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Green Belarus News & Events in Belarus

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BELARUS TO DEVELOP NEW NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Belarus began working on the National Sustainable Development Strategy through 2035, BelTA learned from the website of the Economy Ministry.

The Research Institute of Economy at the Economy Ministry hosted the first meeting of the public council for monitoring and assessment of sustainable development. "This consultative body has been set up at the institute to develop objectives and priorities of socio-economic development in the long term, which will form the basis of the National Sustainable Development Strategy through 2035, and other program documents," the Economy Ministry said.

The public council is composed of the heads of the institutions of the Economy Ministry and the ministry itself, the National Academy of Sciences, the Labor and Social Security Ministry, experts of the Belarusian State Economic University, Belarusian State Pedagogical University, Institute of Professional Education, representatives of the UN and other international organizations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, research centers, associations and business unions.

Welcoming the participants, Economy Minister Vladimir Zinovsky said that the meeting can be considered a starting point for the work on one of the most important documents of the country: the National Sustainable Development Strategy up to 2035. We decided to start with the implementation of the United Nations sustainable development goals. To achieve them, Belarus has established a national system of indicators. This extensive work has been carried out by the council for

sustainable development under the leadership of Marianna Shchetkina," Vladimir Zinovsky said.

The minister outlined three primary goals for the public council. The first one is to assess the current sustainable development strategy. The second goal is to work out national priorities and development goals through 2035, determine sustainable development measures for Belarus. The third one is to develop a national strategy.

"It is clear that the strategy should become the main instrument in achieving the sustainable development goals, while the system of parameters will indicate their fulfillment. The public council will play the key role in it," the minister said.

He expressed hope that the public council would serve as a link between the government bodies and the civil society in part of consolidating the efforts of the state, business and the society in shaping the country's future. Belarus will draw on the best international practices for the purpose.

"Following the principles of sustainability, we cannot view ourselves as a separately existing state. Global trends affect every civilized state. Our number one goal is to be part of the sustainability trend. The state's policy is aimed at improving the wellbeing of every person, promoting comfortable living conditions and, of course, developing the economic basis. This means manufacturing enterprises, jobs and decent salaries," Vladimir Zinovsky said.

BELTA
18.09.2017



THIS ISSUE:

- [Belarus to develop new national sustainable development strategy](#) 1
- [Belarus, FAO sign Country Program Framework 2017-2020](#)..... 1
- [Belarus, UNDP intend to step up cooperation in education, regional policy](#) 2
- [Belarus' environment ministry instructed to improve legislation, cooperation with Lithuania](#) 2
- [ODS consumption in Belarus down almost 60 times over 30 years](#) 2
- [Japanese delegation commends Belarus' achievements in post-Chernobyl recovery](#)..... 3
- [Belarus, Saudi Arabia to cooperate in biotechnologies, water purification](#) 3
- [Belarusian Geoinformation Systems now part of PanGeo Alliance](#) 3
- [Green energy is currently under development resistance](#) .. 4
- [Belarus to join European Mobility Week 16-22 September](#) 4
- [Belarus to adopt state electric transport program before yearend](#) 4

BELARUS, FAO SIGN COUNTRY PROGRAM FRAMEWORK 2017-2020

Belarus and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will foster cooperation in food safety, BelTA learned from FAO Regional Strategic Programs Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia Raimund Jehle.

The Belarusian Agriculture and Food Ministry and the FAO signed the Country Program Framework (CPF) for 2017-2020. The document was signed by Raimund Jehle and Belarus' Deputy Agriculture and Food Minister Alla Lomakina.

"The CPF has been developed in cooperation with the Belarusian government and the Food and Agriculture Organization and is aimed at supporting Belarus in key areas, including export and trade promotion. The FAO undertakes obligations to improve Belarus' capacities in the field of food safety. It is directly connected with the export development in the country," Raimund Jehle said. "At the same time the support for agriculture is based not only on export promotion but also on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Environment is also of great importance," he said.

The implementation of the program is aimed at capacity building in conservation and development of plant and animal genetic resources, forest resources assessment, phytosanitary control, rehabilitation of

degraded lands, adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its consequences. It also envisages the strengthening of the national capacities to promote employment, develop business and diversify the income of rural population. The total budget needed to

implement the CPF for 2017-2020 is \$1.13 million.

Raimund Jehle noted the important role of Belarus as a partner in the Food and Agriculture Organization. According to him, Belarus has a well developed agriculture sector. "Belarus has an important experience to share with other countries," he said.

Alla Lomakina expressed hope for fruitful cooperation with the organization. "We have gained a good experience of cooperation which will only be improving," she added.

The important events assisted by the FAO that took place in Belarus were aimed at eliminating swine flu and increasing the disease control capabilities, Raimund Jehle told journalists.

BELTA
14.09.2017



[Belarus interested in green economy projects with UK](#)

BELARUS, UNDP INTEND TO STEP UP COOPERATION IN EDUCATION, REGIONAL POLICY

The expansion of cooperation in education and regional policy between Belarus and the United National Development Program (UNDP) was on the agenda of the meeting between Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Kalinin and UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Belarus Sanaka Samarasinha, BELTA has learned.

The sides touched upon avenues of further cooperation in education, regional policy, and the development of Chernobyl-affected territories. They showed mutual interest in further implementation of joint social projects, discussed the possible modernization of several educational institutions and teaching kids in Belarusian educational institutions about energy efficiency.

The deputy prime minister voiced the government's proposal to carry out projects in accordance with the UNDP's programs in Chernobyl-affected regions, which will help address unemployment issues in these

areas. This will also promote social and economic development by means of setting up new enterprises with additional jobs, including those in small and medium-sized business.

Anatoly Kalinin expressed gratitude to Sanaka Samarasinha for support for social projects in Belarus meant to improve the living conditions, increase the energy efficiency of social facilities, advance green economy principles, and enable conditions for sustainable economic activity at the local level, in particular, by means of developing small and medium-sized enterprises.

As a result of the meeting, the sides reached an agreement on joint effort to promote the vocational training of children's autism treatment specialists in Belarus and use the best international practices for these purposes.

BELTA,
28.09.2017

BELARUS' ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY INSTRUCTED TO IMPROVE LEGISLATION, COOPERATION WITH LITHUANIA

There is a need to improve the legislation in the use of natural resources and ensure productive cooperation with Lithuania on the nuclear power plant matters, Belarus' Deputy Minister Mikhail Rusy said introducing new Belarus Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Andrei Khudyk on 15 September, BELTA has learned.



Mikhail Rusy said introducing new Belarus Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Andrei Khudyk on 15 September, BELTA has learned.

"We need a firm position in the work with our neighbors, including Lithuania. As for the nuclear power plant, there are rules, laws, and

The vice premier instructed the ministry to improve the legislation in the use of natural resources. "We should take a look at what needs regulating at the legislative level. We always promptly respond to your proposals. He cited an example of the recent measures for the rational use of the fishing areas. Decree No.247 spells out the order of leasing fishing areas

the convention. We strictly follow these laws," Mikhail Rusy said and stressed that this issue should not be politicized. He also pointed to the problem with tree cutting in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha on Poland's side and emphasized the need to protect this natural landmark.

(lakes, natural reservoirs) and land plots, which was approved by the president," Mikhail Rusy said. For the realization of the right of people to free fishing, there will be no leasing of water-courses or their sections (rivers, streams, canals). The Ministry of Natural Resources had its tough position on this. I reported to the head of state, and the decisions were made promptly," Mikhail Rusy said.

In addition, he drew attention to the need for cooperation with foreign counterparts. "We need to develop common approaches, look for projects, use a system of small grants, cooperate with the World Bank to attract credit resources, and grants. There are a number of examples: small grants system helps spruce up schools, kindergartens and provides assistance in the environmental field. We need to work on this. This work brings benefits," the deputy prime minister said. He also instructed to improve the work with the personnel and document flow in the ministry.

BELTA,
15.09.2017

ODS CONSUMPTION IN BELARUS DOWN ALMOST 60 TIMES OVER 30 YEARS

Belarus has achieved an almost 60% reduction in the consumption of ozone depleting substances (ODS) over the past 30 years, BELTA learned from the website of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry of Belarus.

The consumption of ODS in the country totaled 51.5 tonnes in 2016. According to the National Research Center for Ozone Layer Monitoring of the Belarusian State University, the total ozone content in the atmosphere over Belarus has been recently close to the normal showings, except for the period of season anomalies.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed in 1987. It is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion. All of the ozone depleting substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol contain either chlorine or bromine used as cooling agents in the air-cooling and conditioning sector, propellents in household and medical aerosol products, clean agents in the fire-extinguishing systems, solvents in electronic and precision engineering, foam-blowing agents in the construction of building materials.

The stratospheric ozone layer protects life on Earth from harmful effects of the ultraviolet radiation from the sun. According to global scientific estimates, by the year 2030 the Montreal Protocol will have prevented two million

cases of skin cancer annually, averted damage to human eyes and immune systems. The protocol has also made a significant contribution to the climate change mitigation by preventing

their concentrations over the past decades. Projections also point to their further growth (at least 7% per year) in the case of inertial scenarios. If no action is taken, hydrofluorocarbons, which are used for refrigerating and air-conditioning, can generate up to 20% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The participants of the 28th meeting of the parties to the Montreal Protocol held in Kigali (Rwanda) adopted an amendment to regulate the consumption of hydrofluorocarbons. According to scientific estimates, the reduction of the use of these substances can reduce the global warming by 0.4 degrees by the end of the century.

Belarus fulfills all commitments under the international agreements in the field of the protection of the ozone layer. In 2013 the country launched a strategy for phasing out hydrochlorofluorocarbons by 2020. Under the GEF

international technical assistance project "Phasing out hydrochlorofluorocarbons and replacing them with non-ODS alternatives in Belarus," the country is planning to assess the extent of the use of these substances, to determine the cost of using the alternate substitutes. Based on the results of these studies, Belarus will elaborate its position regarding the ratification of the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

BELTA,
18.09.2017



more than 135 billion tonnes of emissions of carbon dioxide equivalent as a result of phasing out chlorofluorocarbons and halons, which are powerful greenhouse gases.

At a time of fulfilling the commitments under the Montreal Protocol and phasing out the use of ozone-depleting substances, the use of hydrofluorocarbons, which have no ozone-depleting potential but which contribute to global warming, has greatly increased around the world. The levels of hydrofluorocarbons in the atmosphere indicate a significant increase in

JAPANESE DELEGATION COMMENDS BELARUS' ACHIEVEMENTS IN POST-CHERNOBYL RECOVERY

A delegation of Fukushima Prefecture, Japan commended Belarus' achievements in mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, BelTA learned from the press service of the Belarusian Health Ministry following the delegation's visit to Belarus.

The goal of the visit was to explore Belarus' experience in post-Chernobyl recovery and to consider the possibilities of applying it in Japan. During a meeting with the Japanese delegation Belarusian Health Minister Valery Malashko said that Belarus had achieved notable success in mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster thanks to the reasonable and well-balanced national policy and to large-scale state programs. Belarusian scientists are conducting scientific research; the government has raised

public awareness in Chernobyl-affected areas and set up an effective system to monitor safety.

The guests got familiarized with the results of the rehabilitation of the affected areas, with the data of the medical research on the disaster's long-term effects, and with the aspects of medical examination.

The guests praised Belarus' comprehensive strategy and the country's great achievements in the post-Chernobyl recovery. The Japanese delegation showed great interest in the system to raise the radiological and environmental awareness and public awareness in Belarus in general.

Japan was among the first countries to render assistance to Belarus in 1986. The country still continues to help people living in the Cher-

nobyl-affected regions under the Grassroots Human Security Projects program.

At the end of the meeting the sides announced their intention to develop and strengthen cooperation in promoting the post-Chernobyl recovery. Belarus also came up with a number of proposals on prospective joint projects.

The Japanese delegation also visited a branch office of the Belarusian Office of the Russian-Belarusian Information Center on the Chernobyl Impact under the R&D Institute of Radiation of the Belarusian Emergencies Ministry, the National Scientific and Practical Center for Medical Radiology and Human Ecology in Gomel, the Belarusian State Medical University, and other institutions.

BELTA,
5.09.2017

GOMEL TO HOST SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON RECOVERY FROM RADIATION ACCIDENTS

Scientists from five countries will discuss recovery from radiation accidents at the international conference Radiobiology: Challenges of the 21st Century due in Gomel from 27 to 29 September, BelTA learned from Yekaterina Klementyeva, the academic secretary of the Institute of Radiobiology of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences.

The forum is set to bring together scientists from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, and Japan, specialists and heads of government bodies and agencies, and also members of permanent commissions of Belarus' Council of the Republic. They are expected to analyze the long-

term recovery of areas affected by radiation accidents and the implementation of countermeasures against environmental pollution after nuclear accidents at the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear power plants, and the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site.

The participants will give reports about the existing emergency response measures in radioactive contamination zones. The scientists are going to discuss the application of tools and methods to extend life and increase its quality amid man-made ionizing and non-ionizing radiation. The materials of the conference will be published in a special edition.

The event is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Institute of Radiobiology.

The institute is Belarus' leading scientific establishment in the field of radiobiology. It was set up in 1987 by the BSSR Council of Ministers to solve the scientific problems of post-Chernobyl recovery. The Institute of Radiobiology was moved from Minsk to Gomel in 2003, in accordance with the Belarus president's instruction to concentrate scientific resources concerning post-Chernobyl recovery in Gomel.

BELTA,
25.09.2017

BELARUS, SAUDI ARABIA TO COOPERATE IN BIOTECHNOLOGIES, WATER PURIFICATION

Belarus plans to cooperate with Saudi Arabia in biotechnologies and water purification, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus Sergei Chizhik told BelTA ahead of the talks with a delegation of Saudi Arabia.

Belarus' R&D solutions will go on display in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 23-24 October. "The exhibition will feature, among other things, the research projects that our scientists implemented jointly with Saudi Arabia. We will lay the groundwork for new projects as we want to extend the cooperation and to shift it towards biology, biotechnologies, water purification and computer technologies. We will present the developments in the atmospheric monitoring using the lidar systems," Sergei Chizhik said.

The exhibition will feature about 200 recent developments from about 30 organizations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Education Ministry, the Industry Ministry and other agencies in the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST). The developments in information and communications technologies, unique industrial technologies to pro-

duce new materials, medical goods and bio- and nanotechnologies will be demonstrated in the form of full-scales samples, multimedia presentations and information materials. The joint Belarus-Saudi academic symposium featuring leading scientists of the two countries and the heads of the KACST will take place during the exhibition. The meetings are expected to result in new cooperation agreements and contracts.

According to Sergei Chizhik, Belarusian scientists have a great experience in cooperation with Saudi Arabia. "We are actively working with the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology. The numerous projects in material engineering, laser technologies system and computer technologies have been implemented. We will show the Saudi Arabian delegation our capacity and will discuss promising cooperation areas such as water treatment, use of

satellite images to monitor territories, laser technologies including vision systems for bad weather conditions and agricultural technologies. Cooperation

in education and the training of the highly qualified staff will be also on the agenda," he said.

The Saudi Arabian delegation led by the Education Minister Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Issa is visiting the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. The purpose of the visit is to discuss the cooperation between organizations of the National Academy of Sciences and Saudi Arabia. The guests visited the ongoing exhibition of achievements of national science and plan to hold talks with the heads of the academy.

BELTA,
12.09.2017



BELARUSIAN GEOINFORMATION SYSTEMS NOW PART OF PANGEO ALLIANCE

The enterprise Geoinformation Systems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) is now part of the international alliance of Earth observation satellite operators PanGeo, the NASB press service told BelTA.

The decision was made during the summit of the PanGeo Alliance in Paris on 13 September. Speaking about how important the step is for the Belarusian side, Sergei Zolotoi, Geoinformation Systems Director and Chief Designer of the Belarusian space system for the remote sensing of Earth, noted: "We are happy to join PanGeo Alliance. Cooperation with the alliance can greatly expedite decision making in various fields and will benefit users thanks promptly shared space data. Thanks to mutual access to the archived images sent by the Belarusian satellite BKA and PanGeo Alliance archives we hope to expand our presence

on the market of Earth observation data and provide new capabilities to existing users and potential ones."

The enterprise Geoinformation Systems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) is one of the main developers of the Belarusian space system for the remote sensing of Earth. The enterprise has been operating the system since 2004. Apart from that, since 2012 the enterprise has been taking care of the uninterrupted operation of the Belarusian satellite BKA on behalf of over 20 Belarusian organizations. The company's core competences include the operation of the Belarusian space system for the remote sensing of Earth, scientific research, development and engineering of geoinformation systems.

PanGeo Alliance is the first global consortium of Earth observation satellite operators. It was

established in September 2014. It has implemented several projects since then, including making maps of territories of various countries. At present the alliance comprises 13 operators of space systems for the remote sensing of Earth in Europe, Asia, and America. The operators offer multiple-spectrum images in a broad spatial resolution spectrum. With seven satellites with an extremely high resolution in orbit, PanGeo Alliance operates the world's largest constellation of Earth remote sensing satellites with resolutions under one meter. This unique fleet assures a daily global imaging capability, with multiple revisits of any target per day. Images sent by different satellites are totally compatible, allowing users to use the PanGeo Alliance data without hindrances.

BELTA,
15.09.2017

GREEN ENERGY IS CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Country's most powerful wind-driven electric unit is launched Grabniki. Five units, with a total capacity of 7.5MWt, were installed here and together they can satisfy almost 25 percent of the district's needs for electrical energy.

By Alexey Fedosov Alternative green power engineering continues to develop in the Novogrudok District. Special climatic conditions enable us to efficiently use the power of wind, attracting private investors to the region. Recently a wind unit, with a capacity of 3.3MWt, has been launched by Envetr Ltd. The wind unit near Bolshie Leznevichi village is the most powerful in Belarus. It is 110m high and the length of its blades is 52m, while the total weight of the construction amounts to 500 tonnes.

13 wind-driven electric units, whose total capacity exceeds 18MWt, have been installed and are successfully operating in the district, with 7 of these being privately owned. In 2016, Grodnoenergo RUE implemented a project dealing with the construction of a wind park near the village of



Novogrudok. Slavgorod, Cherikov, Gantsevichi, Gomel, Mogilev, Svisloch, Bereza, Bobruisk, Dribin, Zhabinka, Ivanovo, Miory, and Mosty.

These towns will host public discussions on urban mobility, install bike parking racks, estimate air and noise pollution, hold bike races, joint information campaigns with the Belarusian traffic police, contests, concerts, and the like.

The Minsk Times,
28.09.2017

BELARUS TO JOIN EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK 16-22 SEPTEMBER

Belarus will join the European Mobility Week for the third time. The campaign will run from 16 to 22 September, BelTA learned from the UNDP press service.

The European Mobility Week is organized by the association TheEuropeanMobilityWeekCampaign comprising representatives of governments and business from 42 countries. The annual campaign is designed to show the benefits of environmentally friendly transport and the impact of pollutant emissions from transport on public health to urban residents and authorities.

The 2017 European Mobility Week will be held under the theme of clean, shared and intelligent mobility, as encapsulated by the slogan "Sharing gets you further". This year's topic reflects new trends in mobility, which are about the integration of transport and digital technologies with modern payment systems, and also draws attention to the emergence of another sector on the market of transport services: sharing economy.

The events will focus on developing and ensuring the mobility of urban population, which



should primarily rely on the promotion of public transport and comfortable safe conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.

Urban residents are encouraged to give up their cars, ride bicycles, use public transport and walk more during the campaign. The organizers recommend to pay special attention to the benefits from the shared use of transport and modern information technologies. This approach can make mobility more effective, save up money, and make a fair contribution to environmental protection.

The UNDP has been coordinating the European Mobility Week in Belarus since 2016. Taking part in the initiative in 2017 are thirty Belarusian populated localities, as against three in 2015. Minsk, Novopolotsk, and Polotsk will take part in the campaign for the third time, nine towns for the second time (Baranovich, Brest, Grodno, Molodechno, Nesvizh, Postavy, Pinsk, Soligorsk, and Chausy). Eighteen towns and populated localities will be newcomers to the European Mobility Week: Bykhov, Vileika, Logishin, Myadel,

Novogrudok, Slavgorod, Cherikov, Gantsevichi, Gomel, Mogilev, Svisloch, Bereza, Bobruisk, Dribin, Zhabinka, Ivanovo, Miory, and Mosty.

The European Mobility Week will wrap up on 22 September with the traditional Car-Free Day under the slogan "The city as a space for people, a space for life." During this day, passengers in many cities can travel for free on public transport if they show their driving license.

Green Cities, a joint project of the UNDP and the Global Environment Fund, is taking an active part in the organization of the European Mobility Week. The project implements pilot initiatives on sustainable urban transport in Polotsk and Novopolotsk. It is meant to build up trust in public transport among the population, encourage it to give up private cars when driving in the city, and boost the popularity of bicycles as one of the key types of public transport.

BELTA,
13.09.2017

BELARUS TO ADOPT STATE ELECTRIC TRANSPORT PROGRAM BEFORE YEAREND

Belarus plans to adopt its state electric transport development program before the end of 2017, Belarus' First Deputy Industry Minister Gennady Svidersky told a press conference on 19 September, BelTA has learned.

"The state electric transport development program is being developed by the National Academy of Sciences following the instruction of the head of state. I think that the program will be ready and adopted by the government before the end of the year," Gennady Svidersky said.



In his words, the country has been long using an electric motor drive, including in BelAZ haul trucks. Belarus needs additional measures to develop its electric cars. "The state program will include training in higher education institutions, the creation of conditions for designing electric transport, and a set of measures to promote the production of electric transport and charging stations," the first deputy minister said.

BELTA,
19.09.2017

BELARUSIAN ELECTRIC BICYCLE PRESENTED IN MINSK

Anyone could test drive an electric bicycle of Belarusian make on 22 September. The new product was presented by the instrument-making factory Optron of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus as part of the Day Without Car campaign in Minsk, BelTA has learned.

The Optron Director General Nikolai Yankevich talked about the product in detail. "Its motor output is already at 600W. It can start moving without pedaling while carrying up to 150kg of cargo. No other electric bicycle in the world can do it. It is not the limit," he noted.

The presented bicycle will evolve. It will be able to fold. Various options will be available for urban and rural areas. "Only the wheel hub motor will remain as the core. By the way, only the accumulator is imported to make our electric drive. We will replace it with a Belarusian product by the end of the year. Then an entire Belarusian product made of modern metal polymers will be batch produced. Instead of 9kg the motor will weigh 4kg. The frame will weigh as little as 4.5kg instead of 17kg. In other words, the electric bicycle will weigh as much as a regular bicycle," explained Nikolai Yankevich.

In his words, the modern and competitive product — an individual all-season electric

transport — will help the company enter international markets. "It is a smart system for supporting one's health. The bicycle can be used in various modes. It can even be used in an apartment as a cycling machine. The bicycle can be used for a pleasant ride and as a means of transportation," concluded Nikolai Yankevich.

This year the instrument-making factory Optron has modernized a wheel hub motor for light means of transportation and has developed a new control module and software. This wheel hub motor is now used to develop individual electric transport.

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22.09.2017



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MAJOR ELECTRIC BUS ROLLOUT IN MINSK PRIOR TO 2019 EUROPEAN GAMES

The Belarusian mechanical engineering company Belkommunmash intends to sell at least 60 electric buses to Minsk prior to the 2019 European Games, BelTA learned from representatives of Belkommunmash's Office for Marketing and Sales in Belarus and Russia.

"There are no official requests for delivery yet but purchases of electric buses to replenish Minsk's public transport fleet in anticipation of the 2019 European Games are supposed to begin next year. There are plans to sell 60 electric buses in 2018. A certain number of electric buses may be shipped in H1 2019," said Belkommunmash representatives.

At present Belkommunmash offers an articulated electric bus E433, which can carry 153 people. As many as 20 innovative vehicles are used for two routes in Minsk. The company has also designed a short electric bus E420,

which can carry 90 people. Electric buses like that will become available in Minsk prior to the 2019 European Games.

The advantages of electric buses include a low environmental footprint, maneuverability, and increased comfort. Just like a trolleybus an electric bus is powered by electricity. Instead of overhead power lines its electricity is stored in supercapacitors. An electric bus takes five minutes to charge to full at a terminus in order to travel for 13km. It uses 14% less electricity in comparison with a trolleybus. The bus offers space for wheelchair users with a fixation system and a driver notification system. The bus floor gets lowered on approaching a bus stop. There are power sockets and USB sockets for charging gadgets inside the passenger compartment.

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26.09.2017

BELGEE EXPECTED TO START PRODUCING ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN 2019

The new plant BelGee may start producing electric vehicles in 2019, Industry Minister Vitaly Vovk said at an online press conference hosted by BelTA's website.

"The Geely company has an electric car in its lineup. There is an agreement that the Belarusian plant will start assembling it as from 2019 - up to 5,000 units. But we will need a certain degree of localization. We will show the developments of our enterprises, both private-held and state-owned ones, to get their approval for using these developments in their car," Vitaly Vovk said.

He stressed that the whole world is moving towards the development of electric drives. "The main task is to create a source of energy. It can be batteries, drives. Here we pin our hopes on science, academia," the minister noted.

To have a well developed infrastructure is equally important. "For the time being we have some problems with the infrastructure. Private and state-owned producers

have offered their designs of recharging stations. But there are still issues related to their deployment, payment. Energy is not free of charge. We need to set a tariff," the minister explained. In addition, we should not forget about recycling, the minister noted. "We will have cars from Europe, America. The lifespan of batteries will expire with time. How to recycle these batteries? We must therefore develop a comprehensive program. The president set forward such a task. We need to think over every detail," Vitaly Vovk noted.

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BELARUS' BEAUTY THROUGH THE LENS OF FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHERS

Belarus' National Tourism Agency together with the Belarusian Embassy in France organized a tour of Belarus for photographers Elena Vantrillon and Jean-Jacques Gautreau at the end of August, BelTA learned from Yelena Likhimovich, Deputy Director of the National Tourism Agency.

The French photographers visited popular Belarusian tourist centers (Minsk, Mir, Nesvizh, Grodno, Brest) and some small places with picturesque sights such as Slonim, Zhirovichi, Kossovo, Ruzhany, Chernavchicy, Zheludok and Murovanka. The photographers took pictures of Belovezhskaya Pushcha, the Museum of the

History of the Great Patriotic War, the Museum of Folk Architecture and Rural Lifestyle, the Historical and Cultural Complex Stalin Line and other places.



The visit is expected to result in a promo album titled as Belarus Through the Eyes of French photographers. It will also include the photos made by the French photographers and journalists who came to Belarus on a familiarization tour in August 2016. Back then they visited the places of the battles of the War of 1812, a felt boots factory and the Marc Chagall Museum in Vitebsk.

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