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HEADLINES



GROWTH OF IT COMPANIES' STAFF IN UKRAINE REACHES HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 2014

3



UKRAINE'S GOVT WANTS TO INTRODUCE SINGLE ACCOUNT FOR TAXPAYERS

4



AOT TRADER OPENS REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN UKRAINE

5



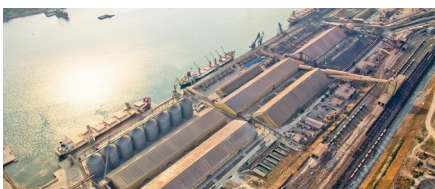
EBRD COULD PROVIDE UP TO \$150 MLN TO UKRZALIZNYTSIA IN OCT TO BUY GONDOLA CARS

8



NEXANS CONCERN WILL OPEN THIRD PLANT IN UKRAINE IN LATE SUMMER

8



ARCELORMITTAL AND TIS BUILD INDOOR STORAGE FOR METAL GOODS AT YUZHNY PORT

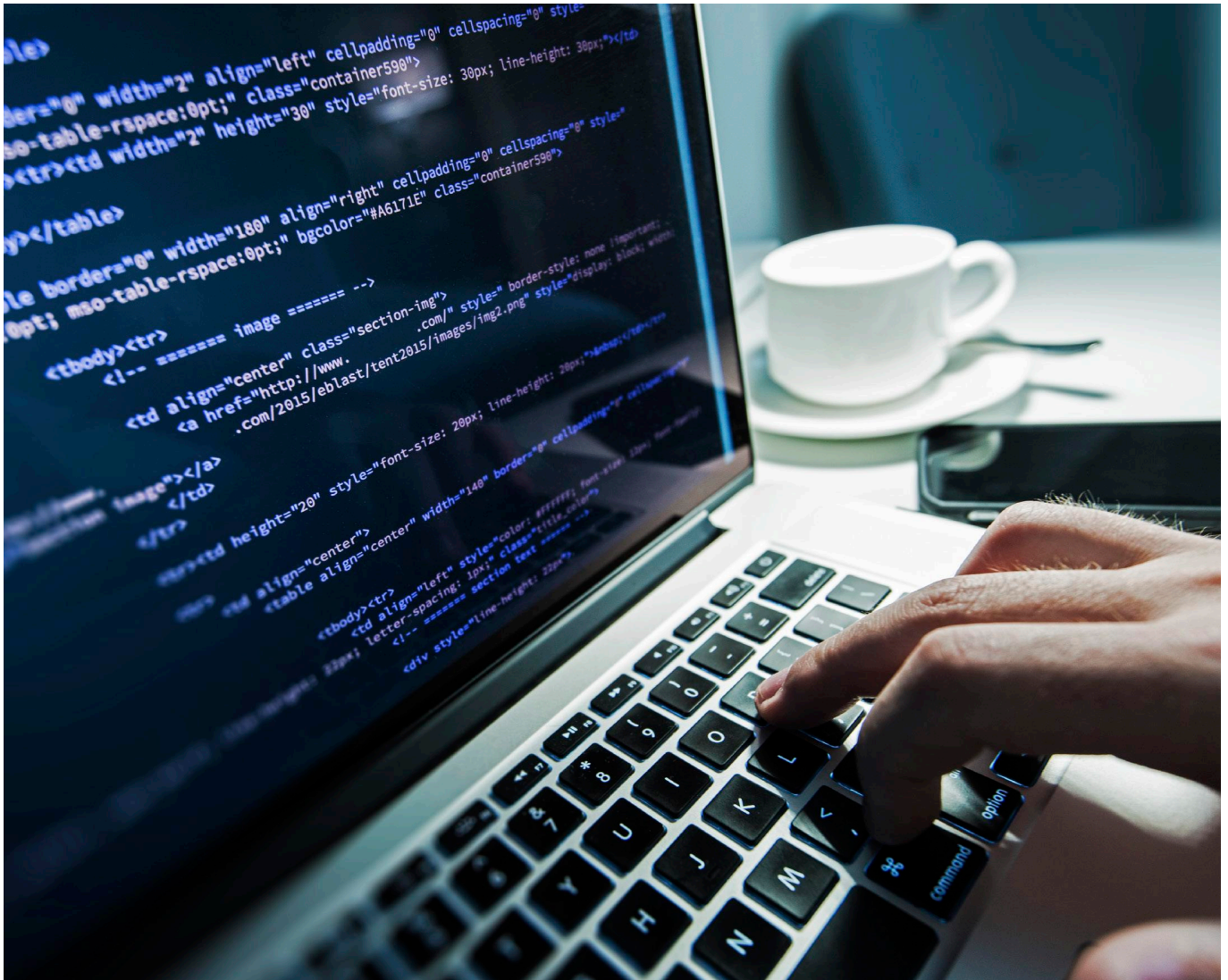
9



FAO IN UKRAINE TO DRAW UP PROJECT TO ADAPT AGRICULTURE TO CLIMATE CHANGES

12

Growth of IT companies' staff in Ukraine reaches highest level since 2014



The number of employees at 25 largest IT companies since the beginning of 2017 has increased by 2,104, or by 6.2% compared to the second half of 2016, which is a record high since 2014, such data were posted by the Dou.ua profile portal.

The number of employees of 50 large IT companies grew by 2,953, or by 7%.

The top five leaders in terms of the number of employees over the year has not changed. The largest IT company remains EPAM with the staff of 4,800 people, which is 200 more than the previous figures. Its offices are located in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Dnipro, and Vinnytsia. The company has the largest number of vacancies – 400.

The second largest company in terms of staff was again SoftServe with offices in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Dnipro, Ivano-Frankivsk, Rivne, Chernivtsi, where 4,605 employees work. Since the beginning of the year the company has increased the staff by 114 people, whereas last year by more than 500 specialists, Dou.ua reported.

According to research, the third largest company, Luxoft, with offices in Kyiv, Dnipro and Odesa increased the number of employees by 165, to 3,865 people and announced 290 vacancies in Ukraine. GlobalLogic, which ranks fourth, raised the number of workers by 173 people, to 3,005 (it has offices in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, and Mykolaiv).

Ciklum with offices in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Dnipro, Odesa, and Vinnytsia ranked five and decreased its staff by 33 specialists, to 2,943 employees.

Ukraine's govt wants to introduce single account for taxpayers

The Ukrainian government has proposed that the Verkhovna Rada passes amendments to the Tax Code to introduce the single account for paying taxes and duties, as well as single social security tax using the e-cabinet of taxpayer.

"The bill is intended to relax the rules of payments by taxpayers to budgets via the introduction of the single account to pay taxes and duties," the explanatory note to the document says.

According to the bill, the document will introduce the system for paying single social security tax, taxes and duties outlined in the Tax Code, apart from VAT and excise duty for fuel, via the e-cabinet of taxpayer. The new rules are to facilitate payment of taxes.



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Largest taxpayers pay 21% more taxes in H1 2017



Largest taxpayers since early 2017 have paid UAH 176.6 billion of taxes. This is UAH 31 billion or 21% more than a year ago, the Office of Large Taxpayers has reported.

"The introduction of practice of personal consultant for each large taxpayer and the gradual automation of processes give good results. The economy is slowly going out of crisis and this means that payments will grow in the future thanks this," Head of the Office of Large Taxpayers Yevhen Bambizov said.

According to the office, one third of the sum was paid by oil and gas sector – UAH 57.6 billion (UAH 15.9 billion more year-over-year). Ukrgezvydobutok paid UAH 25.553 million, Naftogaz Ukrainy paid UAH 11.383 million, Ukrnafta – UAH 5.501 million and Ukrtransgaz – UAH 4.432 million.

The Office of Large Taxpayers said that one fourth (25.5%) of payments was sent by processing enterprises – UAH 45.1 billion (UAH 2.3 billion more than a year ago). The largest taxpayers were private joint-stock company Tobacco Company B.A.T.-Pryluky (UAH 6.97 million), Philip Morris Ukraine (UAH 5.835 million) and JT International Ukraine (UAH 4.39 million).

Tax payments from mining companies grew more than 1.5-fold, from UAH 24.5 billion in H1 2016 to UAH 43.8 billion in H1 2017 or 24.8% of total payments. Ukrgezvydobuvannia paid UAH 25.553 million, Ukrnafta – UAH 5.501 million and Naftogazvydobutok – UAH 2.298 million.

AOT Energy international commodities trader opens representative office in Ukraine



AOT Energy international commodities trader is opening a representative office in Ukraine.

According to the unified register of companies, AOT Energy Ukraine with an office in Kyiv was registered on July 14, 2017. Its core business is trade with natural gas.

The parent company of AOT Energy Ukraine is AOT Gas Holdings AG (Switzerland).

As reported, earlier AOT supplied gas to Ukraine via its division in Poland. MET and Trafigura international traders have opened their offices in Ukraine. France's Enfie is seeking to receive a license to supply gas in Ukraine.

RGK Trading signs agreement with eustream on access to Slovak GTS for gas imports to Ukraine

RGK Trading company on June 21 signed an agreement with Eustream on access to Slovak gas transportation capacities to import gas from EU countries to Ukraine, the company's press service has reported.

"The agreement gives RGK Trading the right to use the capacity of the Slovak gas transportation system (GTS) for gas imports from the EU countries to Ukraine. The framework contract with the operator of the Slovak GTS provides RGK Trading with direct access not only to the natural gas market of Slovakia but also neighboring countries: this is the Czech Republic (the NCG hub zone), Austria, and Hungary (the CEGH zone)," the report said.

RGK Trading added within the strategy of diversification of supplies in May-June trial purchases of gas in Europe have already taken place (the volume of test batches is about 6 million cubic meters).

"In accordance with the contract with Eustream, RGK Trading has been allowed to participate in auctions on which Eustream puts the free transport capacity of its GTS. And it is possible to buy out free capacity for a period of a day, a month, a quarter or a year at such auctions. The starting price of capacity depends on the period and volume: the longer the period and the greater the amount of capacity put up for bidding, the cheaper is the transit of a cubic meter of gas," the press service said.

DTEK launches first solar power plant



DTEK energy holding has launched Tryfonivka solar power plant with a capacity of 10 MW in Kherson region, the press service of DTEK has reported.

"Construction works at Tryfonivka solar power plant started in March and finished in the second half of July 2017. A total of 37,000 solar panels made by JA Solar and ABB's inverters were installed at the plant. From August 1, 2017, the plant generates electricity and transmits it to the Ukrainian power grid," the company said.

According to DTEK's calculations, annually the solar power plant will generate 11-12 million kWh of electricity, which is enough to supply 15 neighbor settlements with electricity. Thanks to the operations of the Tryfonivka solar power plant saving of CO2 emission will be around 12,000 tonnes a year.

As reported, the National Commission for Energy, Housing and Utilities Services Regulation (NCER) on July 27 approved feed-in tariffs for Tryfanivka Energy LLC (Kherson region) and Dymarka Solar Power Plant 1 (Kyiv region).

VEGA LV powered by Ukrainian engine successfully puts two satellites into orbit

The Vega launch vehicle (LV) with the Ukrainian engine has successfully put an Italian reconnaissance satellite OPT-SAT-3000, as well as the French-Israeli satellite Venüs of the European Remote Sensing Satellite Copernicus to the sun-synchronous orbit.

According to a report on the website of the State Space Agency of Ukraine, the Vega rocket was launched at 04:58:33 Kyiv time from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, in what is the tenth launch under the Vega program and the second in 2017.

Both remote sensing satellites were manufactured by the Israeli defense concern Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). The OPTSAT-3000 (368 kg) spacecraft was ordered by the Italian Defense Ministry, Venüs spacecraft weighing 264 kg was commissioned by the Israeli Space Agency (ISA) and the National Center for Space Studies of France (CNES).

The Vega was designed by the European Space Agency (ESA) in collaboration with the Italian Space Agency (ASI) for carrying satellites with a weight up to 1,200 kilos to a 1,200-kilometer Sun-synchronous orbit and satellites with a weight of 1,500 kilograms to a 700-kilometer polar orbit.

The Ukrainian government and the ESA signed an agreement on cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space in 2008. The ESA unites 17 European countries.

Interchem localizes production of three medicines in Kazakhstan



Double liability company Interchem pharmaceutical company (Odesa) has localized production of three medicines on the basis of Kazakhstan's Viva Pharm limited liability partnership. The medicines will be presented on the Kazakh market.

Medical Director of Viva Pharm Botagoz Mashkeyeva told Interfax-Ukraine that soon Tilaxine antiviral pills will be made at the production facilities of the Kazakh pharmaceutical plant. It is known as Amixin in Ukraine. The Kazakh plant will also produce Hidazipam VIC antianxiety drug (pills and sublingual tablets) and Morphine sulfate VIC pain reliever (pills).

Mashkeyeva said that at present the companies are working on localization of some more medicines, including several antianxiety drugs, antiepileptic drugs and medicines to treat severe pain syndrome.

She said that the government policy to support local manufacturers is being implemented in Kazakhstan. It says that the transfer of medicine production technologies to Kazakhstan brings more benefits than imports of finished medicines.

"In the past years this triggered development of local pharmaceutical production, allowed creating a large number of highly paid jobs and increased availability and affordability of modern and efficient medicines," she said.

In turn, Deputy Director General of Interchem for Marketing Iryna Hranatiuk said that along with the transfer of technologies and supplies of substances for production, Ukrainian specialists are participating in pharmaceutical designing of the quality system for all production stages.

"We are cooperating with colleagues from Kazakhstan for many years. We have managed to find a partner to localize production, which, we are sure, would provide for stably high quality of products," she said.

Interchem is one of the leading Ukrainian producers of medicines and pharmaceutical substances. It is included in the top ten manufacturers of medicines. The share of own production reaches 2% of the total market in the country.

Viva Pharm has been operating on the Kazakh market for 18 years.

Production of passenger cars in Ukraine 51% up in July 2017

Production of passenger cars in Ukraine in July 2017, according to preliminary data from the Ukrautoprom association, increased by 51% compared with the same month in 2016, to 405 units, however compared to June this year it decreased by 44%.

The increase in car production from July last year was due to the fact that 106 cars were produced by Zaporizhia car plant (ZAZ), while Eurocar increased the production of Skoda cars by 11.6%, to 299 units.

At the same time, compared to June 2017 these manufacturers reduced car output by 2.8 times and by 43.2% respectively.

According to the association, ZAZ in July, in addition to passenger cars, produced 48 commercial cars and two buses, and in general for the seven months 399 cars, 253 commercial vehicles and 14 buses.

Taking into account the June indicators, production of cars in Ukraine in January-July 2017 increased by 83% compared to the same period in 2016, to 3,483 units, in particular Eurocar raised production by 62%, to 3,084 vehicles.

Nexans Concern will open third plant in Lviv region in late summer

Elektrokontakt Ukraine LLC, a manufacturer of cable networks for cars, a subsidiary of Nexans Concern, will open a new plant in Brody (Lviv region) on August 30, which will become the third and largest production site in Ukraine, the press service of the company has told Interfax-Ukraine.

According to its information, the construction of the plant "from scratch" was started in June 2016 and is almost completed today, preparations are being made for launch.

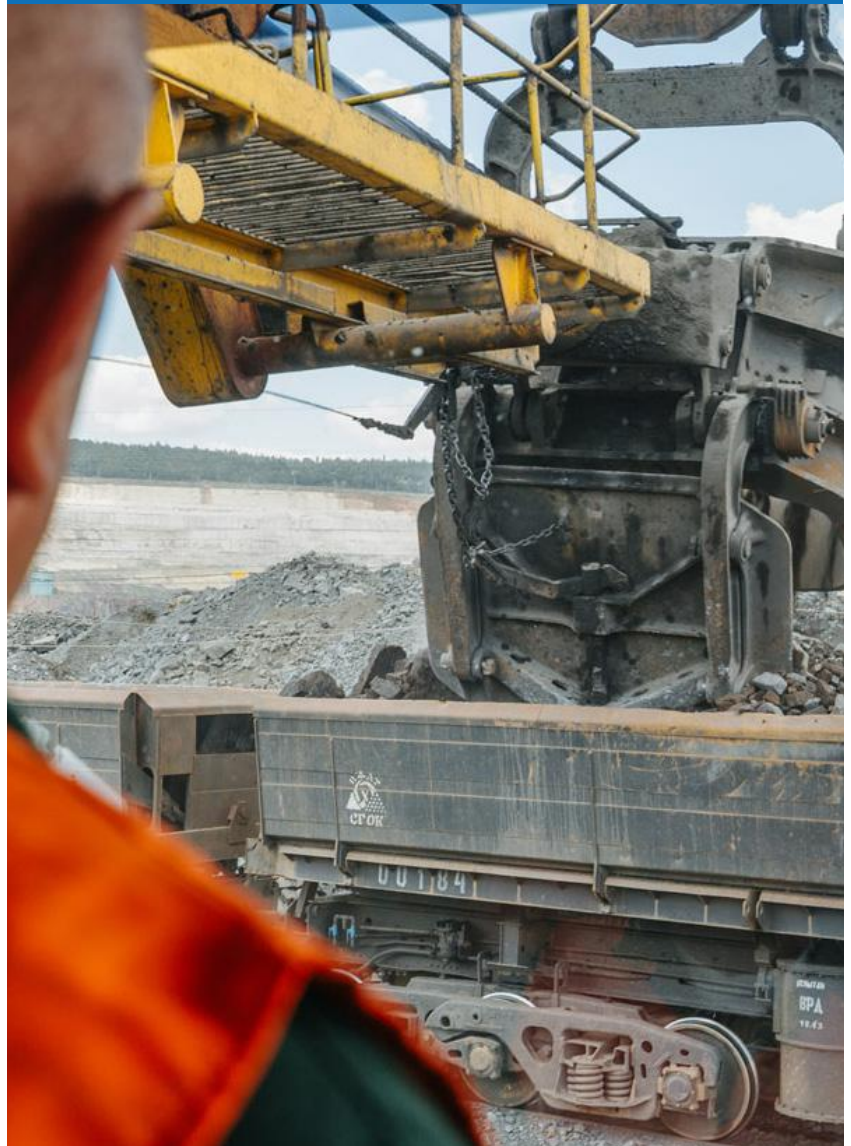
The new plant occupies an area of more than 20,000 square meters. The investments of Nexans in the new plant amounted to UAH 1 billion.

The plant in Brody became one of the largest manufacturing enterprises of Nexans, which now operate in Romania, Mexico, Bulgaria, China, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Tunisia. It is planned to produce cable products for BMW cars, which has already audited the plant and signed an agreement with it.

Elektrokontakt Ukraine LLC has been operating in Lviv region since 2007, when the first production facility in Peremyshliany was established. In 2011 the second production site in Zolochiv was opened on the basis of the former radio plant.

The company produces cable goods for the world automotive companies: Volkswagen (Audi, Porsche), General Motors (Opel), BMW (BMW, Mini, Rolls Royce), and Daimler (Mercedes-Benz).

Ukraine increases exports of titanium ore in kind by 60.5% in January-July



Ukraine in January-July 2017 increased exports of titanium ore and concentrate in real terms by 60.5%, compared to 2015, to 353,022 tonnes.

According to customs statistics, made public by the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine, exports of titanium ore and concentrate in monetary terms over the period rose by 32%, to \$56.734 million.

Major exports were made to the Czech Republic (21.41% of the supply in money terms), China (15.38%), and Turkey (15.32%).

Ukraine in January-July 2017 imported 82 tonnes of titanium ore and concentrate, mainly from Senegal (73.13%), Finland (22.39%) and Iran (4.48%) for \$67,000, while in January-July 2016 the country imported 38 tonnes for \$28,000 from Senegal (71.43%), Germany (21.43%) and Vietnam (7.14%).

Arcelormittal Kryvyi Rih and tis build indoor storage for metal goods at Yuzhny port



Arcelormittal Kryvyi Rih and Transinvestservice stevedoring company (TIS, Odesa region) have opened an indoor transshipment complex for metal goods worth more than \$4.5 million at Yuzhny seaport (Odesa region).

According to a press release from TIS, the complex includes a warehouse for 7,000 square meters with a capacity of more than 40,000 tonnes. Its capacity will be 550,000 tonnes per year.

The warehouse was built by TIS for five months, it is equipped with four bridge cranes.



“Today it is the largest storage of this level in Ukraine. Blue re-bar is a special cargo which cannot come into contact with moisture throughout the supply chain not to lose its technological quality. Therefore there are roads and rail tracks inside the new transshipment complex to unload wagons. The warehouse is completely waterproof, loading is carried out inside,” reads the document.

According to Deputy Director General for Marketing and Sales at Arcelormittal Kryvyi Rih Anastasia Tatarulyeva, the opening of the new complex will help the company not only increase exports, but also greatly improves their quality, as the quality of logistics is extremely important.

Waste recycling plant to be built in Kharkiv region

The Ukrainian government has approved a project on construction of a modern solid household waste recycling plant in Derhachi (Kharkiv region) presented by Kharkiv Regional Administration. According to the resolution, the project to build a waste plant with the waste collection system, utilization of landfill gas and generation of electricity was approved.

The total area of a land parcel is 39.6 ha. Construction of the plant is to be finished in 2019.

“This would allow considerably improving the health and disease situation in Kharkiv, Derhachi, Kharkiv and Zolochiv districts of Kharkiv regions, and the ecological state of the territory adjacent to the existing waste disposal zone,” the document says.

Sea Port Authority announces tender for dredging works in reni port



The Ukrainian Sea Port Authority has announced a tender to carry out dredging works in Reni port with the expected cost of works of UAH 6.6 million and the approximate volume of works of 41,600 cubic meters.

"The dredging project we have launched at Reni port is intended to support its technical characteristics. This is the usual development plan that was not fulfilled in the previous years," Authority Head Ravis Veckagans said.

He said that the Reni port is interesting for freight owners: in H1 2017, freight handling here grew by 21% year-over-year, to 424,180 tonnes.

The deadline for submission of bids is August 29, 2017. The dredging works are to be done in Q4 2017.

As reported, this year the authority carried out dredging works in Odesa, Chornomorsk, Olvia ports using own fleet. A contractor is involved in similar works at Mykolaiv port. In June, the authority signed a contract with Belgium's DEME Group to remove ooze in Yuzhny port.

Energomashspetsstal ships two rotors for indian bhel's turbine

Public joint-stock company Energomashspetsstal (EMSS, Kramatorsk, Donetsk region), the owner of which is Russia's Atomenergomash, has shipped two rotors for a 800 MW low pressure turbines for India's Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL), the company's press service has reported. The weight of the equipment is 117.8 tonnes. Its cost is not disclosed. The equipment was shipped to the customer by rail and by sea.

BHEL is one of the largest Indian engineering and industrial companies. Its core business is electricity generation, distribution and transmission, telecom, oil and gas production. The company produces turbines, transformers, electricity generators, heaters and other equipment.

The press service of EMSS also said that the company signed a contract to supply a large batch of subproducts (29 mechanically processed pieces) to Germany's EschmannStahl GmbH & Co.KG, with which EMSS has been cooperating for over 10 years.

The products will be shipped from September to December 2017. The weight of the batch is 250.5 tonnes.

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Agriculture ministry and Kyivstar will develop digital platform for farmers



Ukraine's Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Kyivstar mobile operator with the aim of introducing modern technologies into the production processes in agriculture.

According to a report on the ministry's website, the agreement provides for the creation of conditions for the development of small and medium-sized farmers through the introduction of a digital platform.



"The developed digital platform for agricultural producers will be an effective tool for communications between ministry representatives and the key players of the agricultural sector, as well as for providing consultations and necessary information on government support programs or other information important to producers," Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food for European Integration Olha Trofimtseva said.

According to her, using modern information tools will help agricultural producers more accurately and qualitatively analyze and forecast their activities.

United Cardboard Company Ukraine with Cypriot owner could merge assets of Lobov's United Cardboard Company

United Cardboard Company Ukraine LLC registered late 2016 could acquire a controlling stake in United Cardboard Company LLC of businessman Mykola Lobov (both based in Lutsk), as well as in two corrugated cardboard and corrugated packaging manufacturers – Yug Karton Ukraine LLC and Lutsk Cardboard and Paper Factory LLC, which are incorporated in the United Cardboard Company.

The press service of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine said last week that the committee permitted to acquire these stakes. The acquisition will grant over 50% of the votes in the management body of each company.

According to the public register, United Cardboard Company Ukraine LLC was registered in December 2016 with a charter capital of UAH 11 million (the creation of the company will be finished by late 2017). Its founder is Cyprus-based LN Cardboard Group. The ultimate beneficiary is Alberto Lanza (registered in Belize).

In turn, United Cardboard Company LLC was created in 2009. It incorporates Yug Karton (production facilities in Mykolaiv), Lutsk Cardboard and Paper Factory and Poninka Cardboard and Paper Mill (production facilities in Khmelnytsky region).

FAO in Ukraine to draw up project to adapt agriculture to climate changes



“This project is incredibly important for Ukraine today, since the issues of irrigation, deforestation and forest degradation have become critical priorities on the national agroecological agenda,” Coordinator of FAO development programmes in Ukraine Mykhailo Malkov said.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in close collaboration with the Agricultural Policy and Food Ministry of Ukraine and the Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry will draw up a project to adapt agriculture in Ukraine to climate changes.

FAO said in a press release that the project will consider current and projected climate conditions in Ukraine and their impact on agriculture (including forestry and fisheries).

The project will suggest measures for mitigating climate change, and for adapting to it. A series of consultations will be held to ensure transparency and broad input into the development of a plan of action.

Kyiv International Economic Forum — KIEF — is a new major international conference focused on the future of economic development. Held annually in Kyiv, it is not just an event about or for Ukraine, but an innovative forum that covers the global agenda. KIEF has been envisioned to become a leading discussion platform at an intersection of civilizations based in the capital of the biggest country in Europe.

This year Kyiv International Economic Forum supported by the Prime Minister will take place on October 5 – 6.

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