



SUPPLEMENT
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BELARUSIAN, RUSSIAN WEATHER SERVICES TO MONITOR ENVIRONMENTAL RADIATION

Belarusian and Russian weather services will monitor the environmental radiation status together, BelTA learned from Maria Germenchuk, First Deputy Head of the National Hydrometeorology Center of Belarus, on 20 August.

According to the official, the efforts will be organized in compliance with the program for developing the Union State hydrometeorology security system. The relevant document has been approved by the Belarusian and Russian ministries concerned and has been forwarded for consideration of the Council of Ministers of the Union State of Belarus and Russia.

According to the source, participants of the program will dedicate a large part of their work to monitoring the environmental radiation status. "Monitoring radiation near the Belarusian nuclear power plant construction site is one of the most important tasks assigned to the Belarusian weather service. We don't have sufficient experience for



now but our Russian counterparts do," noted the specialist. In her words, neighboring countries – Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland – are expected to take part in the radiation monitoring effort. Radiation monitoring in this region is becoming extremely important for the sake of securing stability in the region, stressed Maria Germenchuk.

New technologies will be assimilated and satellite data will be used as part of the implementation of the program to develop the Union State hydrometeorology security system.

So far the Union State of Belarus and Russia has implemented four programs on developing the hydrometeorology security system. These programs were aimed at stepping up cooperation between the weather services of Belarus and Russia.

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CONSTRUCTION OF BELARUSIAN NUCLEAR STATION'S INFORMATION CENTER BEGINS IN OSTROVETS

The construction of the information center for the Belarusian nuclear power plant began in Ostrovets, Grodno Oblast, representatives of the Belarusian Energy Ministry told BelTA.



The one-storey building is scheduled to open in March 2015. At present the nuclear power plant's information center is located in Ostrovets in rented premises of the local movie theater. Since it was opened in October 2009, it has welcomed over 7,000 people from Belarus, Russia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Czechia, the USA, Vietnam, Turkey, Japan, and other countries.

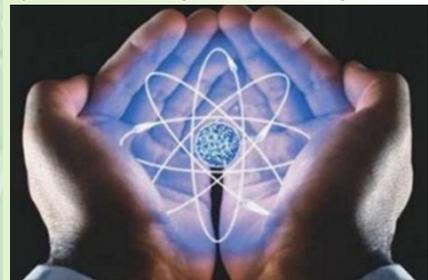
The information center of the nuclear power plant is meant to raise the awareness of and deliver information to various population groups: labor collectives, public organizations, mass media, government agencies, school and university students, and other interested persons. The main task of the center is to keep the general public informed about matters concerning nuclear power engineering, progress in building the Belarusian nuclear power plant, and other things.

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BELARUSIAN EXPERTS TO VISIT FRENCH RADIATION MONITORING LABORATORIES

Belarusian experts will visit the crisis center and laboratories of environmental radiation monitoring at the Institute of Radiation Protection and Nuclear Security (IRSN, France). The visit is envisaged by the program of the trip in Paris for a delegation of the department for nuclear and radiation security of the Emergencies Ministry of Belarus, BelTA learnt from the Gosatomnadzor.

It is planned that during the visit slated for 4-5 August the department for nuclear and radiation security and IRSN will sign a framework agreement on cooperation



in nuclear and radiation security. "The document will create a framework for cooperation in such areas as the development of methods to assess security and inspect NPP construction sites, crisis management and the use of mobile laboratories to monitor the radiation situation and in other areas as well," the Gosatomnadzor noted.

IRSN is an organization that provides technical support to the French regulating body of the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN).

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FIRST REACTOR FOR BELARUSIAN NUCLEAR STATION IN LATE 2015

The reactor for the first power-generating unit of the Belarusian nuclear power plant will be delivered to the construction site in late 2015, BelTA learned from the website of the Russian holding company Atomenergomash.



The upper half of the reactor's shell for the first power-generating unit of the Belarusian nuclear power plant has been assembled by the Volgodonsk-based branch of OAO AEM Technologies (part of Atomenergomash, which is the mechanical engineering division of the Russian state corporation Rosatom).

"As part of the contract the company will make and supply equipment for two power-generating units of the Belarusian nuclear power plant. The company will deliver the first reactor as early as late 2015," said Yevgeny Pakermanov, Director General of OAO AEM Technologies.

According to the executive, in 2013 the company delivered a core

catcher for the first power-generating unit. A core catcher for the second power-generating unit of the Belarusian nuclear power plant was shipped in early August.

OAO Atomenergomash is the mechanical engineering division of the Russian state corporation Rosatom. Atomenergomash provides effective comprehensive solutions for nuclear power industry, heat power industry, gas, oil, and chemical industries. The company comprises about 30 major manufacturing, research, and engineering enterprises in Russia, Ukraine, Czechia, and Hungary.

The Belarusian nuclear power plant will comprise two power-generating units with the total capacity of up to 2,400MW (1,200MW each). The Russian design AES-2006 has been chosen to build the power plant. The design is fully compliant with international standards and IAEA recommendations. The merged company OAO NIAEP - ZAO Atomstroyeks (ASE) is the general designer and the general contractor of the project.

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BELARUS, FRANCE TO DEVELOP COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR, RADIATION SECURITY

The heads of the Belarusian Gosatomnadzor and the French Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) have signed a framework agreement on cooperation in Paris, BelTA learnt from the nuclear and radiation security department of the Emergencies Ministry of Belarus.

According to specialists, the document envisages development of bilateral cooperation in a number of areas. "They include the transfer of methodology regarding inspections of the nuclear power plant construction, the implementation of the probabilistic safety analysis, the use of mobile laboratories to monitor the radiation situation, the organization of technical support and its integration in the international network," they noted.

During the visit to France which completed some days ago, the Belarusian delegation paid a visit to the IRSN crisis center to get familiar with the readi-

ness for prompt response in case of nuclear and radiation accidents. "In the emergency response system French specialists assign a big role to continuous online cooperation with the meteorological office, which allows for monitoring the current radiation situation and forecasting its further development," the Gosatomnadzor said.

The delegation also got familiar with the work of the IRSN radiation monitoring labora-



tories in Vezin, France. The total system of laboratories occupies almost 3,500 square meters and has over 300 measuring instruments for radiological control. Gosatomnadzor head Olga Lugovskaya presented the Belarusian experience in the corresponding area. She informed foreign counterparts on the

approaches to the organization of nuclear and radiation accident response systems in Belarus, including in terms of the BelNPP construction.

Representatives of the Gosatomnadzor and IRSN discussed steps to implement the bilateral agreement on cooperation.

The construction of the first power-generating unit of the Belarusian nuclear power plant is underway at the Ostrovets site, Grodno Oblast. The Belarusian nuclear power plant will have two power-generating units with the total generating capacity of up to 2,400 MW (1,200 MW each). The Russian design AES-2006 has been chosen to build the power plant. The design is fully compliant with international standards and IAEA recommendations. The first power-generating unit of the nuclear power plant is scheduled for launch in November 2018.

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BELARUSIAN, RUSSIAN METEOROLOGISTS TO DISCUSS COOPERATION, INFORMATION SHARING

Gomel will play host to a meeting of the working group on cooperation of the Belhydromet and Roshydromet as part of the cooperation of the Union State committee on hydro-meteorology and environmental monitoring on 27 August, BelTA learnt from the press service of the oblast executive committee.

Partaking in the event will be heads of the meteorological departments

of the two countries and directors of the hydrometeorology centers of Bryansk, Tver, Pskov and Smolensk Oblasts of the Russian Federation and all oblast hydrometeorology



centers of Belarus. The participants of the meeting plan to discuss information sharing, hydrometeorological support of the economic sectors, monitoring and assessment of the environmental situation on cross-border water bodies, the Russian-Belarusian monitoring of the cross-border rivers of Smolensk Oblast.

The participants of the meeting are expected to the aviation meteorological station in Gomel to get familiar with the operation of the Doppler weather radar.

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INDIAN COMPANIES INTERESTED IN SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS IN BELARUS

Indian companies are ready to take part in projects to generate solar energy in Belarus, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Belarus Manoj Kumar Bharti said on 13 August at a press conference in the run-up to India's Independence Day, BelTA has learned.

The diplomat believes that solar energy is a very promising cooperation area. Other important avenues of cooperation include potash industry, pharmaceuticals, and dairy industry.

"India is not eyeing a share in Belaruskali, however cooperation in the potash industry will continue," the diplomat said when asked by reporters whether India's position on Belaruskali changed after the recovery of the potash market. The Indian Ambassador emphasized that every year India signs contracts to purchase Belarusian

potash fertilizers.

When asked by a BelTA journalist about the dynamics of the Belarus-India trade and economic cooperation, the diplomat noted: "Our bilateral trade largely depends on certain commodities. These are potash fertilizers from Belarus and pharmaceuticals from India. However, the year 2013 witnessed turmoil on the potash market and the supplies of Belarusian potash fertilizers to India shrank. Naturally, this affected the bilateral trade".

Manoj Kumar Bharti noted that the two countries constantly offer new commodities to each other. For example, BelAZ trucks are expected to be sold in India. Certainly, the export of such major products will push the bilateral trade upwards.



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The supplement was established in 2013 as an informational and educational resource that can be freely accessed by all users interested in ecology and environmental problems.

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BELARUS' FIRST "GREEN" BUSINESS CENTER BUILT IN MINSK



The construction of Belarus' first "green" business center Titul has been completed, BelTA learnt from the Tvoja Stolitza real estate company.

"This is the country's first "green" business center. The center applied a conceptually new approach to the design of offices and lounge zones. In fact, on every store of the building there are small nooks of nature created using phyto-design where people can relax and forget about work. There is also a coffee hall with cozy sofas and an open summer veranda with tables on the first floor where informal business meetings can be held," the company said.

Verandas on the 16th floor are another unconventional solution. They offer a breathtaking view on the city of Minsk. The tap water is absolutely safe for drinking.

Titul is a Class A business center, as the center is located in the city center, has a lot of parking places, and well-developed infrastructure inside the building. There are few Class A business centers in Minsk yet.

The business center was officially inaugurated on 31 July. It was constructed by Bellesizdelie. The center meets all international requirements and is designed to provide the most comfortable conditions for lessees.

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Shchuchin to host Eco Weekend festival

The first interregional interactive festival Eco Weekend will take place in Shchuchin on 23-24 August, BelTA learnt from Olga Zaloga, one of the organizers of the festival, head of the Business Logic information and consultation center set up by the Business Promotion Center of Shchuchin District.

The new festival is part of the strategy to secure sustainable development of Shchuchin District. The strategy was developed with the support of the USAID Local Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Project that is being implemented in Belarus by the UNDP.

Eco Weekend is promoted as a festival for outdoor lovers. Organizers will present a variety of trendy outdoor activities. Owners of rural tourism estates will be invited to take part in a business program of the festival that will include master classes, seminars, and roundtable sessions to discuss rural tourism prospects in the district. Estate owners



will be able to hold presentations of their estates.

An extensive educational and entertainment program to cater to all tastes will be offered on 24 August. The program will feature shows of horse riders, jumpers, rollers, mountain bikers, representatives of the military and patriotic club Slavs. Visitors will be able to take

horse-riding lessons, ride a carriage, take part in sports competitions, hand-to-hand fights, listen to music and dance. There will be a playground for children and food stalls.

The first interregional interactive festival Eco Weekend seeks to promote tourism in Shchuchin District. It is expected to have a positive impact on the image of the district, unite efforts of businesses and organizations that promote travel opportunities of Shchuchin District.

About 3,000 people are expected to take part in the festival.

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Virtual technology to keep Belarusian nuclear power plant safe

A unique technology used to design the Belarusian nuclear power plant. The technology ensures the top safety of the facility in addition to allowing the choice of optimal operation modes. The information was released by Yevgeny Obraztsov, Head of the Research and Development Lab of OAO Atomproject, during a media tour of OAO Atomproject and the second Leninograd nuclear power plant, which is under construction, BelTA has learned. The media tour was arranged for representatives of the Belarusian Energy Ministry, the Information Ministry, and OAO Atomproject.

According to Yevgeny Obraztsov, the virtual nuclear power plant allows users to analyze in detail the processes that go on inside nuclear power plants built using the AES-2006 design, including the Belarusian nuclear power plant. "The virtual nuclear power plant can be used to test all kinds of potential situations that the control desk of a real nuclear power plant may witness," explained the Head of the Research and Development Lab.

The display of the virtual power plant has all the indicators of the real control desk of a nuclear power plant. Complex analysis can be used to determine

the necessary avenues of optimization of technical solutions during the design phase and during startup and commissioning operations as well as the actual operation of the nuclear power plant. "The technology is meant primarily for designers. Users can touch the panel to see the necessary parts of the control desk and receive complete information about ongoing processes," said the specialist.

The virtual nuclear power plant differs from the simulators, which are used to train nuclear power plant personnel. While designing the technology, the developers focused on reproducing the laws of physics in real power plants as closely as possible.

"It allows working out the order and length of the actions required to build and further reliability and safety. AES-2006 is fully compliant with international power plant norms and IAEA recommendations. The Belarusian nuclear power plant will comprise two power-generating units with the total capacity of up to 2,400 MW (1,200MW each). The Russian merged company OAO NIAEP - ZAO Atomstroyexport (ASE) is the general designer and the general contractor for building the power plant. The first power-generating unit of the nuclear power plant is scheduled for launch in November 2018, with the second one to go online in 2020.

Obraztsov added that the technology can be used as an analytical simulator and an instruction tool. The virtual nuclear power plant technology is a unique product that OAO Atomproject started designing in the 1990s. The implementation of the project "Development of supercomputers and grid technologies" in 2010-2012 gave a massive boost to the technology's development. As a result, the company came up with a product that implements a com-



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