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UKRAINE 18 POSITIONS UP IN 2017 OPEN DATA BAROMETER RANKING

Ukraine ranked 44th in the Open Data Barometer ranking, having climbed 18 positions up compared to last year's results, Deputy Head of the State Agency for e-Governance Oleksiy Vyskub has said.

"Ukraine has climbed 18 positions in the world open data ranking: from 62 to 44, having taken the most positive 'leap' in the rating together with Georgia," he wrote on his Facebook page.

The ranking features 115 countries.

Ukraine shared its 44th position and the result of 36 points with Estonia. Georgia, Bulgaria, Jamaica, and Turkey ranked 40th. South Africa and Poland took the 46th position. The leaders of the ranking were the United Kingdom, Canada, France, and the United States, which ranked first, second, third and fourth respectively.

Swaziland and Yemen are the bottom of the ranking.

As reported, Ukraine in early May took the 24th position in the open data development rankings, according to the results of the Global Open Data Index research, having climbed by 30 positions from the previous year. ■

CHINA INTERESTED IN FTA, VISA-FREE REGIME WITH UKRAINE



The People's Republic of China is interested in creating a free trade zone (FTA) and establishing a visa-free regime with Ukraine.

The president's representative in the Verkhovna Rada, a member of the Petro Poroshenko Bloc faction Iryna Lutsenko informed about this during a briefing in Kyiv on Friday devoted to the recent visit of the Ukrainian delegation to China to participate in the high-level dialogue within the framework of the One Belt, One Road Forum, an Interfax-Ukraine correspondent reported.

"China does not restrict only on economic cooperation. It was said that China is interested in the initiative to create a free trade zone and establish a visa-free regime," she said.

According to Lutsenko, today about 100 million Chinese citizens have the opportunity to travel to Europe, including Ukraine.

"This fact cannot but interest our tourist business, our hotels, enterprises, cafes, restaurants, etc. China is interested in Ukraine, it shows great preference towards it," Lutsenko said. ■

ILO WILL WORK WITH BUSINESSES, EMPLOYERS TO IMPROVE BUSINESS CLIMATE IN UKRAINE



The International Labour Organization (ILO) is launching a large-scale project in Ukraine designed to help to improve the business climate in the country and make social dialogue more effective. Partners thus rely on cooperation with national employers' organizations that are representative, have information resources at their disposal, maintain contacts and work with government agencies and others. This was discussed at a meeting of Chairman of the Association of Employers Organizations of Ukraine (OORU), First Deputy Chairman of the Joint Representative Body of Employers, President of the Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Anatoliy Kinakh with representatives of the International Labor Office, Christian Hess (Geneva) and Dragan Radic (Budapest).

Anatoliy Kinakh informed the counterparts that Ukraine is currently seeing a greater role of social dialogue and employers' stronger influence. Now, employers in Ukraine have a common voice and a consistent position, which is extremely important in the context of dialogue with the government and other social partners in addressing key economic challenges.

"Our country is facing a demographic crisis now : last year it became one of the top four countries with the highest mortality rate, its population has been aging at a significant pace: there are 11 retirees per 10 employees. Another problem is labor and business migration. Up to one million Ukrainians work in neighboring Poland alone, they include highly qualified personnel," the OORU's head said.

According to him, employers, industrialists and businessmen planned a meeting of the National Tripartite Social and Economic Council with the government in late May to discuss ways to solve these problems.

Christian Hess said, in turn, that the ILO expects national employers will demonstrate the high level of partnership and it will work closely with them to implement the future project. This project is supposed to become a certain contribution to solving the above mentioned problems in the labor sphere of Ukraine. The project will be funded by the government of Denmark and is designed for five years. Around EUR 10 million in total is expected to be allocated for this purpose. ■

UKRAINE, ISRAEL WORKING TO SIGN FTA AGREEMENT BY 2018

Ukraine and Israel want to extend bilateral economic cooperation and are working on signing the Free Trade Area (FTA) Agreement by the end of this year, Ukrainian and Israeli prime ministers, Volodymyr Groysman and Benjamin Netanyahu, said.

"I am glad that the general trade in commodities has been growing over the past few months, we are working together to create a free trade area between the countries," the press service of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine quoted Groysman as saying after a meeting with the Israeli prime minister.

Groysman said he hoped the relevant negotiations will finish by the end of 2017.

In addition, the Ukrainian prime minister called on the Israeli counterpart to consider additionally the possibility of liberalizing access to the Israeli market for agricultural products, especially cereals, dairy products, fish, meat, honey, vegetable oil, vegetables and industrial products.

In turn, Netanyahu stressed that Israel is interested in speeding up the talks on the establishment of the FTA with Ukraine. ■

UKRAINE, POLAND, LITHUANIA TO SET UP INTERPARLIAMENTARY FORUM SOON TO HELP HAMMER OUT STRATEGY FOR TRANSFORMATION OF UKRAINE



Representatives of civil society, parliamentarians of Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania have agreed in Warsaw to establish an Interparliamentary Forum "The Transformation of Ukraine." Lawmakers from Germany and Canada will also join. The Forum is to start its work officially from June after a joint meeting of parliamentarians from those countries and the adoption of a respective statement.

This was announced following a visit of delegates of the National Forum "Transformation of Ukraine," including member of the supervisory board, President of the Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Anatoliy Kinakh, Forum coordinator Mykhailo Khariy, as well as representatives of the same parliamentary groups, namely MP Leonid Kozachenko, MP Yuriy Derevyanko, MP Vadym Ivchenko to the capital of Poland.

The Interparliamentary Forum, which is to be created, will be in charge of the strategy for rebuilding a law-governed Ukraine with an attractive economy as part of the European family. It will help to consolidate Ukrainian society for this objective and to engage foreign partners in the process, thus expanding the "circle of friends" of Ukraine.

"In addition, the interparliamentary platform's tasks will include the adaptation of Ukrainian laws to EU standards and regulations, including through the launch of an appropriate system in the Verkhovna Rada. This issue is important for the national economy, improvement in its competitiveness," Anatoliy Kinakh has said. ■

NBU SAYS LIBERALIZATION OF FOREX REGULATIONS POSSIBLE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF MONETARY POLICY

The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) has stated the liberalization of forex regulations is possible within further decisions to weaken monetary policy, NBU Acting Head Yakiv Smoliy has said.

"The NBU board considers it possible to weaken monetary policy not only by reducing the refinancing rate, but also by liberalizing currency regulation," he said during a press briefing in Kyiv.

According to the banker, these decisions will primarily concern the increase in the timing for returning foreign exchange earnings to the country to 180 days from 120 days. The NBU also intends to provide investors with the opportunity to return funds invested in Ukraine.

At the same time, to prevent withdrawal of capital from Ukraine through shadow schemes, the NBU will make sure these operations comply with conditions. ■

TOURIST FLOW TO KYIV 15-20% UP IN MAY



Tourist flow to the capital of Ukraine in May 2017 has increased by 15-20% compared to May 2016, CEO of Join UP! tour operator Dmytro Seroukhov has told Interfax-Ukraine.

"Compared to May 2016 this year tourist flow to Kyiv grew by 15-20%. A slight increase is explained by the increased accommodation fees in Kyiv hotels this season," he said.

Beinside travel agency told Interfax-Ukraine that the largest flow of foreign tourists to Kyiv was seen during the semi-final and the final of the Eurovision 2017 song contest.

The company said that Kyiv hotels in advance increased the room prices. In some of them growth was 10-15%.

"On average one tourist in Kyiv spent from EUR 100 a day. The sum includes accommodation, food, sight-seeing tours, purchase of souvenirs and other things," Beinside said.

According to the company, most of foreign tourists who arrived to the song contest preferred accommodating in the hotels located close to the place where the contest took place – Tourist, Bratislava and Adria hotels. Some of the tourists preferred staying downtown – in Radisson Blu, Ukraine and Khreschatyk hotels.

"Along with the contest, tourists who arrived from the European Union, the United States and even China ordered general sightseeing tours, ballooning and complex restaurant tours where they can learn about Ukrainian cuisine," Beinside said.

The company said that due to bad weather tourists failed to balloon or paraglide. ■

IKEA INTERESTED IN UKRAINIAN MARKET



The Swedish furniture and home goods chain IKEA could enter the Ukrainian market, the head of PrJSC Mandarin Plaza's board, Oleksandr Chernytsky, has said.

According to him, IKEA is considering the possibility of becoming a tenant in one of the country's largest sales and amusement centers, Yuzhny, with an area of 450,000 square meters. Construction of the facility is planned to begin at the end of 2017 at 9 Hlushkova Street in Kyiv's Holosiyivsky district.

"IKEA is also looking in our direction. The probability they will come here is high," Chernytsky said, adding that renters of space at the trade center will include other well-known international operators, "whom Ukraine has long been waiting for," he said.

Businessman Vahif Aliev, according to Chernytsky, has purchased rights to a land plot with the Liodovy [Ice Skating Rink] Stadium at 9 Hlushkova Street in Holosiyivsky district for construction of Ukraine's largest shopping mall and sports complex.

The Liodovy Stadium, which was Ukraine's first outdoor sports complex with skating tracks, was built in 1975. Aliev is an investor and owner in a number of Kyiv shopping malls, such as Lavina Mall, Blockbuster Mall and Ocean Mall. PrJSC Mandarin Plaza was created in 2000. It develops, builds and manages shopping and office complexes. According to the national state register, the sole stakeholder of the enterprise is limited stock company Stadis AB (100% Malmo, Sweden). Aliev is listed as the ultimate beneficiary. Mandarin Plaza's charter capital as of May 29, 2017, was UAH 21.7 million. ■

KYIV CITY SIGNS MEMO ON BUILDING FOURTH SUBWAY LINE WITH CHINESE CONSORTIUM



Kyiv City Administration has signed a memorandum of cooperation with a Chinese consortium, consisting of China Railway International Group and China Pacific Construction Group, for the implementation of a project to build the fourth subway line in the city.

According to a posting on the administration's website, Deputy Head of Kyiv City Administration Mykola Povoroznik signed the document during a visit of a Ukrainian delegation to China. The delegation took part in the dialog at the high level at the One Belt, One Road forum.

Povoroznik said that under the memo the Chinese consortium having large experience in building infrastructure projects is a managing partner of the project to build the fourth subway line in Kyiv. The consortium intends to analyze the current state of the project implementation.

"Specialists from China would study the current state of the implementation of the project on construction of the fourth subway line in Kyiv. They would consider technical details, the volume of financing and the legal way thanks to which the project will be completed. The study would also include the assessment of legal and financial viability of the project, including the feasibility study and the estimated spending," he said.

According to the memo, the consortium of Chinese company could act as contractor operating under the Engineering, Procurement, Construction (EPC) conditions and implement projects using the EPC+F (EPC plus financing) model. ■

BIOFARM INVESTS SOME UAH 100 MLN TO LAUNCH VETERINARY DRUG PLANT IN KHARKIV REGION

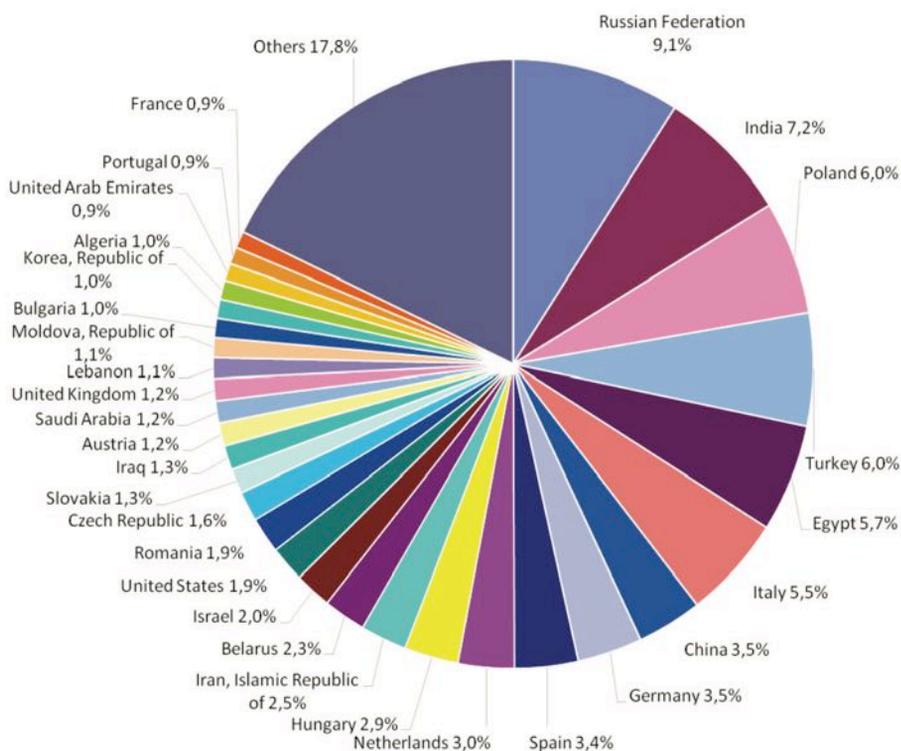
Biofarm (Kharkiv region) has opened a veterinary drug and feed supplement plant, investing around UAH 100 million in it during three years.

According to a company press release, the new plant in Kharkiv region would allow increasing the quality of products and expand markets.

The company seeks to quadruple production, exports of veterinary drugs and feed supplements, as new markets have been opened, including the European Union, Turkey, African countries, the United Arab Emirates and other countries.

Biofarm was founded in 1995 as the enterprise designing and producing pharmaceutical medicines. ■

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



FUHLANDER WINDTECHNOLOGY STARTS PRODUCING 3.2 MW WIND TURBINES



Fuhrländer Windtechnology LLC (Kramatorsk, Donetsk region) has started producing 3.2 MW wind turbines, the company has reported on its website.

“Fuhrländer Windtechnology has made the first 3.2 MW wind turbine in Ukraine. It will be sent to Prychornomorsky wind farm located in Mykolaiv region. Earlier the enterprise produced and supplied several 2.5 MW wind turbines for the farm,” the company said.

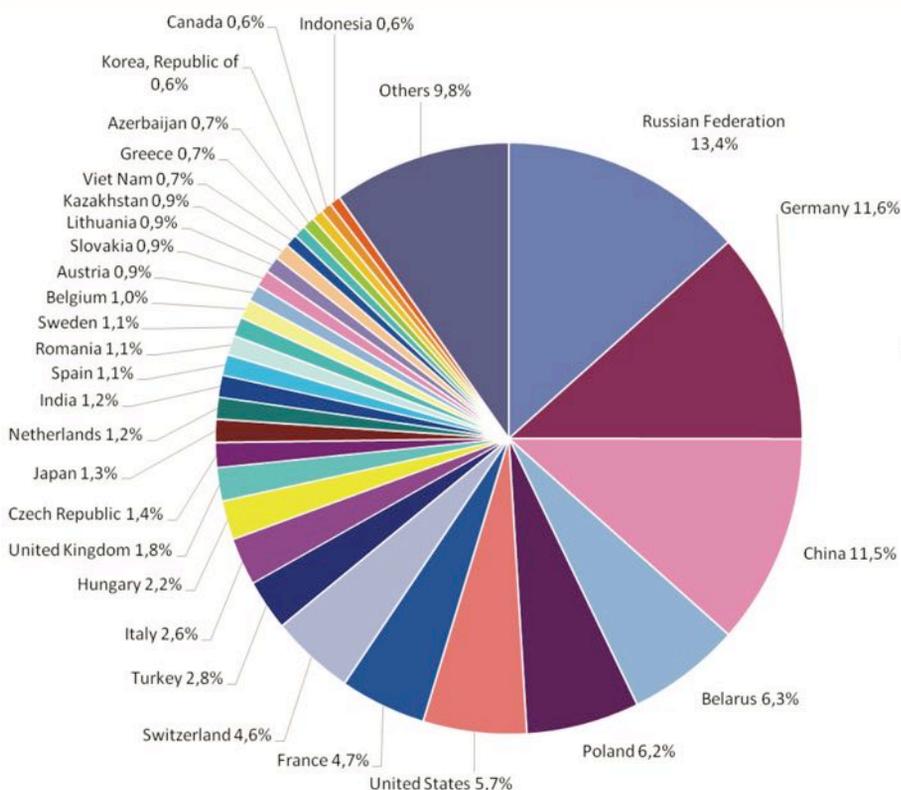
Fuhrländer said that production of over 50% of wind turbines is localized in Ukraine. Kramatorsk enterprises Energomashspetsstal, KZTS and NKMZ are involved in the production cycle.

Fuhrländer Windtechnology is the only Ukrainian producer of modern wind turbines. It is engaged in construction of wind farms. The company produces turbines at the production facilities of KZTS.

Since 2010 Fuhrländer Windtechnology has built (using its own equipment) seven wind farms in Ukraine and one wind farm in Kazakhstan.

Beneficiaries of Fuhrländer Windtechnology LLC are the co-owner of ISD Corporation Oleh Mkrtychan and MP Maksym Yefymov (Petro Poroshenko Bloc).

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



MELLANOX TECHNOLOGIES TELECOMS EQUIPMENT MAKER OPENS R&D CENTER IN KYIV



Mellanox Technologies, one of the leaders of the world market of technological solutions for data processing centers, will soon open its R&D center in Coworking Platforma Leonardo in Kyiv, the press service of the coworking platform has said.

“This is a great event for Coworking Platforma Leonardo, but it is also a unique opportunity for Ukraine as a whole. Mellanox is the world leader in technological innovation and I’m sure it will inspire the community of our coworking! I’m sure the appearance of such a company as Mellanox in the Ukrainian market will make Ukraine more visible on the international map of IT industry,” Coworking Platforma co-founder and CEO Refael Yucha said.

The press service of the coworking platform said it is planned the R&D center will employ about 100 people in near future. The amount of investments has not been disclosed.

Mellanox Technologies is a manufacturer of technology solutions for data processing centers: switches, Infini-Band and Ethernet network adapters, cables and software. The company’s offices are located in Sunnyvale, California (the United States) and Yokneam (Israel). ■

RADA INDUSTRIAL POLICY COMMITTEE’S HEAD SPEAKS OUT FOR AD HOC GROUP TO ANALYZE INTERNATIONAL DRUGS PROCUREMENTS

An ad hoc group should be created at the Verkhovna Rada to analyze disputes that emerge during medicine procurements by international organizations at the expense of budget funds, MP of the Radical Party Viktor Halasiuk has said.

“At least an inter-committee working group should be set up [in parliament] to thoroughly analyze such cases. Perhaps, it is worth creating a temporary commission of inquiry in parliament to properly address these issues,” he told reporters in Kyiv on Monday, commenting on a UNDP tender for the purchase of hemophilia drugs when a foreign manufacturer whose bid was higher than that of the Ukrainian pharmaceutical manufacturer Biofarma was named the winner.

“I’m waiting for an official response from Acting Health Minister Ulana Suprun and I hope this situation will end not only the cancellation of the tender and the organization of a new transparent and fair tender where the best bid will win, but there will be appropriate assessment of actions by UNDP officials involved in this procurement,” he said.

Halasiuk stressed that as a result of the tender, the losses of the Ukrainian budget amounted to about UAH 15 million, which could be additionally allocated for the purchase of medicines.

“By such tenders, Ukraine is in fact destroying domestic production with its own hands, as it is not a matter of choosing between an average Ukrainian intermediary company and a big foreign producer, but about choosing between two producers.” The Ukrainian manufacturers have invested \$50 million in this enterprise, created 500 jobs and ensures UAH 100 million in tax payment every year,” he said.

Halasiuk noted that only 12 countries have factories that produce human blood coagulation factors. What is more, the products of this Ukrainian enterprise meet all world requirements and standards.

“I have a question as head of the parliamentary committee for industrial policy and entrepreneurship and deputy head of the Radical Party: Why should the domestic producer lose if it offers a more favorable price. Who benefits from this?” he wondered.

As of May, only 17% of drugs had been supplied by international organizations with the use of budget funds of 2016, Halasiuk said. ■

URBAN EXPERTS WILL DEVELOP PROJECT OF UKRAINE’S LARGEST TRADE CENTER

Urban Experts & Leslie Jones Architecture (Kyiv) will act as a general designer of the largest trade and entertainment center in Ukraine with an area of 450,000 square meters.

According to the company’s press service, the trade center will be located in Holosiyevsky district of Kyiv and will become one of the largest shopping centers in Europe.

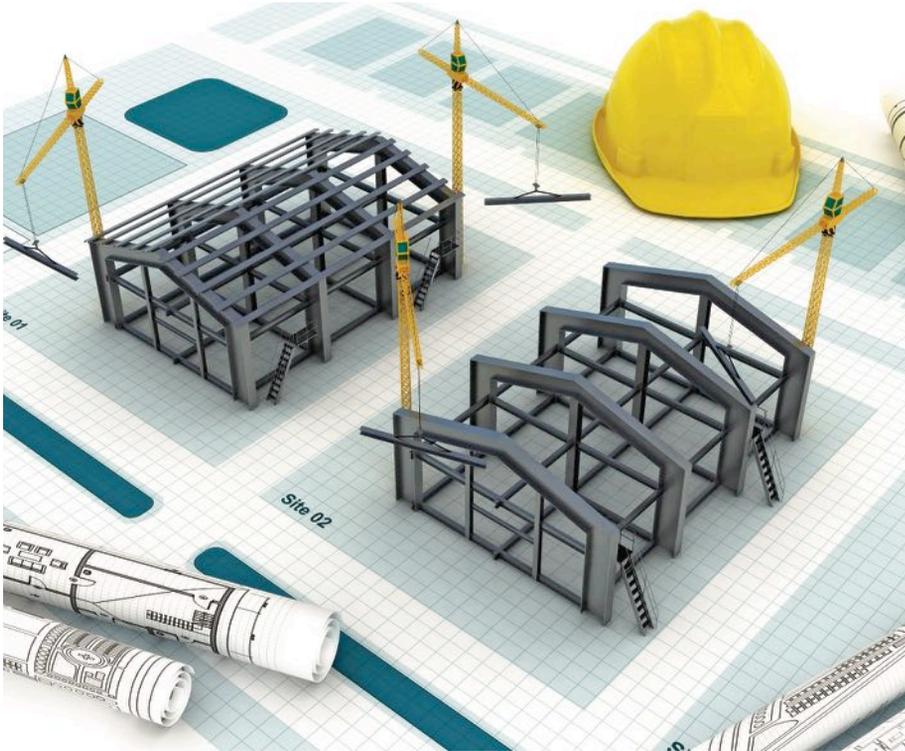
“The architects of Urban Experts & Leslie Jones Architecture will perform a full-stage design of the shopping center on the basis of the concept developed by the partner consulting company NAI Ukraine,” the report said.

Urban Experts was founded in March 2016 by the former managing partner of Ukrainian Trade Guild (UTG, Kyiv), Vitaliy Boiko.

The company is the exclusive partner of Leslie Jones Architecture international architectural bureau in Ukraine. It provides architectural services of the world level in all segments of real estate in Ukraine, Eastern Europe, the CIS, and the Baltic states.

Urban Experts cooperates with the leaders of the Ukrainian real estate market, including UDP, KAN Development, Mandarin Plaza, Kyivmiskbud, Bank Arkada, Argo Real Estate Fund and others. ■

UDP DEVELOPER, LVIV STANDARD BUD LLC TO BUILD LVIVTECH.CITY INNOVATION PARK IN LVIV



K yiv-based Ukrainian Development Partners (UDP) jointly with Lviv StandardBud LLC (Lviv) are implementing a project on construction of the LvivTech.City innovation park in Lviv, UDP said in a press release on Wednesday. According to the report, UDP buys 25% of the charter capital of Lviv StandardBud LLC to participate in the project. The sides have arranged that the agreement will be signed by late June 2017.

LvivTech.City will be located on a land parcel of 1.77 ha on the territory of the industrial zone of former Lvivprylad plant. The project would allow creating new jobs and open the territory of the closed enterprise for society.

Potential residents of the innovation park will be high-tech companies operating in IT, energy saving, bio technologies and other spheres, businessmen and startups, research centers, incubators and accelerators, educational initiatives in the technologies and design area.

“It is planned to create modern eco-system stimulating to develop for high-tech companies in the innovation park. The project envisages the creation of the complex infrastructure using the “live-work-study-relax” principle: business (class A offices, conference centers), technological (all the required communications) and social (educational and recreation centers, medical centers, dwelling, stores and other buildings),” the company said in the press release.

According to the report, the gross area of the office sector of the LvivTech.City will be over 40,000 square meters. The park would have parking zones, green zone and territories for recreation. In addition, the project will be implemented meeting the LEED green building standards.

The completion of the first stage of the LvivTech.City is scheduled for H2 2018.

“This is a social project for our company, as its approximate payback period is over 15 years. We have decided to take part in it, as we believe that this is a strategic investment. The future of Ukraine is development of advanced technologies. Lviv has a large potential in the area. The favorable conditions are required for development. They could be created in the innovation parks. We are glad to use own knowledge and experience to build a modern European innovation park in Lviv,” the company said, citing Ukrainian businessman, founder of K.Fund and a majority shareholder in UDP Vasyl Khmelnytsky.

Ukrainian Development Partners (UDP) was founded in 2002 as a managing company to consolidate assets and operations in the field of real estate. ■

CABINET TO HOLD TENDER, ENSURE 4G INTRODUCTION IN UKRAINE IN 2017



T he Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine intends to hold a tender and ensure introduction of 4G communications technology in Ukraine in 2017.

The relevant provisions are available in the presentation of a draft plan of measures for digital development in Ukraine in 2017, which Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman posted on his Facebook page.

The draft plan says it is planned by the end of the fourth quarter to introduce the 4G mobile communications technology in Ukraine, ensuring the holding of a tender for distribution of radio frequency resources for 4G in the bands of 188 MHz and 2,600 MHz.

It is also planned by the end of 2017 with the participation of representatives of providers to develop a plan of measures for the development and use of broadband Internet access, taking into account the overcoming of digital inequality, creation of special funds and mechanisms for overcoming it and stimulation of public-private partnership in this area.

It is proposed by the end of the third quarter to develop a plan of measures to stimulate and support the introduction of the blockchain technology in the public sector and the basic sectors of industry in Ukraine. ■

FIRST AIRCRAFT ENGINE ASSEMBLED IN CHINA USING MOTOR SICH TECHNOLOGY COULD BE SHOWN BY LATE 2017 – KUBIV



The first aircraft engine assembled in China under Ukrainian technologies within the framework of strategic partnership between PJSC Motor Sich (Zaporizhia) and China's Beijing Skyrizon Aviation Industry Investment Co. Ltd. could be demonstrated by late 2017, Ukraine's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economic Development and Trade Stepan Kubiv has said.

During a briefing held in Kyiv and dedicated to the results of a recent visit of the Ukrainian delegation to China to participate in a high-level dialogue within the framework of the "One Belt. One Road" forum, the deputy premier highlighted the agreements achieved on Ukrainian-Chinese cooperation in the aircraft engine industry, saying the creation of aircraft engines production in Chongqing under Ukrainian technologies is "one of the priorities of the government."

"Skyrizon and Motor Sich will create a joint venture for production of aircraft engines using Ukrainian technologies in China's Chongqing. We want in 2017 to show the first engine that will be assembled at this plant," Kubiv said.

He also welcomed the plans of the Chinese side envisaged by the cooperation program to invest \$250 million in the modernization of Motor Sich, noting that the implementation of the program of Ukrainian-Chinese strategic cooperation in the field of aircraft engine building will strengthen the positions and influence of the Ukrainian aviation industry in the world market. ■

UKRAINE SOWS 6.8 MLN HA WITH SPRING CROPS, 5.1 MLN HA WITH SUNFLOWER

Ukraine as of May 19 had sowed grains and leguminous crops on 6.8 million hectares, or 94% of the forecast.

According to the Ministry of Agricultural Policy and Food, spring wheat was sown on 172,000 hectares (or 97% of the plan), spring barley on 1.56 million hectares (95%), oats on 197,000 hectares (95%), peas on 382,000 hectares (116%), and corn on 4.2 million hectares (94%).

Sugar beets were sown on 309,000 hectares (106%), sunflower on 5.1 million hectares (95%), and soybeans on 1.7 million hectares (88%).

The ministry noted the condition of grains and industrial crops is predominantly good and satisfactory.

As reported, with reference to the ministry, the area under spring crops will amount to 7.2 million hectares in 2017, including 2.4 million hectares under early crops. ■

MYKOLAIV MUST KEEP SHIP BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGICAL POTENTIAL



Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine deputy Serhiy Taruta is sure of the necessity to preserve the ship building potential of Mykolaiv and criticized the recommendation of Mykolaiv's mayor to tear down the building housing the state enterprise Shipyard named after 61 Communards, the Osnova Party press service has said.

"It's important to create a good business climate in order for real investors to come. But without the assistance of the authorities this will not happen. City managers probably think that it's easier to tear down a shipbuilding factory than to build a trade pavilion in its place. It is easier than to look for possibilities for preserving the highly technological infrastructure," Taruta said during the party's tour in Mykolaiv.

"This approach has no future. This is why the city needs a managerial approach, a strategic and an industry specific investor. I use all these possibilities in order to solve problems," he said.

Osnova Party head Andriy Nikolayenko said, "Mykolaiv is a very strong region with a good technical school. It needs a serious investment stimulus. A reshuffle of municipal chiefs would help."

Taruta emphasized the importance of taking measured and intelligent decisions by city authorities, especially now, because the production infrastructure of the city is being replaced by provision of port services. ■

UKRAINIAN PM CALLS ON ISRAEL TO EASE UKRAINIAN FARMERS' ACCESS TO ITS MARKET



Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman has called on Israel to ease Ukrainian farm produce access to its market.

This issue was on the agenda of Groysman's meeting with Israel's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Uri Ariel during his official visit to Israel, the Ukrainian Cabinet's press service reported.

"Volodymyr Groysman urged Israel to further consider the possibility of liberalizing access of Ukrainian agricultural products to the Israeli market as part of talks on a free trade area agreement whose signing is planned before the end of this year," the press service said.

The agricultural sector is an important element of trade between Ukraine and Israel, and therefore lowering trade barriers and increasing quotas for Ukrainian farm produce are important and necessary, and special attention should be given to resumption of Ukrainian eggs exports onto the Israeli market, it said.

Groysman says Ukraine expects an increase in Israeli investment and seeks new technologies for its agricultural production.

"Ukraine is an agrarian country with great potential, Israel has information solutions for efficiency of agricultural production – these are precisely the opportunities we could use to be useful to each other," the prime minister said.

Minister Ariel assured that Israel is interested in strengthening ties with Ukraine in producing farm produce, namely meat and eggs, as well as in setting up large-scale dairy production in Ukraine.

He also invited the Ukrainian agriculture minister and businessmen to visit Israel in the near future. ■

CONSUMERS-SKLO-ZORYA INVESTS EUR12 MLN IN MODERNIZATION OF GLASS EURO BOTTLE PRODUCTION

Investments in the modernization of production of glass euro bottles by PJSC Consumers-Sklo-Zorya (Rivne region), one of the largest glass container manufacturers in Ukraine – Verallia, amounted to EUR12 million. "French investors have modernized the production of glass euro bottles at Consumers-Sklo-Zorya for EUR12 million," Head of Rivne Regional State Administration Oleksiy Mu-liarenko told the Uriadovy Kurier newspaper.

According to information on the company's website, investments were made in 2016. In particular, more than EUR10 million was spent on the installation of new equipment in furnace No. 2, which specializes in production of extra flint glass.

"The complete modernization of the three production lines will strengthen Verallia's position in the market of small and medium-sized producers. The new equipment will strengthen partnership with many customers who have been users of transparent glass packaging for many years," the company website said. ■

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.

The Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Representative Office in the EU:

168 Avenue de Cortenbergh, 3rd floor, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

T/F: +32 (0) 2 736 72 13

uspp.ua/en

The Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs

Head Office:

34 Khreshchtyk Street, Kyiv 01001, Ukraine

Tel: +380 (44) 278 30 69

Fax: +380 (44) 226 31 52

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Maksim Urakin is a project director of the Biweekly news digest of the Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs