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EU COUNCIL APPROVES DECISION ON VISA-FREE REGIME FOR UKRAINIANS

The Council of the European Union at the level of the Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries at a meeting on May 11 supported the decision on the liberalization of the visa regime with Ukraine.

The ministers reviewed the relevant Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, which specifies third countries whose citizens, when crossing external borders, must have a visa, and countries whose citizens are exempt from such a requirement (Ukraine).

"Ukrainian citizens with a biometric passport travelling to the EU for up to 90 days for business, tourist or family purposes will no longer need a visa," the press service of the Council of the EU said in a statement on Thursday.

"These measures will not apply to Ireland and the United Kingdom, in accordance with the protocols annexed to the EU treaties. The visa regime of these member states remains subject to their national legislation," the statement reads.

The decision takes effect within 20 days after it is published.

YAVORIV INDUSTRIAL PARK REGISTERED BY ECONOMY MINISTRY



Ukraine's Economic Development and Trade Ministry on April 26, 2017 placed the Yavoriv industrial park to the register of industrial parks. The park is the 19th park on the register.

According to a ministry's report, a transport hub is located on the territory of the park going to Nemyriv and then crossing the customs checkpoint in Rava-Ruska to Zamosc (Poland); as well as going to Yavoriv following M10 highway to Lviv then to Krakovets and crossing the customs checkpoint to Jaroslaw (Poland).

The Hrushiv-Budomierz customs checkpoint is located 5 km far from the park. One can get to Lubaczow in Poland crossing this checkpoint. Yavoriv district council initiated the creation of the park on 40 ha. The park has been created for the period of 30 years to develop Yavoriv district and increase its competitiveness thanks to stepping up investments activities. ■

POLAND TO ASSIST UKRAINE IN EUROPEAN TRANSFORMATION



Polish parliamentarians will help Ukrainian counterparts, representatives of civil society to prepare a strategy for Ukraine's transformation. They are not only willing to share their own experience, but also promote the involvement of the European Union in this process. At the end of May, Warsaw will host an Interparliamentary Assembly, which will attract, beside Ukraine and Poland, Lithuania and representatives of the European Union.

This was discussed during a meeting of the delegation of the National Forum "Transformation of Ukraine" represented by ULIE President Anatoliy Kinakh and Coordinator of the Forum Mykhailo Kharkiy with Speaker of the Polish Sejm Marek Kuchciński.

The parties stressed the importance of political and economic partnership – both bilaterally and in the framework of specific programs of cooperation with the EU.

The speaker of the Polish Sejm praised the role of civil society in the development of the state and stressed that the success of reforms, policy of modernization depends on the consolidation of all forces – the government, community, businesses, etc. – around the national interests. Currently, such a communication platform between the Ukrainian government and society is the National Forum "Transformation of Ukraine" that has been developing a comprehensive plan for the country's development.

The corresponding transformation strategy will be a long-term response to systemic challenges, including the economic crisis. The Copenhagen criteria are used as its benchmarks: the rule of law, developed market economy, competitiveness, and others. The Polish side supports this direction of reforms and is ready to share experience as a country that has passed its European integration path and achieved GDP growth and solvency of the population.

Late in May, Warsaw will host an Interparliamentary Assembly, which will be attended by representatives of Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, and the EU.

The Assembly will address such issues as the adaptation of Ukrainian legislation to EU standards and regulations, as well as the expansion of the "circle of the friends of Ukraine," namely Germany, the United States, Canada, and others, ULIE President Anatoliy Kinakh said.

Prior to that, a delegation of the National Forum met with Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, representatives of the Lithuanian Seimas and the government in Vilnius. Former Prime Minister of Lithuania, now a member of the Seimas and one of the authors of the so-called "Marshall Plan for Ukraine" Andrius Kubilius supported the initiative of Ukraine's civil society to draft the Ukrainian development strategy and expressed confidence that the parliaments of other EU countries would support it. ■

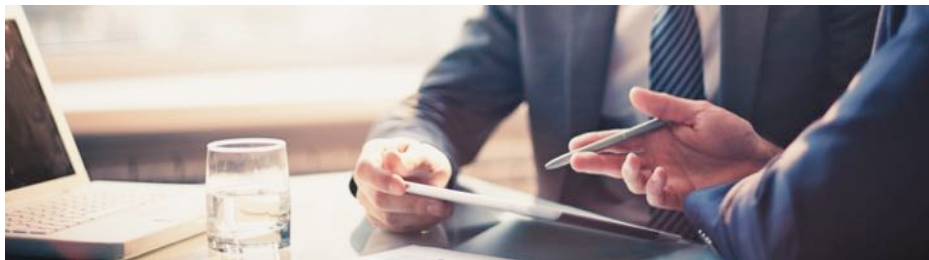
GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES PILOT SMALL PRIVATIZATION PROJECT VIA PROZORRO

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has approved the launch of a pilot project to sell small facilities being privatized via the ProZorro.Sales platforms.

"Jointly with the State Property Fund and the Economic Development and Trade Ministry worked out a pilot project and proposals for the pilot project to start small privatization using the ProZorro tool and trigger the process at open electronic auctions... If it is success, we will be able to expand it to sale of most of small facilities being privatized," Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Vitaliy Sayenko said.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman said that the launch of the project would allow selling small state-owned enterprises in a transparent way, relaxing the process for buyers, removing corruption and red tape from the process. ■

ULIE, SPANISH CONFEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATIONS CREATE SPAIN-UKRAINE BUSINESS COUNCIL



The Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ULIE) and the Spanish Confederation of Employers' Organizations (CEOE) have signed a cooperation agreement to set up the Spain-Ukraine Business Council.

The press service of the Export Support Center under the ULIE reported this on May 4. The main goal of the signed agreement is to promote the development of partnership of entrepreneurs of Ukraine and Spain, as well as to expand opportunities for economic cooperation between the two countries' businesses.

According to the report, the facilitation of trade and investment will be implemented in the form of providing technical assistance in various spheres of partnership, taking into account the professional specifics of the companies of the two countries. Particular attention is given to the exchange of up-to-date information on the current economic situation and regulatory and legal aspects. In addition, business contacts will be supported by the exchange and dissemination of information on business proposals and exports of goods, as well as assistance in finding potential partners.

"The Spanish market is potentially very interesting for Ukrainian entrepreneurs, while the main articles of Ukrainian exports to Spain are farm produce, namely fodder grains and sunflower oil, but in the foreseeable future, our export-oriented commodities can be expanded at the expense of high value-added products," Coordinator of the Export Support Center under the ULIE Denys Krasnikov said.

According to him, Spanish investors are now interested in investing in the agrarian sector of Ukraine. ■

EX-MAYOR OF KYIV CHERNOVETSKY INVESTS IN SOFTCUBE

Chernovetskyi Investment Group (CIG), founded by the businessman, ex-mayor of Kyiv (2006-2012) Leonid Chernovetsky, has invested a six-digit amount in U.S. dollars in the Ukrainian e-commerce service of personal recommendations Softcube.

"Softcube helps buyers decide on a choice and retailers increase sales. Thus, Softcube uses data about products and analyzes customer history to create personal recommendations for online buyers," the report says.

The investment company told Interfax-Ukraine Softcube is estimated in a seven-digit amount in U.S. dollars.

According to a press release, the funds raised will be used to strengthen sales and marketing functions, as well as enter the European market.

"At the same time, the project remains Ukrainian. This is a principled position for us as investors," CIG Managing Partner Volodymyr Kryvko said.

Softcube was founded in 2012 by Oleh Lesov. In 2013 Roman Zakharov joined it. Today Softcube is a Ukrainian product company with an office in the Dnipro. Softcube clients include Yves Rocher, Allo, Foxtrot, leBoutique, Studio Moderna (TopShop, Dormeo brands).

Softcube works with shops in 11 countries of the world, processes more than 500 GB of data per day.

Chernovetskyi Investment Group is one of the largest investment companies in the CIS market. It was founded in 2013 by Leonid Chernovetsky. Its investment potential exceeded \$750 million. ■

REAL WAGES IN UKRAINE 18.7% UP IN MARCH 2017



Real wages in Ukraine in March 2017 compared to March 2016 increased by 18.7%, compared to February 2017 by 6.8%, the State Statistics Service has said.

The service said the average nominal wage of a full-time employee rose by 8.7% in March 2017 compared to February 2017, in annual terms rose by 37.2%, to UAH 6,752, whereas in February it stood at UAH 6,209, in January some UAH 6,008, and December some UAH 6,475.

According to the statistics data, the largest increase in the average wage of full-time employees in March this year compared to March 2016 was observed in Ternopil (by 51.8%), Zakarpattia (51.7%), Ivano-Frankivsk (51.2%), Volyn (50.6%), Kirovohrad (50.5%), Chernivtsi (48.4%), Vinnytsia (47.8%), Zhytomyr (47.6%), Kherson (46.9%), Khmelnytsky (45.2%), Sumy (43.7%), Cherkasy (43.5%), Lviv (41.2%) and Kyiv regions (40.5%), and in Kyiv (by 31.6%).

The increase in wages in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (excluding part of the ATO zone) was 16.8% and 32.6% respectively.

The highest level of wages in March was recorded in Kyiv at UAH 11,010, the lowest one in Chernivtsi region at UAH 5,136. ■

BORYSPIL AIRPORT DESIGNS AIR TICKET CHEAPENING PROGRAM



State-owned enterprise Boryspil International Airport has designed the air ticket cheapening program thanks to discounts to airport charges.

Commercial Director of the airport Maksym Voloshyn said at a press conference on Thursday that the discount system aims at cheapening flights, expanding the route network, increasing the share of transit passengers, boosting transportation and airport's income and attracting low cost airlines. It is planned to set a discount for new international flights to the take-off and landing fee in the first year in the amount of 80%, second year – 60%, third year – 40% and fourth year – 20%. In addition, the 80% discount is proposed for a transit passenger.

Voloshyn said that the discount to the passenger fee will apply proportionally to growth of passenger flow from 100,000 people.

Boryspil Airport Director General Pavlo Riabikin said that the airport has prepared a new public offer for airlines. He said that one of its requirements will be obligatory display of the discount provided by the airport in the ultimate price of the ticket.

"The Infrastructure Ministry has drawn up a project foreseeing the reduction of charges. We have made our homework," he said.

Boryspil International Airport is the main airport of Ukraine. The airport has two runways: one with a length of 4,000 meters and a width of 60 meters, and the second with a length of 3,500 meters and a width of 63 meters. Four passenger terminals, postal and cargo complexes are located on the territory of the airport. ■

UKRAINIAN STARTUP GRAMMARLY ATTRACTS \$110 MLN OF INVESTMENT



U.S. venture fund General Catalyst has invested \$110 million in IT company with Ukrainian roots Grammarly.

Bloomberg has reported that the startup makes software that underlines awkward words and phrases in the user's writing and makes suggestions, similar to a feature in Microsoft Word.

"The software tailors the tone and word choice of personal or professional writing for the 6.9 million people using the tool daily, many of whom interact with the service through a web browser extension for Google Chrome," Bloomberg said.

According to a website of the company, Grammarly has offices in San Francisco, New York and Kyiv. ■

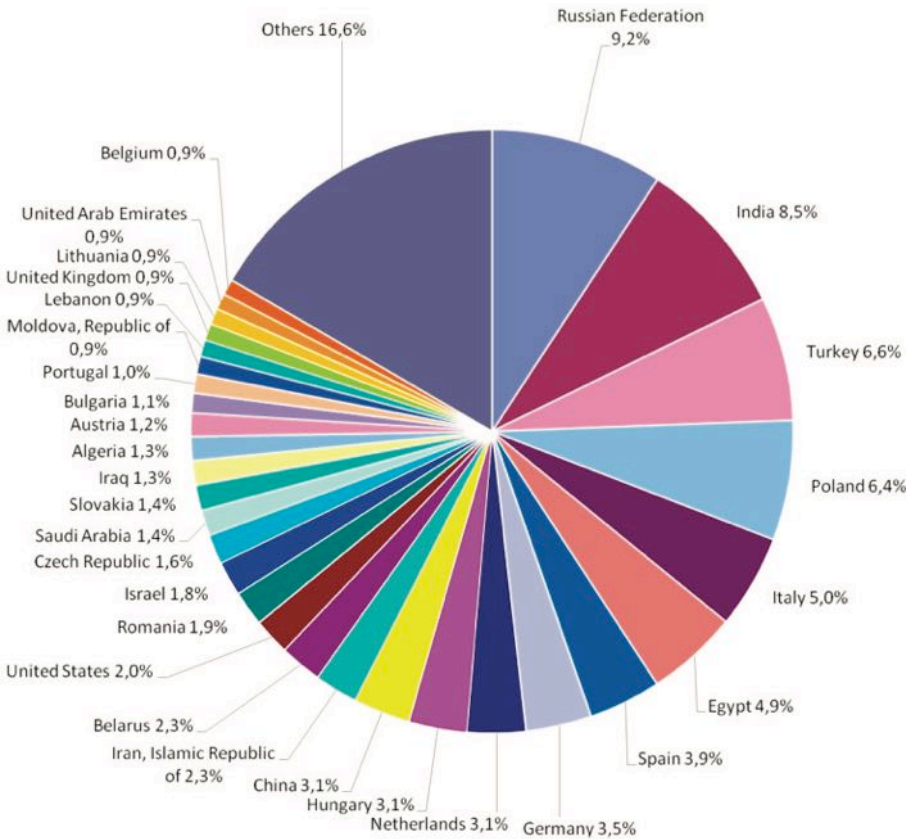
UKRAINE SHOWS ECONOMIC UPTURN, MOVING INVESTMENT INCREASE – PM AT MEETING WITH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEADERS

On the outcomes of the activities of 2016 as well as of the first quarter of 2017 the country shows a positive trend of gradual economic upturn, and this should be the basis and the key to boost investment in the country and ensure implementation of successful projects in the real economic sector, Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman has said at a meeting with leaders of the American Chamber of Commerce. "The most crucial is that we have managed to establish a dialogue, understand each other and discuss questions not from meeting to meeting, but in the process of work. We set tasks and we are trying to tackle them. Ukraine is on the track of economic growth now and this is the movement towards increasing investment," the press service of the government reported on Friday, citing Groysman.

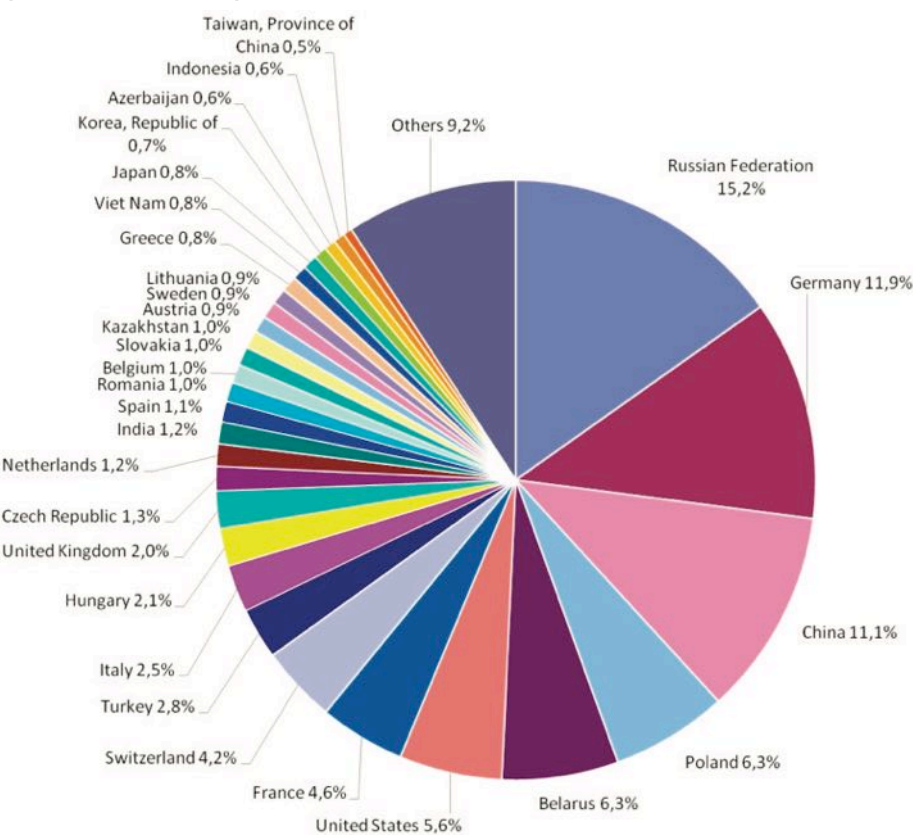
The prime minister reminded representatives of the business community the government's core objectives for this year are namely, a pension reform, a land reform, large-scale privatization and sectoral reforms in healthcare and education.

He said that the transformations offered by the government, in particular for land issues, have raised a wide discussion in society, however, a compromise would be found, as well as the process concerning a large-scale privatization will be triggered. ■

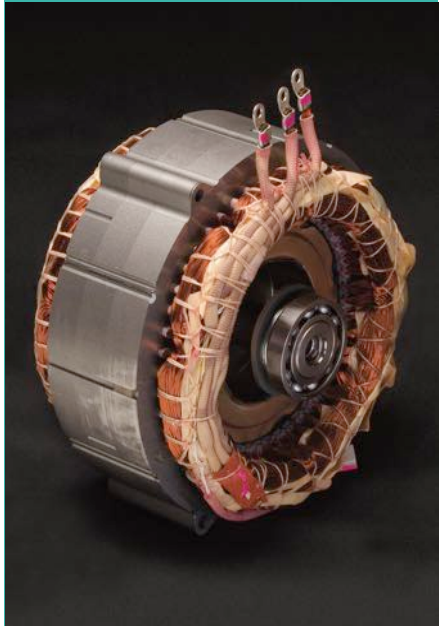
UKRAINE'S FOREIGN TRADE IN GOODS, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2017 (EXPORTS)



UKRAINE'S FOREIGN TRADE IN GOODS, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2017 (IMPORTS)



UPEC TO BEGIN FIRST DELIVERIES OF PRODUCTS TO ALBANIA IN H2, 2017



UPEC Industrial Group, specializing in machine building business, plans to begin the first deliveries of products to Albania in the second half of this year. According to a press release issued by UPEC, bilateral contracts are currently being prepared with representatives of the country's business, partner relations with whom were established during the participation of the Ukrainian company in the business forum held in Albania in late April. The report notes the Albanian market is a new trading platform for UPEC, therefore the business forum became a good opportunity to study the market specifics, the logistics system and establish direct business contacts with foreign entrepreneurs. "Based on the results of B2B negotiations, our company established partnership relations with three dealer companies," UPEC director for exports Eduard Chudopalov said. According to him, Alaska Industriale distributor showed interest in HARP bearing products (produced by Kharkiv Bearing Plant), as well as electric motors, generators, HELZ electric pumps (Kharkov Electrotechnical Plant).

NUMBER OF UKRAINIAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH ROOF SOLAR POWER PLANTS 18% UP IN Q1 2017



Germany's Bentec has won a tender of public joint-stock company Ukrgezvydobuvannya to supply five drilling rigs with a carrying capacity of 450 tonnes, Nefterynok publication has reported, referring to Bentec Head Dirk Schulze.

"Bentec offered the lowest price, having competitive advantage compared to NOV (the United States and Canada) and DrillMec (Italy)," the publication said.

Bentec managed to offer better conditions thanks to localization of some production in Ukraine.

"Some spare parts will be made in Ukraine – by Dicovery (Stryi, Lviv region)," Nefterynok said, citing Schulze as saying.

The press service of Ukrgezvydobuvannya told Interfax-Ukraine that Bentec really offered the best price for the drilling rigs, while the tender procedure has not yet been finished and the contract has not yet been signed.

The expected cost of the drilling rigs was UAH 3.549 billion. ■

FUTURE OF UKRAINE'S ENERGY SECTOR IS IN WIND FARMS, SOLAR POWER PLANTS, CCGT PLANTS, ENERGY STORAGE UNITS

The key innovative ideas for the Ukrainian energy sector are construction of solar power plants and wind farms with synchronous boosting of maneuvering power capacities in the form of combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) plants and energy storage units, businessman Konstantin Grigorishin, who owns a number of regional power supply companies and power engineering enterprises, has said.

"In next 20 or 30 years we should build... from 7 to 10 gigawatts of CCGT plants. We should synchronously build wind farms – from 1 to 2 gigawatts a year, as well as solar [power plants] – also 15-20 gigawatts. At the same time today we should test energy storage units launching local production," the businessman said in an interview with the Energoreforma (Energy Reform) resource of Interfax-Ukraine.

He said that the current structure of the Ukrainian balance of energy is out of date.

"It [the balance of energy] consists of hydrocarbons (oil and gas), coal, nuclear fuel, hydroelectric power and some solar and wind units. If today the share of "green" energy in the country's balance is no more than 1-2%, in developed countries it is larger, and in the prospect of 20 or 30 years it is at least 50%," he said.

He said that today in over 50 countries solar and wind power is the cheapest, being 3 or 4 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) in the United States and around 4 cents per kWh in England.

"The "green" energy technologies are changing so quickly that the cost of the installation of new facilities will be reduced and their efficiency would grow. Finally this would result in the large cheapening of electricity," the businessman said.

He said that construction of "green" energy facilities in Ukraine would be profit-making at the price of around 5 cents per kWh, while the current price of over 10 cents is too high.

He said that for nuclear energy, the completion of two reactors designed in Russia could be discussed. It could cost \$2,000-3,000 per kWh, but due to the politics this option is not good. ■

NUMBER OF UKRAINIAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH ROOF SOLAR POWER PLANTS 18% UP IN Q1 2017



The number of households that installed roof solar power plants and selling power at the feed-in tariff grew by 18% in January-March 2017 or by 200 households, to 1,309, according to a posting on the website of the State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine.

The agency said that over the period the installed capacity of these plants grew by 20% or 3.35 MW, to 20.05 MW.

As reported, according to Ukrainian legislation, households has the right to install solar power plants with a capacity of up to 30 kW and sell extra power according to the feed-in tariff. ■

U.S. CMC COMETALS JOINTLY WITH VELTA SEEK TO BUILD NEW TITANIUM ORE MINING COMBINE IN KIROVOHRAD REGION

U.S. CMC Cometals and Velta LLC (Dnipro) have signed a memorandum of intent to build a mining and beneficiation complex in Kirovohrad region that would produce titanium ores. Investment of around \$30 million will be sent to the project.

Velta said in a press release on Wednesday that the document was signed on May 2, 2017.

The framework document envisages that CMC Cometals will be involved in the pre-funding of the project to build a mining complex on the Likarivske titanium ore field. The project is strategic expansion of the Byrzulivske mining complex that has been operating in the region for five years.

“The signed memorandum is a sign of restoration of cooperation between U.S. CMC and Ukraine. The company cooperated with the Ukrainian mining sector over 20 years ago. Despite the risks linked to investing in the country, CMC Cometals and Velta have designed a formula that satisfies each side,” Velta said in the press release.

The next step will be receiving all permits to start construction. Velta has completed exploration of the Likarivske field. The company is designing the project. The annual nominal capacity of the complex is planned at 120,000 tonnes of ilmenite. The new enterprise would create 300-350 jobs. ■

WIND POWER POSTS UAH 429 MLN NET PROFIT IN 2016



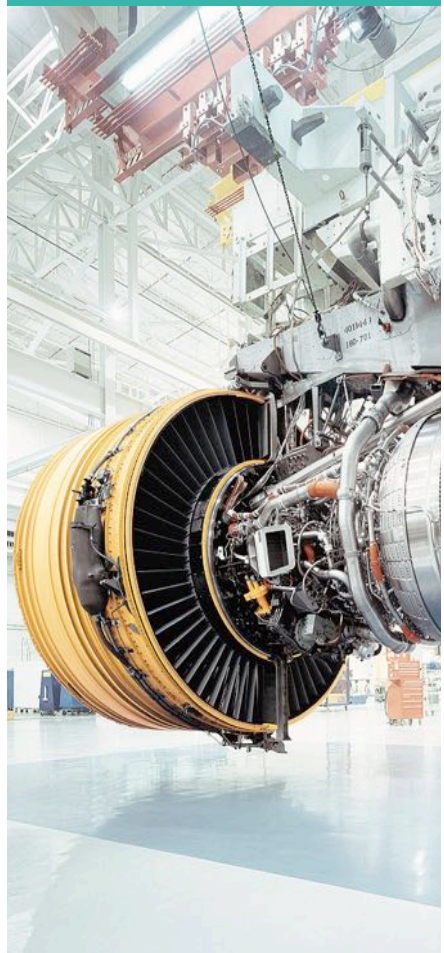
Wind Power LLC, part of DTEK Energy Holding, in 2016 saw a net profit of UAH 428.998 million against UAH 1.002 billion of net loss a year earlier.

According to a company report in the information disclosure system of the National Securities and Stock Market Commission, its net income in the reporting period increased by 21%, to UAH 2.037 billion and gross profit rose by 21.3%, to UAH 1.451 billion.

Wind Power operates Ukraine's largest Botiyevska Wind Power Plant with a capacity of 200 MW. It has projects of construction of two other wind plants at different stages of development.

According to DTEK Director General Maksym Tymchenko, in addition to wind power, the holding intends to invest in construction of solar power plants. The first project will be the construction of a solar power plant with a capacity of 10 MW in Kherson region. ■

MOTOR SICH SEES NET PROFIT RISE BY 4.8 TIMES IN Q1, 2017 – IFRS REPORT



The consolidated net profit of PJSC Motor Sich in the first quarter of 2017 according to international financial reporting standards (IFRS) amounted to UAH 1.457 billion, which is 4.8 times more than for the same period in 2016 (UAH 304.67 million), according to the company's quarterly report.

According to its data, net sales income in January-March this year increased by 63.4%, to UAH 3.431 billion.

Motor Sich specified its gross profit in the first quarter of this year increased by 46.3%, to UAH 1.978 billion, and operating profit was up by 2.9 times, to UAH 1.525 billion.

PJSC Motor Sich is one of the world's largest manufacturers of engines for aircraft, as well as industrial gas turbine units. It delivers products to more than 100 countries. ■

UKRAINE, TURKEY WANT TO COOPERATE IN CREATION OF UAVS



Ukraine and Turkey are preparing expansion of defense cooperation. The sides seek to establish cooperate in creation of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), including unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAV), the press service of the Ukroboronprom State Concern has reported.

At the 13th International Defense Industry Fair IDEF 2017 held in Istanbul on May 9 through May 12 Antonov State Enterprise (Kyiv) and Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) signed a memorandum of cooperation to design and manufacture various types of UAV, including UCAV, for the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

The new agreements have been signed with participation of Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine (NSDC) Oleksandr Turchynov.

TAI is a Turkish technological center for designing, manufacturing, integration, modernization and life cycle support of integrated aerospace systems. Antonov state enterprise is the leading Ukrainian developer and manufacturer of aircraft, the recognized world's leader in the niche of transport aircraft for wide purposes. ■

DTZ STARTS WORKING IN UKRAINE UNDER CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD BRAND

DTZ international consulting company in Ukraine (Kyiv) has conducted rebranding and from May 1, 2017 changed its name to Cushman & Wakefield, according to a press release from the company.

“The rebranding occurred as a result of the merger of DTZ and Cushman & Wakefield, which led to the creation of one of the world's leaders that provides consulting services in the field of commercial real estate,” DTZ said in an official letter to clients and partners.

According to the company, the change in the brand did not affect the composition of the management and the DTZ team in Ukraine, they will continue working in the former office.

DTZ was founded by Chesshire Gibson, which began operations in Birmingham (the United Kingdom) in 1784. It provides comprehensive services and solutions for investment, leasing, management and maintenance of real estate, as well as management of construction, assets, investments, projects and object evaluation.

Cushman & Wakefield was founded in 1917 and is the leading consultant in the field of commercial real estate with an annual income of over \$6 billion. The company has about 45,000 employees in more than 70 countries. ■

ARCELORMITTAL KRYVYI RIH WILL SPEND UAH 2.7 BLN OF 2016 PROFIT ON PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT



PJSC ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk region) will not pay dividends for 2016 and direct net profit in the amount of UAH 2.704 billion for development of production. According to a plant press release, this decision was made at an annual general meeting of shareholders on April 27 this year.

The shareholders heard the reports of the company's executive body for 2016, the supervisory board and the revision commission for 2016, approved the annual report, and made the decision on profit distribution. The shareholders also approved a new wording of the statute, the provisions on a general meeting of shareholders and the supervisory council.

Members of the supervisory board and the revision committee were re-elected for a new term at the meeting.

The plant's net sales income in 2016 amounted to UAH 52.96 billion, net profit UAH 2.7 billion.

“Based on the results of approval of profit distribution, it was decided to direct profit PJSC ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih received in 2016 for production development,” the press release reads. ■

VOLWEST GROUP OPENS FIRST SPAR SUPERMARKET IN UKRAINE



Spar Ukraine Corp. LLC, part of VolWest Group investment group (Lutsk), has opened the first grocery store of the SPAR international brand with an area of 250 square meters in Ukraine in Rivne. According to a company press release, 90% of the products in the new store are of Ukrainian origin, as well as Private Label products of international and Ukrainian companies.

In addition, the company plans in the near future to open another store in the new SPAR Express format in Ternopil. As reported, on January 24, 2017 Spar Ukraine Corp. signed a cooperation agreement with Spar International, which provides for the development of the Spar network in the Ukrainian market by opening its own and franchised stores.

The company intends by the end of 2017 to open 15 Spar stores in Ukraine and within three years – 50 retail outlets.

Spar in Ukraine will be developed in four retail formats: Spar Express (convenience stores of up to 200 sq m), Spar (supermarkets of 200-800 sq m), EuroSpar (supermarkets of 800-3,000 sq m), and InterSpar (hypermarkets of more than 3,000 sq m). ■

ODESA CONTAINER TERMINAL WILL START SERVICING THREE WORLD SHIPPING COMPANIES IN MAY



Odesa Container Terminal, a subsidiary of Germany's HHLA International GmbH, in May 2017 will start servicing three international shipping companies, the company's press service has told Interfax-Ukraine.

"According to information received from the executive director for commerce of Odesa Container Terminal, Ihor Yarovenko, this month the enterprise confirms the opening and servicing by the terminal of two new regular linear services of Hapag Lloyd and Yang Ming Line international shipping lines, which will positively influence the volumes of container handling," the press service said.

The container terminal in late May expects the first call of a new regular direct service of Maersk, which opens up wider opportunities for container freight traffic for the clients of Odesa Container Terminal.

Hapag-Lloyd is a German transport company. It is the fifth largest container carrier in the world in terms of tonnage of vessels.

China-based Yang Ming Marine Transport Corporation is one of the leading companies in the world that carries out sea container transportation.

Maersk is a Danish company operating in various sectors of the economy, for the most part known by port and cargo shipping business. ■

ED&F MAN LAUNCHES FIRST STAGE OF IRRIGATION COMPLEX WORTH \$5 MLN IN KHERSON REGION

ED&F Man, one of the world's largest sugar trading companies, has invested \$5 million in the launch of the first stage of an irrigation complex with an area of 1,000 hectares in Bilozerka district of Kherson region.

"The first line of the complex, in which the British company has already invested \$5 million, will allow growing sugar beets on 1,000 hectares in a zone of risky farming," a press release from the company reads.

The company intends by 2020 to restore the irrigation system on a total area of 20,000 hectares in Kherson and Mykolaiv regions, investment will exceed \$60 million.

"We focus on a full cycle of production: from seeds to finished products, sugar. Both the company and the Ukrainian economy are interested in a high added value. Through cooperation with local and central authorities that create conditions necessary for us, ED&F Man has more comfortable conditions for work, so we can plan the following investment projects," Managing Director for Commodities at ED&F Man Jan Kees van der Wild said.

During the period of work in Ukraine, ED&F Man has invested more than \$150 million in development. ED&F Man was founded in London in 1783. It is the largest supplier of food, sugar, spices, animal feed, tropical oils, rubber, biofuel and coffee through a network of offices and agencies in more than 50 countries. ■

KHERSON PLANT TO PRESENT FIRST SKIF 280 SUPERIOR COMBINE MADE ON BASIS OF FINNISH SAMPO ROSENLEW AT AGRO 2017



Kherson machine building plant this year started producing Skif 280 Superior grain harvester, seeking to make 10 machines a month.

According to a posting on the website of Ukraine's Agricultural Policy and Food Ministry, the new harvester created on the basis of Finnish Sampo Rosenlew SR 3085 Superior, will be presented at the Agro 2017 international exhibition to take place in Kyiv on June 7 through June 10.

The harvester has technical specification of foreign analogs, but its price will be smaller. As reported, Sampo Rosenlew and Kharkiv Tractor Plant in 2015 announced the launch of a joint project to produce combines. They planned to make around 200 combines in 2016 and boost production to 500 units by 2018.

However, late 2015, the project was frozen under the initiative of Finland.

Kherson machine building plant in 2013 intended to organize joint production of combines with Belarus' Gomsmash and then it was planned to implement the joint project with Claas. However, the projects were not implemented. ■

USDA FORECASTS GRAIN EXPORTS FROM UKRAINE IN 2017/2018 MY AT OVER 38 MLN TONNES WITH YIELD OF 61.8 MLN TONNES

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecasts grain harvest in Ukraine in the 2017/2018 marketing year (MY, July-June) in the amount of 61.79 million tonnes, while exports could reach 38.31 million tonnes.

According to a report on the website of the U.S. agency, the forecast for the harvest of fodder grain is 36.79 million tonnes, of which maize is 28 million tonnes, barley is 7.4 million tonnes. The forecast for the wheat yield is 25 million tonnes.

USDA forecasts wheat exports by Ukraine in the 2017/2018 MY at the level of 14.5 million tonnes. Exports of feed grain, according to the forecast, will amount to 23.81 million tonnes, including 20 million tonnes of maize. According to USDA forecasts, in the 2016/2017 MY Ukraine will be able to export 41.96 million tonnes of grain, including 19 million tonnes of corn, 17.3 million tonnes of wheat and 5.5 million tonnes of barley with a total grain crop of 66.1 million tonnes. ■

The Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ULIE) is the largest union of business associations and individual enterprises in Ukraine with its members ranging from vertically integrated corporations to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). For already more than 20 years the League's key mission is to promote and protect interests of the Ukrainian business within Ukraine and beyond. With its central offices in Kyiv, ULIE manages 28 regional subsidiaries, 73 branches, 22 representative offices and 34 commissions on key sectors of the economy.

The League is also a signatory to 155 international agreements on cooperation and has representative offices in 21 countries, including Representative Office in the EU in Brussels.

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