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Green Belarus News & Events in Belarus

THIS ISSUE:

- [Belarus' oldest peat factory celebrates production milestone.....](#) 1
- [EU/UNDP wetland conservation project to kick off in Belarus in February.....](#) 1
- [Nuclear station construction in spotlight at AtomExpo Belarus 2014.....](#) 2
- [Belarusian university accelerates stem cell growth.....](#) 2
- [Belarus to offer new mobile apps for tourists.....](#) 2
- [Five new camping sites in Minsk Oblast in 2014.....](#) 2
- [Tough requirements for Belarusian nuclear station security personnel.....](#) 2
- [New solar plant for Mogilev Oblast in 2016.....](#) 3
- [Safari park to open in Dzerzhinsk District.....](#) 3
- [Emergency core cooling tanks from Russian AEM Technologies for Belarusian nuclear station.....](#) 3
- [Belarus' Forest Week 2014 on 5-12 April.....](#) 3
- [EU to provide €5m for 2MW wind farm construction in Belarus.....](#) 3
- [Belarus, Argentina discuss joint mineral production prospects.....](#) 4
- [USAID/UNDP-sponsored trainings for agro-, eco-tourism companies in Belarus.....](#) 4
- [German loan for environmental project at Belarusian BMZ.....](#) 4

BELARUS' OLDEST PEAT FACTORY CELEBRATES PRODUCTION MILESTONE

Belarus' oldest peat brick factory TBZ Usiazh produced the 6,000,000th tonne of peat bricks on 13 March, BelTA learned from Piotr Slezarik, Director of the public joint-stock company OAO TBZ Usiazh.

According to the source, 6 million tonnes of peat bricks can substitute over 2.8 billion tonnes of natural gas worth about \$1 billion at present. It is what the company contributes to the Belarus economy.

According to Valery Kovalev, Deputy Director General of the state-run fuel and gasification industrial group Beltopgaz, the 6,000,000th tonne of peat bricks made by TBZ Usiazh is really a milestone for the entire Belarusian peat industry because the company was the one to start manufacturing peat bricks in Belarus in 1952. "I am glad that 62 years later Belarus' first peat factory works effectively and produces the fuel, which is important for the energy security of Belarus," said Valery Kovalev.

In turn, the head of the company said that the company's long life and successful operation rely on considerable raw materials and state-of-the-art technologies and manufacturing practices. "We regularly modernize the production facilities, making them more energy-effective in order to reduce costs and offer competitive prices even for exports," said Piotr Slezarik. According to the executive, the company has enough raw materials to last for decades. Since 1952 the company has extracted about 13 million tonnes of peat out of the 30 million tonnes in the deposits it was granted initially.

Valery Kovalev of Beltopgaz also underlined that the company uses environmentally friendly technologies for peat extraction, the production of peat bricks and other

products as well as the reclamation of depleted deposits. Since it was established, the factory has exhausted 3,000ha out of the 7,500ha it was allocated initially. Of the exhausted area as much as 600ha is now used by agricultural enterprises, 2,300ha by forestry enterprises, while over 200ha has been swamped.

Academician Ivan Lishtvan, Chief Research Officer of the Environmental Management Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, told media that subsequent water flooding is one of the most effective and environmentally friendly ways to reclaim exhausted peat deposits these days. But even if exhausted peat lands are left as they are, they can get back to their initial state in seven years, with natural and biological diversity restored. The peat extraction company OAO TBZ Usiazh employs 300 people. The company is the principal employer, the mainstay and a source of heating energy for the town of Usyazh, which is home to 1,600 people.



The Belarusian peat industry comprises 26 peat extraction factories and four mechanical engineering enterprises. Every year Belarus extracts about 3 million tonnes of peat, including over 2.5 million tonnes for fuel purposes. It is the world's third top figure. Belarus is the world's top manufacturer of peat bricks with 1.3 million tonnes of peat bricks made every year. Peat accounts for 15% in locally available fuels and about 3% in the country's fuel and energy budget. Every year Belarus uses peat to substitute up to 590 million m3 of natural gas worth nearly \$108 million.

belta.by,
13.03.2014

EU/UNDP WETLAND CONSERVATION PROJECT TO KICK OFF IN BELARUS IN FEBRUARY

A group of Belarusian scientists processes the data generated by the Large Hadron Collider and the detector in the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN), BelTA learned from Yuri Kurochkin, Chairman of the Belarusian Physics Society, Head of the Theoretical Physics Lab of the B.I. Stepanov Physics Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. The information was released during the international symposium on processes and structures regarding subatomic particles, nuclei, atoms, and the university. The symposium was held on 10 March to mark the 100th anniversary since the birthday of academician Yakob Zeldovich.

The operation of the Large Hadron Collider has been suspended for reconstruction that will increase its capabilities and the detector's capabilities. The work, however, has not been stopped, since the LHC's operation produced an immense amount of data that needs processing, noted Yuri Kurochkin. Scientists of the Physics Institute

of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the National Center for High-Energy Particles Physics of the Belarusian State University, and the Nuclear Research Institute are involved in the processing of the data. "They are looking into correlations between the particles which are 'born' in large numbers and resemble each other. These particles are responsible for the nuclear force in atom nuclei," said the scientist.

Belarusian scientists are also trying to ascertain whether the Higgs boson particle is related to dark energy and dark matter. Yuri Kurochkin remarked that by researching the Higgs boson particle scientists try to understand the world, learn what the world is made of, what forces operate in nature, why the Earth does not fall apart.

At the symposium Belarusian scientists presented their latest researches regarding the Higgs boson particle, researches in heat and mass transfer problems, physical chemistry, the development of nuclear power engineering and space exploration. Sergei Kilin, Chief Academic Secretary



of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, a corresponding member of the Academy, noted that the development of nuclear power engineering is an important direction for Belarus. "Participants of the conference discussed all the problems relating to physics and recalled the universal nature of physics, the fact that physics studies our entire world starting with galaxies and ending with the smallest cells, atoms, and molecules," said Sergei Kilin.

belta.by,
10.03.2014

NUCLEAR STATION CONSTRUCTION IN SPOTLIGHT AT ATOMEXPO BELARUS 2014

Conceptual aspects of the project to build the Belarusian nuclear power plant will be discussed at the 6th international specialized expo and conference AtomExpo Belarus 2014 that will take place in Minsk on 1-3 April, representatives of the forum's organizing committee told BelTA.

During the science to practice conference personnel training for the nuclear industry will be discussed as well as the perception of nuclear power engineering by the public and the system designed to inform the public. Participants of the conference will talk over the implementation of the state policy for nuclear power engineering and measures to ensure energy security in Belarus. Panel sessions will be held to discuss nuclear power plant design and construction, management of the project to build the nuclear power plant, mechanical engineering solutions for nuclear power industry, instruments and equipment for building nuclear power plants, and safe operation of nuclear power plants.

The 6th international specialized expo and conference AtomExpo Belarus 2014 will be held upon the initiative of the Belarusian Energy Ministry in view of the adoption of the fundamental documents by the Belarus president and the government on building a nuclear power plant in Belarus.

Apart from showcasing the latest technologies used to design, build, operate and safeguard nuclear power plants, AtomExpo Belarus is meant to encourage research efforts in nuclear power engineering.



The expo and conference AtomExpo Belarus 2013 gathered about 80 enterprises and organizations, including the Energy Ministry, the Industry Ministry, the State Science and Technology Committee, about 30 nuclear industry enterprises of the Russian Federation, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry, the Emergencies Ministry, enterprises of the Belarusian state electrical industrial group Belenergo, the State Defense Industries Committee, and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

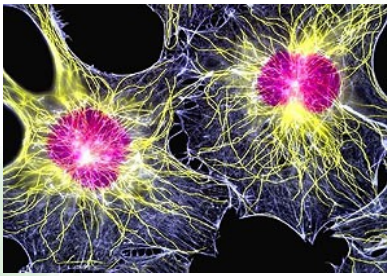
The Belarusian Telegraph Agency is an information partner of AtomExpo Belarus 2014.

Construction workers started pouring concrete into the foundation of the facilities that will make up the first power-generating unit of the Belarusian nuclear power plant at the Ostrovets site in November 2013. The Belarusian nuclear power plant will boast two power-generating units with the total generating 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 Russian merged company OAO NIAEP – ZAO Atomstroyexport (ASE) is the general designer and the general contractor for building the power plant. The timeline for implementing the project is stipulated by the general contract. The first power-generating unit of the nuclear power plant is scheduled for launch in November 2018.

*belta.by,
17.03.2014*

Belarusian university accelerates stem cell growth

Biophysicists of the Physics Faculty of the Belarusian State University (BSU) in association with physiologists of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus have worked out and built a device able to accelerate the conversion of stem cells into neurons.



The device and the technology are unparalleled in Belarus. The experimental device able to stimulate cells is designed for medical applications.

It is generally recognized that as a person grows older, the number of stem cells diminishes and therefore, the restorative ability of the human body decreases as well. While looking closely at another physical factor the BSU researchers found out that a properly tuned alternating-current electric field influences the growth of stem cells. Apart from that, the process reduces the time that stem cells need to "learn". The process also allows saving on expensive growth factors that encourage the development of stem cells towards neu-

rons.

The experimental device is but one component of an entire complex of works and researches, which physicists, chemists, neurosurgeons, geneticists, and other specialists in Belarus are carrying out. Their research endeavors and accomplishments are geared towards studying human cells and restoring the functionality of the human nervous system.

BelTA has been told that stem cells are kind of an initial building material for the human body. Stem cells can grow to become any kind of human cells. Stem cells are most often used to treat various kinds of diseases. In particular, these cells are used to treat blood diseases, chronic hepatitis, disseminated sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, ischemic heart disease, traumatic injuries of the spinal cord, infantile cerebral paralysis, and Parkinson's disease.

*belta.by,
04.03.2014*

BELARUS TO OFFER NEW MOBILE APPS FOR TOURISTS



New mobile applications for tourists will be developed in Belarus. Belarusian Sports and Tourism Minister Alexander Shamko gave the relevant instruction at the session of the Ministry's board on 13 March, BelTA has learned.

Alexander Shamko pointed out that the demand for mobile applications is rising on the tourism market. A traveler, who arrives in an unknown country, can use the applications to find all the necessary places of interest, noted the Minister.

As an example he mentioned mobile apps for fans during the Sochi Olympics.

Maxim Ryzhenkov, Aide for Physical Training, Sport, and Tourism Development of the Belarus President, suggested putting more efforts into promoting Belarus' tourism opportunities on television. In his opinion, the TV channel Belarus 5 could offer targeted videos or stories.

Maxim Ryzhenkov also drew attention to the fact that soon it will be necessary to start the work on a government program to guide the development of the Belarusian tourism industry after 2015.

*belta.by,
14.03.2014*

FIVE NEW CAMPING SITES IN MINSK OBLAST IN 2014

Five camping sites will be equipped in Minsk Oblast in 2014, Deputy Sport and Tourism Minister Cheslav Shulgla told media on 13 March.

About 5% of European tourists travel in motorhomes with trailers. "New camping sites in Belarus will attract caravanners from other countries and increase revenue from tourism," he noted.

Belarus will update its legal framework for caravanning development in the country. In particular, the new document will spell out the allowed distance between camping sites and ponds, forests, buildings, and other peculiarities for the location and opera-



tion of camping sites. It is expected that the document will be finalized within a month and will be submitted for further coordination. The Sport and Tourism Ministry hopes that all necessary amendments to the expansion of the network of camping sites will be formalized this year.

Caravanning is a type of tourism. Caravanners travel in motorhomes and stay in camping sites. In 2014 a national caravanning club was registered in Belarus.

*belta.by,
14.03.2013*

TOUGH REQUIREMENTS FOR BELARUSIAN NUCLEAR STATION SECURITY PERSONNEL

The internal security troops of the Belarusian Interior Ministry will undergo an advanced screening process in order to select the security personnel for the Belarusian nuclear power plant, BelTA learned from Yuri Karayev, Chief of the Internal Security Troops of the Belarusian Interior Ministry, on 14 March.

"People view a nuclear power plant as a source of danger. Everybody takes the matters of reliability and protection of the installation close to their hearts. The internal security troops of the Interior Ministry have been entrusted with the physical safety of the Belarusian nuclear power plant. Requirements for the personnel to make up the military unit that will guard the nuclear power plant will be as tough as they get," noted the official.

A special hardware and software solution has been developed to select the right candidates for protecting the strategic installation. "We will look into moral, psy-

chological, and entrepreneurship qualities of every soldier. Human resources are the top priority in this case. Only the best professionals will be hired for the job," stressed the source.

Yuri Karayev added that they keep in touch with the Russian internal security forces in matters of personnel training. "Our neighbors mastered the protection of critical installations a long time ago. We are trying to learn the best practices and take into account all the peculiarities. A dedicated faculty in a Russian educational institution trains military personnel for these purposes. Arrangements have been made and Belarusian soldiers of the internal security troops will be granted training in Russia. They will also be made thoroughly familiar with the training techniques used in the process," said the official.

*belta.by,
14.03.2013*

NEW SOLAR PLANT FOR MOGILEV OBLAST IN 2016



The Mogilev Oblast Executive Committee and Interregional Energy Company GmbH (Germany) signed an investment agreement to construct a photovoltaic power plant for electric energy production in Kostyukovich District, Mogilev Oblast, BelTA learnt from the Economy Committee of the Mogilev Oblast Executive Committee.

The project envisages the construction of a 4.5MW photovoltaic power plant to generate electricity from the renewable source – solar energy. Investors are expected to install the equipment of the leading European companies at the place of the former brick plant in Kostyukovich District (the total area of about 8.5 hectares). The new plant will be operated by 2-3 specialists.

The commissioning of the committed capacity of the future solar plant will be conducted step-by-step until 2017. The facility will be connected with the active energy networks. Generated electricity will be sold to state energy suppliers. The annual revenue to the local budget from taxes and other payments will make up Br3 billion.

*belta.by,
20.03.2014*

SAFARI PARK TO OPEN IN DZERZHINSK DISTRICT

A safari park will open in the eco-tourism center Stankovo, BelTA learnt from Director General of Agrokombinat Dzerzhinsky Iosif Polochanin.

The safari park will spread across 320 hectares. More than 300 deer, roes and other animals will settle in the park. Now interactive eco-routes and areas to watch animals in their natural habitat are being developed. Game viewing will also be available in the park. The park will open for tourists at the end of 2014.

An off-road park will be built for lovers of extreme driving. Cars, quad bikes and buggies will be available for rental. There are plans to open an economy-class hotel.

Iosif Polochanin informed that the Stankovo center is absolutely ready to receive participants and spectators of the ice hockey world championship that will be held in Minsk in May. All the five guest houses have already been booked. "Most of them were booked by Russians. The majority of rooms were booked in 2013," Iosif Polochanin informed.



A special program has been prepared for excursion groups. Tourists will be able to see dugouts of Belarusian partisans, make a wish at the 500-year old oak, see the famous defense installations Minsk Fortified Zone and the residence of Father Frost. Guests will also be invited to the zoo featuring 50 species of birds and animals, like ostriches, peacocks, bisons, lamas, yaks and a little bear. The entertainments will include a sauna, a restaurant, a café, a 5D movie theater, a shooting room and amusement rides.

The eco-tourism center Stankovo was built upon the initiative of Agrokombinat Dzerzhinsky and the Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War in line with the Belarus President decree. The construction works started in June 2008 and the museum opened for visitors in April 2011. About 110,000 people visited Stankovo in 2013.

*belta.by,
23.03.2014*

EMERGENCY CORE COOLING TANKS FROM RUSSIAN AEM TECHNOLOGIES FOR BELARUSIAN NUCLEAR STATION

Scientists from Belarus, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Latvia, Poland and Estonia have developed recommendations for sustainable management of ecosystems in the basin of the Neman River in Novogrudok District, lecturer of the Department of Tourism and Nature Management of the Belarusian State Technological University Nikolai Yushkevich said at the final seminar of the EU international project, Baltic Landscape in change - innovative approaches towards sustainable forested landscapes has learned.

Scientists have revealed problems in the Neman River basin that hinder sustainable management of ecosystems in the area. "For instance, sustainable forest management means the use of forests and wooded lands at the level that guarantees the conservation of their biodiversity, regenerative capability and vital capacity," Nikolai Yushkevich said. Only thus forests will continue delighting the eyes of local people and guests of the region.

"The scientists have worked out more than 20 recommendations which implementation will help the stakeholders (local authorities, the public and educational establishments) to use these territories more wisely from the ecological point of view," the specialist said. The recommendations will help avoid problems that can emerge during the construction of dams on the Neman.



Besides, a list of essential habitats has been compiled for the basin of the river. "Scientists have developed estimation techniques for this part of the recreation activity. They have also formed eco-friendly infrastructure development principles," Nikolai Yushkevich said.

"The implementation of the project let coordinate the activities of the Novogrudok District companies as well as those of the local authorities and people for environmental protection measures," the coordinator of the project said. In his words, there has been no cooperation between different agencies before. Each of them was guided by their

own interests. As a result they lacked unity in actions and received little from investment, concurrently causing damage to the ecology of the region.

The participants of the project plan to continue their work on the territories of the Baltic landscape which will include research into the climate change reasons. "A strong international team of experts has been formed during the implementation of the project," Nikolai Yushkevich said.

The project will be officially completed on 31 March 2014. Its results, however, have been reviewed already today, on 26 February. The implementation of the project was launched in Belarus in 2012. The project was initiated by European environmental and economic organizations. Partaking in the project was Belarus, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Latvia, Poland, Estonia and 15 partners (of them three partners were from Belarus – the Belarusian State Technological University, Belgosles and Novogrudok Forestry). The project aimed the development of the Baltic Landscape in the Neman river-valley in Novogrudok District – a new, democratic and efficient model of governance in landscape. A network of such landscapes has been developed alongside water bodies in Finland, Poland, and Sweden. The EU allocated about €500,000 to Belarus for the implementation of the project.

*belta.by,
03.03.2014*

BELARUS' FOREST WEEK 2014 ON 5-12 APRIL

Forest Week 2014 will take place in Belarus from 5 to 12 April, spokeswoman for the Forestry Ministry Ruzhena Novitskaya.



"We decided to dedicate the event to the 70th anniversary of liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders. Its participants will plant trees in honor of the soldiers-liberators thanks to whose feat Belarus has been peaceful and independent for seven decades," noted Ruzhena Novitskaya. The ministry will organize the commemorative events to plant forest and landscape crops, alleys or public gardens, landscape the memorial complexes, places of

combat and military glory, the graves of soldiers and partisans of the Great Patriotic War.

"The Forestry Ministry plans to involve a wide range of representatives from the state and public organizations, veteran and patriotic organizations, labor groups, students and veterans," said Ruzhena Novitskaya.

Registration of participants will open on the websites of forestry companies, public forest production associations and the Forestry Ministry.

*belta.by,
10.03.2013*

EU to provide €5m for 2MW wind farm construction in Belarus

The European Union will allocate €5 million for the construction of a wind farm in Belarus, BelTA learnt from First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Belarus Vitaly Kulik.

"As part of the Green Economy program the European Union will provide Belarus with €5 million for the construction of a wind farm. A total of €12 million have been allocated to address environmental issues," Vitaly Kulik said.

The wind farm will be built in Novogrudok. According to specialists, the city has all necessary resources for the construction of the object. Besides, Novogrudok houses an educational center of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment that will train specialists for wind



evaluation, water protection and others," the official said.

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http://ecoinfo.bas-net.by/ecology-belarus/ecology_news_in_Belarus.html

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It is a digest of the most important news and events.

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BELARUS, ARGENTINA DISCUSS JOINT MINERAL PRODUCTION PROSPECTS



Belarus and Argentina are discussing the prospects of joint exploration and production of commercial minerals. The issues were high on the agenda of the trip of Belarus' Ambassador to Argentina Viktor Kozintsev to Mendoza Province.

Viktor Kozintsev and Governor of Mendoza Province Francisco Perez discussed promising cooperation areas, first of all, in mechanical engineering, transport, exploration and production of minerals, agriculture and education. The parties stressed the need to expand regional cooperation.

The Belarusian diplomat held meetings with Minister of Transportation of Mendoza Province Diego Martinez Palau, Minister of Infrastructure Rolando Baldasso, Minister of Industry and Technologies Marcelo Daniel Barg. The parties talked over promising areas of cooperation in automobile and electric passenger transportation and infrastructure, agriculture, supplies of tractors, rock haulers and road construction machinery.

At the talks with Mendoza Mining Services Chamber President Carlos Ferrer the parties discussed some cooperation areas in the development of potash minefields and exchange the experience in construction and exploitation of potash companies.

*belta.by,
12.03.2013*

BELARUS, SERBIA TO FINANCE EIGHT JOINT R&D PROJECTS

Belarus and Serbia will finance eight joint R&D projects which have undergone expert examination in line with rules set by each country. The decision was made at the 6th session of the Belarusian-Serbian joint commission for R&D cooperation in Minsk on 12 March, BelTA learnt from the press service of the State Science and Technology Committee.



The joint R&D projects are in keeping with priority areas in which bilateral innovative R&D cooperation will develop in the future: agriculture, energy technologies, physics and mathematics, biotechnologies, chemical technologies, ecology and environment protection.

The session participants said bilateral R&D cooperation should be stepped up, including by means of implementing joint R&D and innovative projects, exchange of scientific personnel and the holding of international forums like conferences, seminars, exhibitions and other events.

*belta.by,
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USAID/UNDP-sponsored trainings for agro-, eco-tourism companies in Belarus

A series of trainings for ecotourism companies of Grodno Oblast and Brest Oblast will be held in line with the relevant USAID/UNDP project, BelTA learnt from Irina Novak, PR coordinator of the Local Entrepreneurship and Economic Development project which is being implemented by the UNDP.

Plans have been made to hold 40 one-day trainings in agro- and eco-tourism and hospitality business in May and June 2014. Taking part in the trainings will be owners of agritourism companies, managers and other staff of private hotels, tourism companies, restaurants and other enterprises involved in tourism services, first of all from Brest Oblast and Gomel Oblast. Businessmen from other regions will also be able to take part in the training but only if vacant places remain.

Some 13 kinds of trainings will be offered, including quality management in hospitality, personnel management, financial management, tourism destinations marketing, hospitality marketing and economy, organization of agro- and eco-tourism business and business communication. Moreover the

trainings will deal with event tourism, the planning of green itineraries, tourism logistics, the art of being a good guide, regional ethnography and sustainable tourism.

The trainings will be free of charge. They will be held by representatives of small and medium enterprises, eco-tourism experts and experienced business coaches.

The USAID-led project Local Entrepreneurship and Economic Development aims to increase the role of the private sector (small and medium business) in the economies of Grodno Oblast and Brest Oblast. The project was launched in August 2012 and will conclude in February 2015. The objectives of the project include support for the development of private micro-, small and medium enterprises and other entities which provide eco-tourism services. The Sport and Tourism Ministry of Belarus is the national executive organization of the project. The project's total budget is \$1.9 million.

*belta.by,
07.03.2014*

German loan for environmental project at Belarusian BMZ

OAO Belarusian Steel Works (BMZ trademark), the managing company of Belarusian Metallurgical Company and the German bank AKA - Ausfuhrkreditgesellschaft mbH (Frankfurt am Main, Germany) have signed a long-term agreement. In line with the agreement the German bank will lend €9 million to BMZ for implementing an environmental project.



The loan will be covered by the export insurance agency Euler Hermes against guarantees of OAO Belarusbank. The loan will be issued for a period of five years. It is supposed to finance 85% of the contract for BMZ to buy equipment from German AWAS International GmbH. The equipment is designed to purify salty waste water of the Belar-

ussian company and will offer a closed loop water recycling solution.

The Belarusian company has to implement the project in view of the accomplishment of a number of investment projects that has resulted in more waste water. The relevant infrastructure is needed to ensure uninterrupted operation of the facilities. The new equipment is expected to handle the larger volume of waste water.

The new water recycling facility will allow processing 100% of the salty waste water and will allow the company to reuse the recycled water for manufacturing.

*belta.by,
24.03.2014*