-00042

U.S. Registration:
Central Contractors Register, DUNS 511648243