



UKRAINE
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Ukrainian authorities allow privatization of Naftogaz, Ukrzaliznytsia, Ukrposhta

The Cabinet of Ministers on Wednesday intends to consider a bill on the list of 188 companies prohibited from privatization, according to the agenda of the government meeting. According to the text of the bill, the government allows the privatization of up to 50% of the shares of Naftogaz, Ukrzaliznytsia and Ukrposhta, but proposes to retain the state's 100% share of corporate rights in National Nuclear Generating Company Energoatom, PrJSC Ukrhydroenergo, NEC Ukrenergo, Skhidny Ore Mining and Processing Plant (VostGOK), and Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority (USPA).

It is also proposed to include the SE Market Operator and the SE Guaranteed Buyer, created by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2019 in order to ensure the operation of the new electricity market, in the list of objects completely prohibited for privatization. In addition, it is proposed to include in the specified list the state-owned enterprise Document, Ukraina Printing Plant for the production of securities, Kyiv offset factory, and Pivdenne (Yuzhne) Design Bureau.



HEADLINES



UKRAINIAN PRODUCER ANNOUNCES DEVELOPMENT OF PCR TESTS FOR CORONAVIRUS



UKRAINIAN GROUP RDS INVESTS UAH 75 MLN IN KHERSON REGION



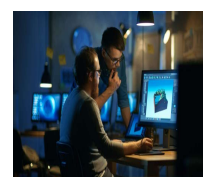
UKRAVTODOR TO START CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BYPASS ROAD AROUND KYIV



GEZHOUBA GROUP SHOWS INTEREST IN INVESTING INTO UKRAINIAN POWER SECTOR



DEMAND FOR NEW PASSENGER CARS IN UKRAINE GROWS BY 10%



SWEDISH COMPANY ACQUIRES COMPUTER GAME DEVELOPMENT COMPANY FROM UKRAINE

Citizens of Ukraine can visit 42 countries

Citizens of Ukraine can visit 42 world countries amid coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic without any conditions or if certain requirements are met, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has said.

"There were 38 such countries last week. During this time, their number has increased by four countries," Kuleba said at an online briefing.

In particular, according to the minister, Armenia has joined this list, where it is possible to arrive subject to 14 days of self-isolation. The list also includes three other less popular countries among Ukrainians: Burkina Faso, Togo (Republique Togolaise) and Chad.

As reported, earlier Kuleba named 38 countries where Ukrainians can enter: Turkey, Serbia, Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Belarus, Great Britain, USA, Mexico, Egypt, Tunisia, Republic of Korea, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, Burundi, Seychelles, Bahamas and Lebanon, Bulgaria, Slovenia, United Arab Emirates, Ireland, Maldives, Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador, Jamaica, Cambodia, Comoros, Pakistan, Puerto Rico and Saint Lucia.



President signs law on legalization of gambling in Ukraine

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky has signed Verkhovna Rada's bill No. 2285-d on state regulation on organizing and conducting the gambling activity.

The Ukrainian parliament said on its website that the bill was returned with the signature of the head of state on August 11.



New industrial parks will be registered in Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine

Two new industrial parks are to be opened in Dnipropetrovsk region, Head of Dnipropetrovsk Regional Administration Oleksandr Bondarenko has told the Interfax-Ukraine agency.



“We have three potential sites. Preliminary agreements have already been reached upon one of them. There is an estimate of the cost of lacking utilities and a fully developed algorithm for opening and registering an industrial park. We know what type of business to invite to enter these sites. There is a list of 15-20 companies that are interested in launching production processes,” Bondarenko said.

A managing company will be identified in the near future, ensuring the project launch and ongoing management. According to the head of the regional state administration, the technological cluster previously opened in Pavlohrad (Dnipropetrovsk region) has not yet been filled with production facilities, hence it is difficult to attract business to the park.

“When visited, it turned out that there were no proper utilities. It is difficult to attract business to launch production in the technological park, which is not connected to water, electricity, and sanitation services. The platform should be ready to host the business. It is one of the key functions of the technological park,” Bondarenko said.

Ukrainian producer announces development of PCR tests for coronavirus

Kyiv-based Biocor Technology LTD, a Ukrainian producer of test systems, has announced the development of PCR tests for coronavirus (COVID-19).



“At the beginning of July 2020, the diagnostics test kits for SARS-CoV-2 underwent state registration. Laboratories have started using the development. The price of the tests for SARS-CoV-2 is three times lower than the products of western producers,” the company said on a press release.

The tests are made of raw materials produced by Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Biocor Technology LTD will focus on the production and improvement of the product and will sell it through distributors, the company head, Oleksiy Sayutin, said.

The company has been developing PCR tests since 2018. It started to work on the tests for SARS-CoV-2 in February 2020.

Biocor Technology LTD produces various PCR tests. It is certified in line with international standards ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 13485:2016.

According to the state register, the founder and the beneficiary of the company is Maryna Byrsia.



Ukrainian group RDS invests UAH 75 mln in Kherson region

The Ukrainian group of companies RDS, as part of repair work on the section of M-14 highway in Kherson region, acquired Kredmash DS-16837 asphalt concrete plant for UAH 25 million and invested about UAH 50 million in a production base located in Nova Kakhovka of Kherson region, co-founder of the company Yuriy Shumakher has told Interfax-Ukraine.



“The total amount of our investments in the purchase of the asphalt concrete plant and in the production base was about UAH 75 million. We are expanding our presence in Kherson region, for this we are investing in a base in Kherson region,” co-founder of the company Yuriy Shumakher said.

The expert clarified that the new asphalt concrete plant will start work in a week, which will allow the work to be carried out systematically and meet the stated terms of local construction projects.

The productivity of Kredmash DS-16837 plant is up to 160 tonnes of asphalt concrete per hour. It consists of a high-power asphalt mixing facility, a feeding unit, bunkers for a mineral powder unit, four bitumen tanks of 30 cubic meters each and a ready-mix unit (100 tonnes).

RDS Group is one of the top three road building companies in Ukraine, including Kyivshliakhbud and Rostdorstroy. Its core business is construction, reconstruction and maintenance of highways and bridges, construction of airfield complexes.



Ukravtodor to start construction of new bypass road around Kyiv

The State Agency of Automobile Roads of Ukraine (Ukravtodor) in 2020 intends to start designing a new bypass road around Kyiv, and in 2021 its construction. This is stated in the presentation of Ukravtodor, published on the agency's Telegram channel.



According to Ukravtodor, it is planned to complete the construction of the Kyiv bypass road in five to six years, subject to stable funding.

According to the published data, the project provides for the construction of a “half-ring” with a total length of about 150 km, which will connect five international routes. It is planned that the road will consist of six sections and will connect the following roads: M-07 Kyiv-Kovel, M-06 Kyiv-Chop, M-05 Kyiv-Odesa, H-01 Kyiv-Znamyanka, H-08 Boryspil-Mariupol, M- 03 Kyiv-Kharkiv and M-01 Kyiv-Chernihiv.

According to preliminary calculations, peak traffic on certain sections of the road will be more than 70,000 cars per day, and the total traffic will exceed 300,000. In addition, within the framework of the project, it is planned to build a 5.9 km bridge with approaches across the Dnipro River.

The estimated cost of the project is UAH 85 billion.

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European investment bank could issue EUR 100 mln loan to state-run Ukravtodor

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is considering the possibility of providing the State Agency of Automobile Roads of Ukraine (Ukravtodor) with EUR 100 million in a loan for the development of roads in Luhansk region.

"The investment loan would support investment in the reconstruction of regional roads T-13 and R-66 in Luhansk region, therefore improving regional connectivity and strengthening the agricultural value chain due to improvements in the associated road infrastructure. The road investment will improve the regional road network with the objective of improving the quality of the road, creating safer road conditions and reducing environmental pollution through improved traffic flow," the bank's website said.

According to data released by the EIB, the total cost of reconstruction of these roads is EUR160 million.

As reported, Ukravtodor completed the repair of the section of road N-26 Chuhuyiv-Milove (Luhansk region) within the framework of the Big Construction project.



Son of Ukrainian Motor Sich's president Bohuslayev buys island in Italy

The son of Motor Sich's Honorary President Oleksandr Bohuslayev has bought the Gallinara Island in the Ligurian Sea near the Italian Riviera from several owners for more than EUR 10 million. According to the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera's website, the deal on the acquisition was concluded by the Galinette company from Monaco, belonging to a 42-year-old native of Zaporizhia with Grenada citizenship, Oleksandr Bohuslayev, allegedly the son of PJSC Motor Sich's honorars worldwide.

Miroplast from Ukraine plans to invest in modernization

The Miroplast plant (Dnipro), part of the Alef corporation of businessman Vadym Yermolaev and one of the largest producers of PVC window profiles in Eastern Europe, is investing more than UAH 60 million in the modernization of production facilities, planning to upgrade its facilities by the end of 2020.

"As a result, the number of extruders will increase to 31, the monthly production capacity will grow up to 5,870 tonnes of PVC profiles, and the maximum annual capacity will be 70,440 tonnes, which is 30% more than in 2019," Yermolaev said on his Facebook page.

He said that part of the investments will be committed to modernizing warehouse equipment and improving warehouse logistics in general.

According to information on the company's website, from 2012 to 2018, the number of extruders increased from 27 to 29, and the maximum monthly capacity – from 4,000 tonnes to 4,500 tonnes.

Gezhouba Group shows interest in investing into Ukrainian power sector

China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC), the Chinese company specializing in the construction of hydropower facilities, has shown substantial investment interests in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Embassy in China said following a meeting of Ambassador Serhiy Kamyshev and CGGC Chairman Lyu Zexiang.



"In order to successfully implement mutual interests, the CGGC leadership was provided with the embassy's recommendations on interaction with interested authorities in Ukraine, and expressed readiness to provide diplomatic support to relevant investment projects," the embassy said on its Facebook page.

The embassy said that the Chinese state-owned company has been operating since 1970, specializing in the construction of hydropower facilities in China and outside the country. Its calling card is the construction of the world's biggest Three Gorges Dam in Hubei province. Today, the company is a participant in similar projects all over the world, carrying out their construction and co-financing. The Ukrainian office of the company operates in Kyiv.



Ukraine to offer Germany pilot projects to develop hydrogen technologies in Ukraine

Acting Energy Minister Olha Buslavets intends to sign in Germany a memorandum on a new energy partnership, providing for the development of hydrogen technologies in Ukraine, said chairman of the Ukrainian Hydrogen Council Association Oleksandr Repkin.

"On August 25-27, head of the Ministry of Energy Olha Buslavets will visit Germany, where it is planned to sign a memorandum on a new energy partnership, of which hydrogen energy is a part. Ukraine is going there to propose certain pilot projects with a scale of 100 MW, similar to the project being implemented in Morocco – a solar-hydrogen plant with a capacity of 100 MW," Repkin said during an online discussion on the prospects for the development of hydrogen energy in Ukraine, organized by the energy committee of the Ukrainian Venture Capital Association.

He said Germany considered that it would not have enough of its own resources for the production of renewable hydrogen, therefore it considers Ukraine as a partner for obtaining this resource.

"We are starting concrete steps to keep up with the EU countries," Repkin said.



Donbasenergo increases payments to budget by 1.8 times



PJSC Donbasenergo in July 2020 transferred UAH 68.4 million of taxes and other mandatory payments to the state and local budgets, which is almost 1.8 times more than in July 2019 (UAH 38.3 million).

According to the press release of the company, UAH 59.6 million (VAT and other state taxes) were transferred to the state budget and UAH 0.2 million to the local budget of Donetsk region.

The company has also paid UAH 8.6 million of excise duty, which is 3.2% for every UAH 1 per kWh of generated electricity.

Donbasenergo owns the Starobesheve Thermal Power Plant (TPP, located in the occupied territory) and Sloviansk TPP with their total installed capacity of 2,880 MW, including the capacity of Sloviansk TPP – 880 MW. At the end of March 2017, the general company announced the loss of control over the operation of Starobesheve TPP, as well as part of the structural units located in a temporarily occupied territory.

PJSC Energoinvest Holding owns 60.86% of Donbasenergo shares, another 25% of the general company is owned by the state. Currently, the company is controlled by Maksym Efimov.

Demand for new passenger cars in Ukraine grows by 10%

Primary registrations of new passenger cars in Ukraine in July this year increased 10% compared to July 2019, to 8,400 cars, the Ukrautoprom association has reported.

At the same time, in comparison with June of this year, the demand for cars grew by 15%, with May – by 40%.

The Renault brand retained its leadership position in July, increasing sales by 20%, to 1,440 cars. Toyota was second with an increase in registrations by 10%, to 1,147 cars, and Skoda was third, as in July 2019, with 457 cars sold (one third less than a year earlier).

Hyundai was at the fourth place (in July 2019 sixth position) with a 6% decrease in registrations, to 442 cars, and KIA was fifth with 429 cars sold (a fall of 28%).

The top 10 of the July market included: Volkswagen with 361 cars (a rise of 7%); Peugeot with 352 cars (a rise of 113% and seventh place compared with the 12th position in July 2019); Suzuki with 351 cars (a rise of 36%); Nissan with 332 cars (a fall of 32%); and Mazda with 279 cars (a rise of 20%).



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Ukrainian Smart Holding and Chinese CRCC plan to cooperate in infrastructure projects

Representatives of the top management of the industrial and investment group of PrJSC Smart Holding (Kyiv) and China Railway Construction Corporation Ltd. (China) discussed the opportunities of cooperation and implementation of common investment projects in transport infrastructure and logistics.

According to the company's press release on Friday, during the meeting, the Chinese side was presented an investment project for the development of an industrial park based on a logistics hub managed by LLC Naval Park in Mykolaiv, as well as a development project for existing sea port of Ochakiv, including dredging and construction of new infrastructure.

The Chinese side has expressed interest in the projects and will continue to study them in detail. The parties agreed to continue the dialogue and organization of visits to the relevant facilities.

Director General Oleksiy Pertin, First Deputy Director General Yulia Kiryanova, other representatives of top management of Smart Holding, participated from the company's side. Executive Director of the subsidiary of CRCC – CRCC14 Overseas Construction and Development Co Ltd Li Junqiang and Deputy General Manager of China Railway 14th Bureau Group Wang Chuang took part in the discussion from the Chinese side.

Commercial sea port Ochakiv is located on the Dnipro-Buh estuary in Mykolaiv region on the north-eastern outskirts of Ochakiv. At present, it has facilities for transshipment of goods in the amount of over 500,000 tonnes per year. The port has five berths with depths of up to 7.35 meters. As part of the investment project, it is planned to create one of the deep-water estuary ports on the Black Sea based on the existing small port. It is planned to construct coal and grain terminals in the port, as well as a terminal for transshipment of iron ore raw materials. It is planned also to deepen the port water area to 15-18 meters, as well as to lay 70 kilometers of an underwater railway line.



Share of cashless payments in Ukraine grows by 5.7 pp in H1

The share of cashless payments in Ukraine in January-June 2020 increased by 5.7 percentage points, to 55.1%, and the total number of cashless transactions rose by 4.1 percentage points, to 86.1% (3.36 billion) year-over-year, according to the website of the National Bank Ukraine (NBU).

According to the NBU, the total number of transactions (non-cash and cash withdrawals) using payment cards issued by Ukrainian banks in H1 2020 increased 16.6% (year-over-year), to 2.743 billion, and their amount – by 7% (year-over-year), to UAH 1.784 trillion.

At the same time, in H1 2020, the number of cash withdrawal operations decreased 12%, and the amount – by 5.0% (year-over-year), according to the NBU data.



"In January-June 2020, as before, the largest number of transactions using cards were payments in retail chains – 49.5%, transfers from card to card dominated in terms of amount – 42.3% (the average check of one such operation was UAH 1,420)," the press service said.

According to the report, as of July 1, 2020, the number of payment cards in Ukraine amounted to 71.7 million, which is 4.9% more than at the beginning of the year.

During June, 36.4 million payment cards (50.7% of all payment cards) were used for debit transactions (non-cash and cash withdrawals), a third of them (33.9%) were contactless and tokenized cards.

UNIQA increase insurance payments by 25% in Ukraine

UNIQA and UNIQA Life insurers (Kyiv), members of the non-bank financial group UNIQA Ukraine, paid UAH 82.1 million of insurance claim fees in July 2020, which is 25% more than the amount of payments for June this year, according to a press release from UNIQA.

It is noted that under auto insurance contracts, the total amount of insurance payments in July amounted to UAH 37.4 million (46% of the total payments), of which payments for KASKO amounted to UAH 29.5 million, on OSAGO and DSAGO some UAH 7.9 million.

The total amount of payments under voluntary medical insurance contracts in July was UAH 32.7 million. The amount of payments for life insurance totaled UAH 2.8 million.

The largest sum for July was paid for the KASKO risk in the amount of UAH 1.1 million.



Raiffeisen Bank in Ukraine plans send UAH 4.274 bln to pay dividends

Raiffeisen Bank Aval (Kyiv) plans to send UAH 4.274 billion (90% of profit) to pay dividends to holders of ordinary shares based on the results of the financial institution's work in 2019, while in the past year it accrued UAH 3.561 billion, and a year earlier UAH 4.244 billion.

According to the bank's report in the information disclosure system of the National Securities and Stock Market Commission, the relevant issue was included in the agenda of a general remote meeting of shareholders scheduled for September 11.

It is indicated that out of UAH 4.749 billion of net profit for 2019, the bank plans to send UAH 700,000 (0.01%) to pay dividends to holders of preferred shares and UAH 474.1 million (9.98%) to the reserve fund.

Dividends, if approved, will amount to 6.95 kopecks per share, while at present they are quoted on the Ukrainian Exchange at the following rate: purchase at 35.36 kopecks, sale at 35.5 kopecks.

According to the agenda, the shareholders will also consider the appointment of Lukasz Januszewski as head of the supervisory board of Raiffeisen Bank International (RBI), responsible for investment banking and trade, instead of Martin Grull, and Thomas Matejka as a member of the supervisory board instead of Harald Kroeger.

Swedish company acquires computer game development company from Ukraine

Swedish Embracer Group AB Holding ("Embracer"), through its wholly-owned subsidiary Saber Interactive, has entered into an agreement to acquire 100 percent of Kyiv/Malta-based 4A Games Limited ("4A Games") famous for Metro 2033, Metro: Last Light и Metro Exodus games.

The deal amounts to \$45 million, of which \$25 million is paid in cash and \$20 million in shares (50% of which will be unblocked in a year, and another 50% in two years), the Embracer reported on its website.

In addition, 4A Games will receive up to \$35 million (\$15 million in cash and \$20 million in shares) if the publisher's goals are met within five years. The total amount of the deal could be as big as \$80 million.



"Through the acquisition, Saber Interactive onboards a reputable team of over 150 people across two studios in Malta and Ukraine as well as best-in-class internally developed and owned First-Person-Shooter (FPS) technology to the Group," the Embracer says.

At the same time, it is expected that gross sales of 4A Games' games for 2020 will bring about EUR 20 million, and the studio's operating profit will be EUR 12 million.

"Embracer Group and Saber Interactive are the perfect partners for 4A Games and for our next phase of growth.

Together we will continue to build on the Metro franchise and will focus on bringing a multiplayer experience to our fanbase. We look forward to building a new and even more ambitious AAA IP in the near future," the company quoted Dean Sharpe, CEO 4A Games, as saying.



International squash championship to take place in Odessa

Odesa to host Zenit Black Sea Open 2020 international squash championship

The 10th international squash championship Zenit Black Sea Open 2020 will take place at the Sport Life fitness center in Odesa on August 20-23, 2020.

The competition will be held with the aim of strengthening sports and cultural ties between countries and athletes, promotion and development of squash in Ukraine, as well as improvement of junior athletes' skills.

The tournament will be held for four days in eight categories:

Men: PRO, Amateur, M40+ and M45+

Women: PRO, Amateur

Juniors: GU13, BU13



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WELCOME TO THE UKRAINIAN SQUASH PARADISE



Zenit Black Sea Open 2020

10th International SQUASH Championship

20-23
August

UKRAINE, **Odessa**

fitness club "Sport Life"
2, Nebesnoy Sotni Ave.

PARTICIPANTS:

- Men: Pro, Amateur, M40+, M45+
- Women: Pro, Amateur
- Juniors: GU13, BU13

Registration until August 3, 2020

www.zenit-squash.com

The venue address: Odessa, 2 Nebesnoy Sotni (Heavenly Hundred) Avenue.

The tournament will start at 13:00 on August 20.

The final part of the tournament and the awarding ceremony will start at 21:00 on August 23.

Zenit Black Sea Open 2020 is the most well-known and largest international tournament in the history of independent Ukraine. It brings together a large number of participants representing many countries, as well as numerous organizations involved in the preparations for and holding the competition.

The main organizers of the event are the national chain of fitness clubs Sport Life, which is also a fitness partner of the tournament, as well as Dmytro Scherbakov and Maksym Urakin.

Official sponsors are Kronplast, Solaris Agrolux, MaxEvent and FORT&M.

General information partner of the tournament is the Interfax-Ukraine News Agency.

The prizes and gifts will be provided by Li-Ning, Tecnifibre, Reima, GORA Hotel, Sweet Arte, and More Emotions.

The tournament's drinking water supplier is Krayna.

The party partner is M1 Club Hotel.



Zenit Black Sea Open 2020

Myronivsky Hliboproduct to expand in regions

Myronivsky Hliboproduct (MHP) has announced the opening of the fifth store of a new format, Miasomarket (Meat Market), in Cherkasy on August 28, in Kropyvnytsky and Kyiv in September. According to a press release from the company, MHP intends to open about 50 stores throughout Ukraine by the end of the year. New retail outlets are already operating in Kovel, Sumy, Mykolaiv and Dubno.

"The opening of new format stores is in line with MHP's strategy of transforming from a raw material company into a culinary one. Thus, in addition to a wide selection of fresh meat, the stores offer consumers meat in marinades, sausages and other products," MHP said.

The agricultural holding indicated that MHP had received many applications and requests from partners to open stores of a new format throughout Ukraine.

MHP is the largest poultry producer in Ukraine. It is also engaged in production of grain, sunflower oil, meat. MHP supplies the European market with chilled half-carcasses of chickens, which are processed, in particular, at its factories in the Netherlands and Slovakia.



Ukraine exports 3.2 mln tonnes of grains and legumes since start of new MY

Ukraine since the beginning of the new 2020/2021 marketing year (MY, July-June) and as of August 7, 2020 had exported 3.24 million tonnes of grains and legumes, which is 1.2 million tonnes less than on this date in the past MY.



According to the information and analytical portal of the Ukrainian agro-industrial complex, 1.67 million tonnes of wheat, 1.07 million tonnes of barley and 498,000 tonnes of corn have been exported to date.



As reported, Ukraine exported a record 57.2 million tonnes of grain, legumes and flour in the 2019/2020 MY, which is 13.5% more than in the previous MY.

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