

IP

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ECONOMIC ZONE
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INVEST PARK INFO



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UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE
AT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY**

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Dear Readers,

When in 1854 Ignacy Łukasiewicz opened the first oil mine in Bóbrka near Krosno, he had little idea that he had just transformed the face of the Earth and initiated an industry that is worth hundreds of billions of dollars today. We talk about our compatriots' successes too rarely, and for this reason this is precisely what we are going to do in the issue that you are holding in your hands.

Our zone participates in global trends developing new technologies: "gas under glass", the intelligent ventilation hood, or the superlight electric car made at the legendary Nysa plant – these are but a few examples of ideas that are put into effect by entrepreneurs functioning in the Wal-

OVERVIEW OF EVENTS AND DEADLINES

Half-year summary with self-government members

Entrepreneurs functioning in the WSEZ invested more than 19 billion zlotys, and companies in the zone employ almost 41 thousand people – the first six months of 2015 were summarized during the fifth Business Breakfast of the WSEZ Self-government Members. The next meeting, summarizing the whole year 2015, is scheduled for December. We would already like to invite local self-government members from the WSEZ subzones to participate in it.



Business Mixer at the WSEZ

The first edition of "INVEST-PARK" Business Mixer will be held in Wrocław in November. It will be a wonderful opportunity to establish business contacts and present your company. The participants will include both the WSEZ investors and representatives of firms from outside the zone. We will provide more details in the next issue of "IPI".

Contact: businessmixer@invest-park.com.pl



brzych SEZ. In this issue, we also describe some past inventions that positively influenced the progress of humanity.

Today's world would not be what it is without the greatest of all inventions – electricity. Advances in technology have led to total dependence of the economy on energy, and in Poland energy is mostly generated from burning hard bituminous coal and lignite. Our country is thus to a large degree dependent on non-renewable sources of energy that negatively affect the natural environment. However, Deputy Minister of Economy **JERZY PIETREWICZ** reassures us that there is no threat of chaos in energy supplies in Poland. You can read more about the main changes in Poland's energy policy on pages 10–11.

In the context of energy security, passing the bill on renewable energy sources in May this year was extremely important. By 2050, as much as a third of all electrical energy in Poland will be produced from renewables. Green energy is the subject of this issue's column by **BARBARA KAŚNIKOWSKA**, President of the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK" (pp. 4–5).

Although energy generated from renewables is increasingly cheaper, it is still more expensive than from conventional sources, and thus renewable energy sources need support in order to ensure technological development. The EU's 2014–2020 financial framework offers many opportunities for obtaining funds for developing renewable sources, increasing energy efficiency and cutting emissions. For

this reason, it is worth reading Deputy Minister of Economy **ILONA ANTONISZYŃ-KLIK'S** column (pp. 6–7) and following the website www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl in order to choose the best solution for your company.

As summer is approaching, I wish all the readers of IPI great holidays, lots of sun and pleasant time to relax! ■

↔ **MONIKA KORZEWICZ**,
Managing Editor

The author has graduated in Journalism, and she has also finished postgraduate studies at the Academy of National Defense in Warsaw. She has worked in local and central government institutions. She is a specialist at the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK" Department of Communication.



Quote of the issue

Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it.

Pope FRANCIS, encyclical letter "Laudato Si"

Remember the deadlines!

The deadline for sending information about incurred capital expenditure and staff headcount in Q2 2015 expires on 10 July.

Entrepreneurs from the zone are asked to send the reports to j.rybicka@invest-park.com.pl,  or using the cooperation platform available on our Internet portal (we described the portal's functionalities in the previous issue of "IPI").

Applications for sponsorship of sports and educational initiatives can be submitted by the end of July. It will be the second and last chance to apply for funds. The rules and specimen documents can be found on:

www.invest-park.com.pl/ustugi-dodatkowe/sponsoring 

Even larger

The Wałbrzych zone covers 2,650 ha of land in 44 subzones. The Council of Ministers is currently considering the zone's application to include further areas in its territory. New subzones will be created in Książ Wielkopolski, Niemodlin, Dąbrowa, Lewin Brzeski, and Świebodzin. These new lands will provide investors wishing to generate jobs with attractive locations where they can apply for public aid in the form of tax exemptions.

Common energy

The WSEZ and the INNPACT company signed a cooperation agreement on establishing a bulk-purchase group for buying electrical energy and gas. All entrepreneurs, not only those from the zone, as well as self-governments are welcome to join the group. This can lead to significant savings on energy. Please send your queries to:

grupazakupowa@invest-park.com.pl 

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THE GREEN GAME

BARBARA KAŚNIKOWSKA, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF THE WSEZ "INVEST-PARK"

Experts differ in their predictions concerning electrical energy consumption in Poland in the years to come. The 2014 governmental forecast predicted a considerable increase in energy use by 2030. Most recent reports describe only a slight growth by 2020, after which demand will level off. Meanwhile, last year's report prepared by Deloitte Business Consulting and DNP Bank concluded that Poland's demand for energy will peak in 2015 and then begin to fall.



How is this surprising trend possible? We see that our economy is developing, more and more firms are investing and expanding their production, which should lead to increased demand for energy. Special economic zones are well aware of this – they act as intermediaries between utilities providers and the entrepreneurs who situate their facilities within the zones.

Well, economic activity and demand for electrical energy in companies are indeed on the rise, but so is the energy efficiency of the entire economy. Although Polish industry is catching up with Western Europe in terms of energy consumption and there is little room for savings here, there are considerable untapped reserves in non-industrial sectors: services, communications, and transportation. The amount of primary energy consumption per capita is 40% higher in Poland than in the better-developed EU countries.

Another important element is the change in the electrical energy production structure. In 2013, as much as 84% of Poland's energy was produced by burning hard bituminous and lignite coal, while the contribution of renewable energy sources was only 10.4%. By 2050, renewables are predicted to constitute the main source of electrical energy, alongside hard bituminous coal, and account for 1/3 of the entire production. Green energy is our future.

SUN, WIND AND WATER

Globally, the fastest-growing way of making energy from renewable sources is photovoltaics (PV). It is har-



dly surprising since the energetic potential of the Sun seems limitless. Within six months the Earth receives as much solar energy as we could produce from all the known reserves of coal, oil, gas and uranium combined. If we were able to use all this energy, one minute (!) would be enough to produce enough power for the whole world. The crux of the matter is how to do it. Fortunately, in the last few years we have made enormous progress in this area.

The 2013 McKinsey Global Institute report cited renewable energy sources as one of twelve potentially economically disruptive technologies. The report indicated that the price for a solar photovoltaic cell per watt has decreased by 85% since 2000 while solar photovoltaic and wind generation capacity has increased nineteen-fold! The cost of generating energy from the Sun is declining so much that PV installations are beginning to be economically viable even for individual consumers. It could lead to a snowball effect in the development of photovoltaics. An increasing number of companies, including those operating within the Wabrzych Special Economic Zone, are deciding to mount PV panels as a supplementary source of energy.



Another inexhaustible source of energy is the wind. It is estimated that the global potential of wind power is around 5,000 times higher than the annual output of energy generated by burning coal. The problem is, however, that winds blow in different directions and with different strength, and sometimes there is no wind at

all. Thus in order to tap into the potential of the wind, it is vitally important to come up with a technology that would be capable of taming the capricious nature of the wind. Alternatively, we could go on combining wind energy with other sources, both renewable and traditional.

For the time being, the potential of extracting wind power in Poland is used only to a limited degree. However, according to the data published by the Energy Regulatory Office in May this year, the largest increase in energy produced from renewables between Q1 2014 and Q1 2015 was in wind power generation (274.6 MW), followed by photovoltaics (23.1 MW).



We shouldn't forget about hydropower while harnessing renewable energy sources. Water power stations meet around 16% of global energy needs (in Norway, it is as much as 98%). The greatest potential for developing hydroelectric power is in China, Russia, Brazil, and Canada. It is in China where the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest power station in terms of installed capacity, functions. Producing a stunning amount of 22.5 GW, it exceeds the annual hydroelectric power generation of Sweden (the EU leader in this respect), and surpasses Poland's production by more than 30 times.

Naturally, the possibility of harnessing hydropower is unevenly distributed. In Poland, the Vistula and its tributaries account for 80% of this potential, while the Oder – for 18%. It would be hard to think about using water energy anywhere else apart from these two water systems.

WHAT WE TREAD ON...

Huge reservoirs of energy are hidden not only in the distant Sun, but also much closer, in the Earth's core. At a depth of 6,400 km, the temperature reaches 5,000°C. Using geothermal waters becomes economically viable only when the temperature reaches 65°C at a depth of two kilometers while their salinity does not exceed 30 grams per liter. About 40% of Poland's territory meets these criteria.



Geothermal energy is primarily used for heating. Generating electrical power in this way is profitable only in the case of extremely hot water sources. The global leader in this respect is the USA. In Europe, it is Iceland, with around 1/4 of its annual demand for electrical energy satisfied by geothermal installations.

... AND WHAT WE BREATHE



One could ask why renewable energy sources are so important if power consumption in Poland is predicted to fall. One answer is: due to their limitlessness. While the world's deposits of oil, coal or gas will run out one day, the potential of the Sun, wind and water will always be there. The prospect of using renewables as we wish is very tempting.

What is equally important in generating energy from renewable sources is curbing greenhouse gases emis-

sions. Initially, the European Commission's aims for 2020 assumed a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions compared to the 1990s; now, this reduction is expected to reach 40%. It is an ambitious target that could be difficult to meet. Increasing the proportion of power generated from renewables could help us achieve it. After all, these are emission-free sources. Although I have been unable to find current and comprehensive data, let me quote just one fact to illustrate the potential of renewable sources of energy in terms of protecting the quality of air: in 2009, wind power made it possible to avoid producing 106 million tons of CO₂. This is equivalent to the emissions of a quarter of all cars in Europe.

By the way, carbon dioxide produced in the entire territory of the European Union accounts for only 7% of global emissions. Thus even the most draconian requirements imposed by the European Commission will not significantly change the global levels of greenhouse gases emissions.

IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

The development of new technologies for harnessing energy also leads to creating new jobs. In Germany, almost 400,000 people are already working in the renewable energy sector, exceeding the number of those working in coal power generation. In Poland, too, the number of companies offering devices needed to generate green energy is growing. Manufacturers of wind turbine blades, heat pumps, PV panels for heating water, or various subassemblies and installation elements are increasing their production volumes. The press has recently described KGHM's planned investment in production of PV panels. Let's keep our fingers crossed for this project.

The power industry and other industries connected with renewables offer innovative jobs. Developing the new technologies requires scientists – R&D is an important area in renewable energy generation. Brand new branches of economy are appearing right in front of our eyes.

However, renewable energy sources also generate costs. Germany subsidizes each "green" MWh with an amount of €60. It is estimated that by 2035 the amount of these subsidies will exceed €500 billion!

Even worse, the restrictive policy on climate, whose important part is the policy on renewables, leads to growing energy prices. Today the price of electric energy in the EU is 37% higher than in the USA, and in a decade or so we could be paying 50% more than in the USA, and several times more than in China. It leads straight to the relocation of EU factories to places where energy is cheaper, and this is something that we would very much like to avoid...

So far, the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone has been encouraging the companies functioning within it to join the bulk-purchase group. Buying electrical energy together (presently produced from traditional sources, but in the future – who knows?) leads to considerable savings that decrease the cost of production. It is also worth checking the possibilities offered by Regional Operational Programs. Within the current financial framework, considerable funds have been earmarked for companies' investments in increasing energy efficiency in almost all the provinces. ■

BABARA KAŚNIKOWSKA

She graduated from the Warsaw School of Economics and for many years she was responsible for the coordination of EU programs aimed at Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and she initiated the creation of the National System of Services for SMEs. As an expert of the European Commission, she was involved in programs stimulating entrepreneurship and regional development. The United Nations Development Program drew on her expertise while evaluating actions that supported business and women in Bulgaria. She arrived in Lower Silesia in 2008 to head an institution that supported Lower Silesian companies, and later to become director of the largest department of the Lower Silesian Marshal's Office in charge of the Regional Operational Program.



CALENDAR

■ According to Eurostat, the unemployment rate in the eurozone stood at 11.1% in April, falling from 11.2% in the previous month. The Central Statistical Office informed that joblessness in Poland also fell, from 11.7% in March to 11.2% in April.

■ Grant Thornton, a consultancy, published a report claiming that, solely in Q1, 2015, Polish legislators produced 6,654 pages of new rules and regulations.

■ In the last 25 years, the state budget of Poland has received more than 152 billion zlotys from the sales of privatized companies. Out of the initial number of 8,500 state-owned enterprises, only 3% have not been sold yet.

■ Forty-nine percent of Poles negatively evaluate the modernization program of the Polish army, according to a report by the Institute for Market and Social Research. Most positive indications were given to the purchase of Rosomak transporters and the Patriot system. The respondents most severely criticized the purchase of Caracal helicopters.

■ According to a study by the United Nations University, 300 tons of gold and over 1,000 tons of silver were dumped across the world in 2014 due to inadequate recycling. The UNU study estimates the potential value of the globally wasted resources at about \$50 billion. The volume of gold alone is more than 10 percent of what is mined every year.

■ The average gross salary in Q1 of 2015 was 4,054.89 zlotys, the Central Statistical Office announced.



■ ANDRZEJ DUDA won the presidential election in Poland. The Law and Justice's candidate received 51.55% of the votes in the second round. The incumbent Bronisław Komorowski was supported by 48.45% of the voters.

■ Six global banks (HSBC, Barclays, Royal Bank of Scotland, UBS, JP Morgan, and Citigroup) were fined \$5.6 billion in total for currency-rigging.

■ The European Commission informed that it had initiated procedures concerning the potential infringement of EU law by Germany. The probe will focus on a bill passed by Berlin that guarantees a minimum wage in the transport sector.

■ As many as 280,000 devices are infected by malware in Poland every day, according to the data of CERT Polska. Among the most vulnerable machines are Windows-powered computers, especially running its older versions.

■ Since Poland entered the EU, Polish entities have been applying for an ever-increasing number of patents. Last year, 470 applications were filed with the European Patent Office, an increase of over a quarter on 2013.

■ Poland's president signed a bill allowing farmers to sell their produce directly. It is estimated that around 100,000 farms will use this possibility. According to the new law, farmers will be obliged to register their sales and pay a flat-rate tax of 2% on income up to the amount of €150,000.

ILONA ANTONISZYN-KLIK, DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMY

"The humanity is wastefully exploiting natural resources in a way that threatens the planet. The consumerist lifestyle is a road leading to the demise of our civilization. By destroying the natural environment, we trigger a process of self-destruction," environmentalists thunder. "Poland is at a stage where we cannot afford the climate change package. Until China, India and other big polluters do something, our potential influence on climate change is minimal. After all, many scientists are saying that global warming is a myth," respond their adversaries.

NOT CHOICE

A MATTER OF NECESSITY,

There is a grain of truth in the arguments of both sides. However, we do not need to take sides, choosing either complete lack of care for the environment or restrictive usage of each drop of water and kilowatt of energy. Balance is the key. Let us change what we can change, let us save where there are possibilities to do so, let us think like the host and not a short-time visitor. These simple rules are very difficult to observe, though. Developing renewable energy sources and other environmentally-friendly solutions, which this issue of IPI is to a large extent devoted to, is a matter of necessity, not choice. It is not only clean air, water and soil that are at stake. The deposits of natural resources, coal, oil and minerals are limited and cannot be regenerated. Meanwhile, our entire functioning is based on energy. Can you imagine living one day without electricity? How about a week? A month? With no artificial lighting, fridges, telephones, computers?

Without electrical devices at hospitals? Without gas to power the oven, hot water, fast public transport? If we do not begin to think about the future now, the worst-case scenario shown in sci-fi movies may well come true. Not in our lifetime, not in the next 50 years, perhaps not even in the next few hundred years, but the environmental disaster will happen. But can we afford the luxury of ignoring the potential threat simply because we will not be personally affected?

How to reconcile development and environmentalism, then? What we need now and how to safeguard against the future? What can each of us really do, in their home, company, city and country? Well, we can do a lot, and, most importantly, European funds will help us in the next few years. The receipt of applications within the 2014–2020 Infrastructure and Environment Operational Program will begin soon. Its main aim is precisely to support the development of an economy that would efficiently use the resources, favor the environment and territorial as well as social cohesion.

The main aim stems from one of the priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy, which is sustainable development perceived as supporting the economy while respecting the environment protection standards. Almost €3 billion will be allocated within this program, mostly to support the power generation industry. Apart from increasing Poland's energy security (€1 billion), as much as €1,528 million (four times more than in the 2007–2013 financial framework) will be spent for improving energy efficiency, and further €300 million – for renewable energy sources. Many of the actions are aimed at enterprises, especially the large ones. I would like to encourage



ILONA ANTONISZYN-KLIK

She was awarded scholarship by the Hans Böckler Foundation for young talented PhD students. She was president of the Women's Committee at the Provincial Commission for Community Dialogue. She received MA in Economics from the European University Viadrina. She completed postgraduate studies at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna. She also studied at the École nationale d'administration in Paris.

From 2008 to 2010 she worked at the Lower Silesian Marshal Office, first as Deputy Director of the Regional Development Department and later as Deputy Director at the Department of the European Structural Funds and the Reconstruction and Development Program. From 8 June 2010 she was Deputy Voivode of Lower Silesia. On 24 November 2011 she was appointed to the position of the Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Economy.

Her hobbies are running and dog trekking.

you to acquaint yourselves with the details of the program and use the opportunities it offers.

Power generation in Poland is based on coal. It will continue to be so for many years. What we can do, however, is to make mining more modern by introducing innovative solutions. The program for Silesia and Malopolska includes the possibility of conducting intensive research on resources, becoming involved in Europe-wide research projects, and launching pilot programs of using clean technologies.

We must promote the use of alternative energy sources: hydroelectric power stations, wind farms, geothermal waters, photovoltaics, etc. As technology advances, they are going to be increasingly more efficient, popular and cheap.

Entrepreneurs will find many financing instruments in the regional programs. For example, Axis 3 of the Regional Operational Program for the Dolnośląskie Province – Low-emission Economy – has a budget of €392.3 million. These funds could be spent on producing and distributing energy from renewables, increasing the energy efficiency of SMEs, or introducing low-emission strategies. Companies whose functioning is connected with waste management can apply for funds within Axis 4 of the same program – Environment and Resources (a total budget of €180 million).

Entrepreneurs are well aware of the need to look after the environment and natural resources, and to run their businesses responsibly. Last year, the Corporate Social Responsibility Group was established by the Ministry of Economy. Its work is divided into four areas: education and CSR promotion; monitoring trends in CSR; implementing CSR principles; sustainable production and consumption. Within the last area, a meeting was held in June where incentives for entrepreneurs to use Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) were discussed. I believe that together we will be able to come up with the most constructive and viable projects.

Development and ecology, industry and the environment, human needs and conservation – these are not, and cannot be, contradictions. Let us think how to reconcile our comfortable and safe existence now with care for the Earth for future generations, and let us introduce these solutions. It will be profitable.

It is a matter of necessity, not choice.

CALENDAR



- Leaders of the seven most influential countries of the West (G7) threatened to introduce further sanctions on Russia in the view of the ongoing hostilities in Eastern Ukraine. Until last year, the summits gathered the G8 states, which also included Russia. However, Russia has been suspended due to its military action in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine.
- According to a report by the company Coface, five out of every one hundred firms doing business in Poland went bankrupt last year.
- An internal investigation is being carried out at Deutsche Bank AG. It is intended to find out whether the employees of the bank's branch in Russia were involved in money laundering for their clients. An estimated amount of \$6 billion was supposedly laundered over more than four years. The bosses of the bank handed in their resignation.
- The Ministry of Finance expects the Polish economy to grow by 3.4% of GDP this year. Forecasts by the International Monetary Fund are even more optimistic and predict growth by 3.5%. The Central Statistical Office's most recent data are also positive – in Q1, the economic growth reached 3.6%. Analysts think that stable growth based on strong exports and consumption as well as rising investments bode well for the future, and this year can end with growth exceeding the forecast and approaching the 4% threshold.
- Thirty-eight per cent of board members of financial institutions, who were surveyed during the sixth edition of the European Banking Barometer, reckon that the macroeconomic situation in 2015 will be better than in 2014. Twenty-seven per cent of them think the opposite. The bankers are less optimistic than last year, when 64% of the respondents expected a change for the better.
- U.S. officials informed that personal details of about 4 million former and current employees of federal agencies might have been stolen by hackers.
- The European Parliament set up a special committee to investigate whether tax regimes of EU countries facilitate tax avoidance by international corporations, and whether they lead to tax dumping practices. Representatives of Google, Fiat, Ikea, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, HSBC, and InBev refused to attend the committee meeting.
- Poland's Prime Minister EWA KOPACZ dismissed several ministers. Among those leaving their posts were BARTOSZ ARŁUKOWICZ, Minister of Health (replaced by an outstanding heart surgeon, Professor MARIAN ZEMBALA), Minister of State Treasure WŁODZIMIERZ KARPIŃSKI (whose job will now be done by a Civic Platform MP ANDRZEJ CZERWIŃSKI) and Minister of Sport ANDRZEJ BIERNAT (substituted by ADAM KOROL, Olympic champion in rowing). Also relieved of his duties was JACEK CICHOCKI, coordinator of the intelligence services, who was replaced by MAREK BIERNACKI, an MP for the Civic Platform. Jacek Rostowski, the head of Kopacz's advisory team, also handed in his resignation. RADOŚLAW SIKORSKI was forced to resign as Speaker of Parliament, and his role will now be performed by MAŁGORZATA KIDAWA-BŁOŃSKA from the Civic Platform.

Single administrative proceeding concerning residence
and work permits for foreign nationals in Poland

WORK PERMITS EASIER TO OBTAIN

There are many regulations governing the work of foreign nationals in Poland. Migrants from different countries are subject to different rules connected with obtaining work and residence permits. Depending on the foreigners' country of origin, the law requires the employer to perform a different number of duties.

Citizens of **EU states** as well as those coming from countries belonging to **the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway)** and **Switzerland** do not need to apply for a permit to work in Poland. Our labor market is open to them.

MIGRANTS FROM OUTSIDE THE EU

An employer wishing to hire a non-EU citizen usually has to obtain the permit from a provincial governor. However, citizens of **Armenia, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Moldova** and **Georgia** are treated slightly differently in Poland – they can work without the permit. In their case, it is necessary for the employer only to submit, free of charge, a declaration to a county employment office stating the employer's willingness to hire a worker from one of these countries.

PLEASE NOTE: citizens of these countries can work in Poland maximum six months in a year, and the employer must sign a written contract with them (an employment contract or an agreement under civil law).

Things look different when offering legal employment to foreigners from **outside the EU and the EEA, who are not citizens of Switzerland, Armenia, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Moldova and Georgia**. In their case, the future employer's application for a work permit for their employee must be filed with a provincial office, stating the amount of remuneration the employee will receive.

THOUSANDS OF NEWCOMERS

The number of foreigners looking for jobs in Poland is growing. Last year, work permits were issued to 24,500 Ukrainians (in the previous year – to around 20,000). Also citizens of Asian countries and Western Europe are coming to Poland. In 2014, there were 440,000 foreigners with a work permit working in Poland.

PLEASE NOTE: the permit will not be granted if the remuneration indicated in the application is lower than the remuneration of the company's employees who perform similar work on a similar position. The application must also include a valid transcript from the National Court Register, the company deed, the earned income statement, documents confirming the number of employees, documents confirming the foreign worker's qualifications if he or she will be employed as a specialist.

THE NEW LAW

"In Poland, matters connected with employing foreign nationals are regulated by the Act on Foreigners," says **TOMASZ BRUDER**, Director of the Citizens and Foreigners Affairs Department of the Dolnośląskie Provincial Office in Wrocław. "Since 1 May last year, a number of important changes concerning the issuance of work and residence permits have been introduced. **The permit can be issued for a maximum period of three years (previously: two years)**. Importantly, this solution is also available to foreigners who are already residents of Poland," Mr. Buder adds.

The permits are issued by departments of foreigners affairs of provincial offices. The foreign national has to submit the application in person. The procedure of granting the permit lasts maximum two months. During this time, the foreigner can legally stay in Poland (having received an annotation in the passport), but until the final decision has been made, he or she cannot travel to other countries of the Schengen Area.

"The deadlines for submitting the applications are less restrictive now. Previously, foreign workers had to submit the relevant documents at least 45 days before the expiry of the current residence permit. **Since May, they can do it even on the last day of their legal residence in Poland,**" Mr Buder adds.

TWO IN ONE

Another important change has been **the replacement of two separate procedures of applying for work and residence**



permits with a single one. Unfortunately, the new solution does not apply to persons who are residing outside Poland. In their case, the procedure of obtaining a work permit must still be initiated and conducted by the future employer. Before coming to Poland, the foreigner has to obtain a visa at a Polish consulate abroad.

Applying for a temporary residence and work permit by a foreigner is connected with submitting a number of documents, including information about the future job, proof of financial means necessary to cover the cost of living, health insurance confirmation, and a confirmation of having a place of residence in Poland. It is still necessary for the employer to inform the relevant County Labor Office of their inability to satisfy their staffing needs within the local labor market, and apply for a permit on the foreigner's behalf. Providing this information is not necessary when submitting an application to extend the work permit provided it concerns the same foreigner working on the same position. Nothing has changed with respect to the foreigner's remuneration – it must not be lower than a Polish employee's salary on a similar post and working a similar number of hours per week.

TESTING THE MARKET

An employer willing to employ a foreigner who **needs a work permit has to submit a job offer to the County Labor Office,**



Specialists now

Foreigners are often employed as board members in limited liability and joint stock companies. Here, too, different regulations apply to EU and non-EU citizens. The former, together with citizens of the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein) and Switzerland, do not need to apply for a work permit in Poland. However, they must remember about the duty to be domiciled in Poland. If their sojourn exceeds three months, they are obliged to register their stay at a provincial office relevant to their place of residence. The latter have to obtain a work permit and a visa before they begin work in Poland.

However, the situation of future board members is different than that of other employees. They only have to apply for a work permit once their sojourn in Poland exceeds a total period of six months over the period of twelve consecutive months. Thus if a foreigner is planning to stay in Poland longer than six months after his or her arrival in Poland, he or she should apply for a work permit once the period of six months has passed.

which describes the job requirements. The Office will verify whether an appropriate candidate can be found in the register of unemployed people who are looking for work. If not, the county administrator will issue a document confirming the inability to satisfy the employer's staffing needs within the local labor market. This document will constitute an appendix to the application for a given foreigner's work permit.

PLEASE NOTE: the new law shortens the validity period of the document confirming the inability to satisfy the employer's staffing needs within the local labor market from 180 to 90 days.

Students "unblocked"

In accordance with the resolution of 21 April, 2015, it will be easier for students from abroad to find a job in Poland. The previous regulations only allowed them to work without any restrictions during the summer. Since May, foreign full-time students, both graduate and postgraduate, can work in Poland without any restrictions during the whole year. According to the Central Statistical Office, more than 46,000 foreign nationals are currently studying in Poland.

Checking whether the right candidate can be found locally is aimed at limiting the employment of foreigners on those positions that could be taken by Poles, or other privileged foreigners (including the citizens of the EU and the EEA, Switzerland, refugees, and persons possessing a permanent residence permit). ■

AN ENERGY MIX OUT OF CONCERN FOR COSTS AND SAFETY

Conversation with **JERZY WITOLD PIETREWICZ**,
Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Economy

■ **What are the main changes predicted in the energy policy until 2050?**

– The new energy policy addresses the basic questions concerning the future developments in the energy industry. One of them includes our future energy mix, and in particular the role of coal, our primary energy carrier. We function within a specific external environment and internal conditions. Thus our energy policy must take into account this context, but it must also creatively shape certain processes in order to better safeguard business interests and ensure more efficient allocation. Since the cost of obtaining the permits to emit CO₂ is expected to rise, so will the cost of producing electricity from coal. We are afraid that it might be less and less competitive. It is hard to further develop it given the current technologies. What we need is clean coal-based technologies. This is our response to future challenges. New, clean technologies are necessary to ensure the survival of coal-generated power and the coal industry as such. However, we do believe that we possess adequate R&D potential to protect and use Polish coal in the future. It is one of the determinants of future competitiveness of our economy. We are going to be more efficient in using and chemically processing coal for power generation.

We thus acknowledge that in the future energy mix coal will continue to be the primary energy carrier, although its overall

contribution will diminish. It will result from fast growth of other areas of the power industry. We are not planning to further increase the amount of coal-generated power; instead, we would like to retain the current levels by modernizing efforts, replacing obsolete power units with new ones.

■ **Which areas of the power industry will grow in the future?**

– The increased demand for energy will be met with power generated from renewable energy sources. However, it will entail a need for creating compensating, balancing capacity. Wind and solar energy is intermittent, so it must be backed up by other energy sources that could be quickly switched on. Today it is natural gas that ensures flexibility. Eight gas-fuelled power units are currently being built in Poland. They are going to complement the power generated from renewable energy sources, and it is predicted that their contribution will be significantly higher than what the 2020 energy targets assume.

■ **On 15 May at the Ministry of Economy you presented draft amendments to the Act on Renewable Energy Sources. What do they include?**

– Most of the amendments are only technical, intended to ensure order. We are not introducing any elements that would qualitatively change the renewable energy sources market. The amendments concern the feed-in tariffs amounts paid to “prosumers”, i.e. green energy micro-producers who also consume the energy produced by themselves. The new solutions are also intended to help register and survey the microinstallations in the market.

■ **What about nuclear energy? Are the controversies justified?**

– The Polish nuclear energy program has been adopted recently, in the early 2014. Within this relatively short period, no important reasons to change it have occurred. We assume that the first nuclear power unit will have been constructed in Poland by 2024, and by 2030 we will have 3,000 MW of energy produced by nuclear power plants. I think there will always be doubts, but it is important to discuss them, clear them up and show how others have managed to deal with them. The nuclear power industry is

ENERGY FRAMEWORK

Poland's new draft energy policy till 2050 outlines the main areas of the government's involvement in the power industry. The draft takes into consideration the current aims of EU policy on energy and climate, the global context and domestic challenges connected with climate and conservation requirements. It includes issues connected with energy security, the growing demand for energy and the necessity to guarantee the competitiveness of the Polish industry. The Ministry of Economy is about to present the final version of the document. The strategic part, the evaluation of the previous energy policy till 2030, and the predicted demand for fuel and energy until 2050 have already been finished; the strategic evaluation of environmental impact is currently being prepared.

If one is not wishing to spend billions of zlotys on nuclear power plants, then the best alternative in Poland is renewable energy sources

JERZY WITOLD PIETREWICZ

Since 2013, he has been Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Economy and Government Plenipotentiary for Economic Deregulation.

He has graduated from the Main School of Planning and Statistics (today: Warsaw School of Economics). He holds a PhD in economics.

He is also a graduate of a two-year training program organized by the World Bank (EDI) on "The Economics of the Market" in Vienna.

Previously, he was president of the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and he also headed the Bank of Environmental Protection.

■ Are we energetically secure?

– Absolutely. The threat of a blackout has been averted, not just due to the amount of generated power, but also because of connections with our neighbors. We are expanding intersystem grids, which means that in the case of a large-scale power failure threat we could use back-up capacities from abroad. It is an important element ensuring the stability of our market, which is becoming increasingly more open. Simultaneously, Poland's power industry is developing and modernizing fast. It is good news for business and it is good news for the citizens because we are under no threat of chaos in energy supplies.

■ Thank you for the conversation. ■

↔ **MONIKA KORZEWICZ**
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BATTERIES THAT WILL REVOLUTIONIZE THE RENEWABLE ENERGY MARKET?

On 1 May, Tesla Motors officially announced that it will build batteries for home and commercial use. Weighing 100 kg, the 7kWh and 10 kWh units would be mounted on the wall (hence their name – Powerwall). The producer claims that the batteries will decrease our power bills by 25%.

The smallest, 15-cm thick battery could be used in single-family housing as a back-up system. The batteries will cost \$3,000-3,500. The first units will be shipped to installers in the USA this summer, and to the rest of the world – in 2016. The device would allow consumers to get off a power grid and rely on PV panels mounted on the roof, which will generate energy later to be stored in Tesla batteries.

developing quickly all over the world and it is ever more safe. We need technologically-advanced energy sources. Nuclear energy is not just power generation, but a whole range of accompanying industries based on nuclear research that could be used in industry, medicine, agriculture, materials physics and environment conservation. Although Poland does not have a well-developed nuclear industry, we are already among the global leaders in production of isotopes used in medicine. We specialize in molybdenum-99, which is used in oncologic medicine. Radio-isotopes produced in Poland are exported to almost 80 countries in the world.

■ Which investments guarantee the best return?

– From today's perspective, the best area for investments is renewable energy. It is not just about direct support of the state, but also about the regulations that guarantee stable functioning of this industry for the next 15 years, including a fixed price of selling energy from these sources, adjusted for inflation. A renewable energy producer may also sell it to the highest bidder at a price that would ensure profitability. It is hugely important in terms of this business's predictability and calculability. If one is not wishing to spend billions of zlotys on nuclear power plants, then the best alternative in Poland is renewable energy sources.

“Join the best”,
or  **NEWS**

FROM FIRMS 
IN THE ZONE 

Ten years of TOYOTA MOTOR INDUSTRIES POLAND in Jelcz-Laskowice

• An event marking the tenth anniversary of **TMIP's** functioning was held at the company's seat. One of the traditions of these annual meetings is making donations to the local community. This time, 10,000 zlotys was given to the National Fire Brigade in Jelcz-Laskowice. Toyota Motor Industries Poland produces compression-ignition engines installed in Toyota cars assembled in Europe and Africa.



All the best! We're already looking forward to the 20th anniversary!



A thousand tons of steel a week

• The construction of **VOLKSWAGEN'S** new factory in the Wielkopolskie province eats up more than 1,000 tons of steel per week. The site is as large as 300 football pitches. The facility is scheduled for completion in the second half of 2016. VW's investment is a huge opportunity for both Polish and foreign firms from the automotive industry. The Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone is currently trying to attract more investors to Września.



IMPRESSIVE! The factory is growing right in front of our eyes!



NEW INVESTMENT = NEW JOBS AT CERSANIT

• One of the first companies that invested in the WSEZ is launching a new venture in June. **CERSANIT** will spend almost 6 million zlotys to purchase the machines and installations to increase its production of ceramic tiles, in keeping with the current global trends. The new investment project will result in the creation of more jobs. Cersanit has already begun recruitment. The firm will employ shop floor workers as well as people in the maintenance department – mechanics, electricians and automation technicians.

Bathroom renovation frenzy is coming!

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL THE FIRMS IN THE WSEZ TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS COLUMN.

Write to us at:
ipi@invest-park.com.pl





Steering wheels from Opole

The construction of **GLOBAL STEERING SYSTEM EUROPE'S** new factory began in May, and the recruitment of employees will start in the fall. The production of steering system components is planned to be launched in the early 2016.

"We are going to be a model investor, one who is involved in the local community, cares about the employees' welfare and our business partners," said GSS Europe CEO Larry Finnell at the ceremony of launching the investment. The American company has declared to hire at least 200 employees and invest around 27 million zlotys.

The grand scale of the opening must lead to dynamic development. This is what we wish you!

The first spade was symbolically dug during the investment launching ceremony



IFM begins construction

Almost one hundred engineers will be employed at the R&D center which is currently being built by **ifm ecolink** in Opole. "It is one of those rare cases when a German company invests in the development of technical knowledge in Poland," the company's President ANDRZEJ DURDYN said (in the photo on the left, next to TOMASZ JAKACKI, Deputy President of the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK", presenting him with a commemorative agate). The facility will be equipped with state-of-the-art laboratory apparatus. Around 100 engineers, mostly from the Opole University of Technology, will ultimately work here on developing innovative technologies and patents. The University has already begun cooperation with the firm. The facility in Opole is part of the **ifm electronic** corporation, which specializes in producing industrial automation elements.



We're looking forward to more initiatives like that!



They've become Business Stars



Sixty micro, small and medium-sized enterprises based in Lower Silesia took part in the business poll co-organized by the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK".

SKC HAAS, a producer of display film from Dzierżoniów, was the winner in the "Socially Responsible Business" category. KI YOUNG DO, Deputy President of the company (in the photo), received the award on behalf of **SKC HAAS POLSKA**.

ZPAS-NET, a manufacturer of industrial enclosures, cabinets and wiring based in **NOWA RUDA**, came second in the "Medium-sized Companies" category. The nominees in the "Business-friendly Self-government" included two WSEZ subzones – **ŚWIDNICA** and **ZĄBKOWICE ŚLĄSKIE**.



CONGRATULATIONS!



REHAU'S new investment

The first stage of **REHAU'S** new investment project in Nochów near Śrem was completed in June. The ribbon was cut by (from the left): ZENON JAHNS, Starost of Śrem; GRZEGORZ CHABURA, Director of REHAU'S plant; WOJCIECH JANKOWIAK, Deputy Marshal of the Wielkopolskie province; JÖRG IPFLING, project coordinator of the recycling facility; ADAM LEWANDOWSKI, Mayor of Śrem; RAINER SCHULZ, CEO of REHAU group.

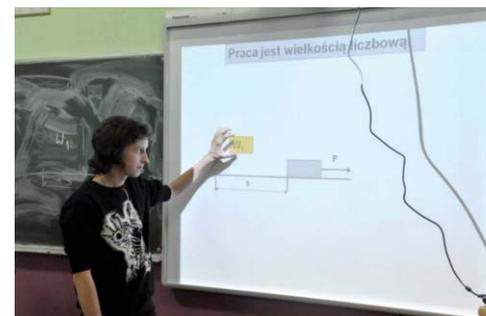
Good luck!

PENTAIR bought an interactive board



A middle school in Głuszyce received a new interactive board, which had been purchased by the Dzierżoniów-based company **PENTAIR POLAND**, a producer of cases and enclosures for electronic components. Using the interactive board in the classroom develops children's cognitive abilities. Such novel solutions make it possible to adapt the teaching style to the students' perception abilities.

Innovation in style! "IPI" likes interactive solutions.





SOLGAZ from Świdnica

SMALL COMPANIES – GREAT IDEAS

Products manufactured by this small company are taking over global markets not only due to their aesthetic appeal and functionality but also owing to unique technological solutions. The firm has invented and patented gas hobs without flames – and it is not the only invention it boasts.



The company's products are presented at the largest trade fairs in the world. Solgaz has won a number of prizes in Poland, including a prize at the Gliwice fair, a medal for its flameless gas hob in Kielce, and a medal awarded in Szczecin. In the photo: MIECZYŚLAW KACZMARCZYK, President of Solgaz

SOLGAZ is a Polish firm established in 2002. "We initially manufactured gas radiators for heating large halls, but we realized we could be more successful in the domestic appliances market. We decided to use the same method in gas cookers. We owe our success to the passion of the constructors, who supervise all the stages of production," says Solgaz President **MIECZYŚLAW KACZMARCZYK**.

"GAS UNDER GLASS" TECHNOLOGY

At a glance, SOLGAZ hobs resemble induction hobs, but it is their interior that makes them unique. "Our ceramic gas hobs without flames are safe, environmentally-friendly and efficient. As a result, consumers' gas bills are significantly lower. The fumes contain ten times less carbon monoxide, which makes the cooker friendly to the environment and, above all, to the user," Mr. Kaczmarczyk explains.

The innovative solution is based on special burners placed under the ceramic hob. They are controlled by an electronic cir-

SOLGAZ has been the first company to use the slider – an electronic touch sensor for controlling the gas burners. The gas stoves have several protection measures, such as the child lock



NY

cuit and convert heat into infrared radiation. Thanks to catalytic burning of gas, they use up to 50% less energy compared to ordinary gas hobs. The gas is burned at a high temperature, which makes the fumes ten times purer than those emitted by traditional gas stoves. Not only does it have beneficial influence on the environment, but it also prevents the formation of greasy deposits. Another unique solution consists of additional hot areas that do not increase gas consumption, so that dishes can be heated up without using any extra energy. The device is controlled via a touch panel.

The “gas under glass” hobs are the best choice for tourists travelling in trailers and on yachts. They can be powered with a voltage of only 12 V, e.g. by a car battery.

DEVELOPMENT ABOVE ALL

Solgaz’s manufacturing plant was relocated to Świdnica last year. “We were a bit cramped for space at our former seat in Marcinowice. Here in Świdnica, a new building of the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone awaited us. We feel very good here because the facility has been adapted to our production needs, we have a nice office and a possibility to further develop,” Mr. Kaczmarczyk says.

Solgaz exports its products to several countries, including Switzerland, England and Russia. However, the president and his employees are about to take on an even greater challenge – entering the global market. “In the future we would like to compete with leading global producers. We also want to convince Polish cus-



PHOTO: SOLGAZ

The gas hobs made by Solgaz resemble electric hobs but they do not require special pots. Because it is a ceramic hob, it is very easy to keep it clean. The innovative kitchen was invented and patented in the 1990s by a Polish engineer, who by finding a way to make a gas stove look like an electric hob made his wife’s dream come true. Solgaz hobs are supplemented with the company’s modern ovens and the intelligent ventilation hood – quiet and energy-efficient, the only model that automatically opens up when cooking begins

tomers that there are no trade-offs between functionality and aesthetic appeal when furnishing the kitchen. We offer both, and even more,” Mr. Kaczmarczyk explains.

The company is constantly developing and broadening its product range. Among the newest inventions are an induction hob that “knows no limits” and automatically detects the pot to heat only the area under it, and an “intelligent hood” that opens up when cooking starts. ■

➔ MONIKA KORZEWICZ



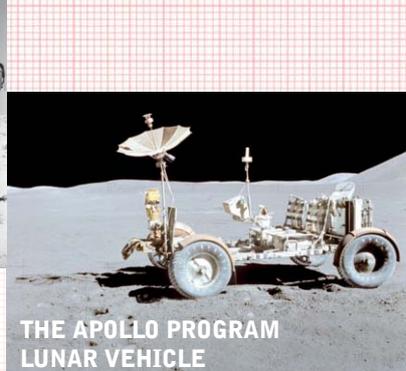
HOLOGRAM

The technology enabling us to see 3D images on two-dimensional surfaces was pioneered by a Polish physicist **MIECZYŚLAW WOLFKE**. He lay the theoretical foundations for the development of holography in 1920, 28 years earlier than Dennis Gabor, who developed a method of obtaining holo-spatial pictures and received the Nobel Prize for it.



MINE DETECTOR, CYCLOMETER

The mine detector was one of the greatest inventions of Polish engineers during the Second World War. While stationed in Scotland, a Polish colonel and engineer **JÓZEF KOSACKI** constructed a device that used radio waves to indicate where landmines were hidden. The functionality of Mark I beat six other British prototypes. Another invention made by Polish scientists which influenced the course of WWII was the cyclometer – a device that automatically performed the calculations needed to break Enigma ciphers.



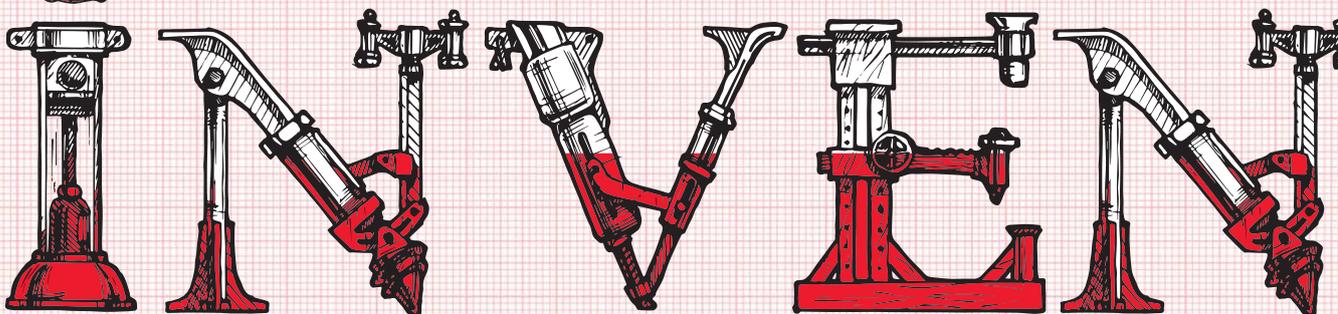
THE APOLLO PROGRAM LUNAR VEHICLE

The Lunar Roving Vehicle was a four-wheeled rover used by astronauts during the Apollo program to transport scientific and communications equipment, tools, and lunar samples. It was created by a team of constructors led by **MIECZYŚLAW G. BEKKER** for a competition held by NASA in 1961. The Polish professor, who specialized in constructing and studying military vehicles, was the author of all the technological solutions that enabled the LRV to move on the surface of the Moon.

SOURCE PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS (SETI, NO. 1 ARMY FILM & PHOTOGRAPHIC UNIT, WAR OFFICE SECOND WORLD WAR OFFICIAL COLLECTION)

SOURCE PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS (NASA/DAVE SCOTT)

POLISH



THAT MAKE THE WORLD CHANGE

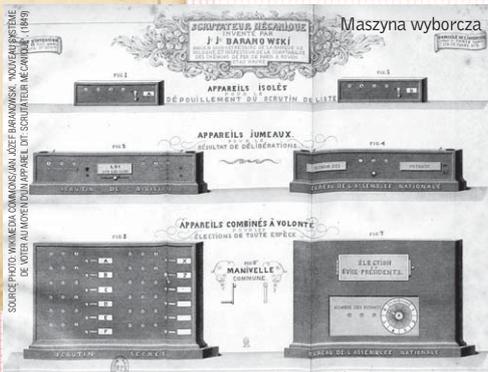
A recipe for a patent

A patent is a set of exclusive rights to use an invention in a commercial or professional way. The maximum term of a patent is 20 years and applies to a country where protection was granted. It is also possible to obtain a Europe-wide patent, which covers most European countries. The Paris Convention of 20 March, 1883, set out that it is possible to request an international patent, although each subsequent request must be made individually in each of the contracting member countries (almost all the countries in the world are its members). Another option is to file a patent application under the PCT – Patent Cooperation Treaty. This treaty has also been signed by almost all the countries (with Taiwan being one notable exemption).



VALIDATING MACHINE, ACCOUNTING MACHINE, VOTING MACHINE, SEMAPHORE

The first hand-held ticket validating machine, which worked similarly to the contemporary ones, was invented by a Polish economist and engineer **JAN JÓZEF BARANOWSKI** in 1848. A year later, he was awarded the medal of the French Society for the Encouragement of Inventiveness at the National Exhibition in Paris, and the medal of the French Minister of Public Works. Baranowski received even more medals, including those for inventing an accounting machine to control the records, or a machine for voting and calculating the number of votes. In 1857, he invented the semaphore, which was first used on the Paris-Rouen railway line.



PAPERCLIP, WINDSHIELD WIPER

It is thought that one of the inventors of the windshield wiper was **JÓZEF HOFMANN**, a Polish pianist and composer. He drew his inspiration from the metronome, used by musicians to keep a steady tempo as they play. Hofmann's idea was implemented in mass production in a Ford factory. Hofmann also allegedly invented the paperclip, and this time he was inspired by the treble clef. The Pole is credited with more than 70 inventions, including a raised piano stool, pneumatic shock absorbers for cars, an electric clock, an electric machine for cooking, and numerous solutions improving the construction of pianos, balloons and planes. He also patented a device for measuring the pressure of pianist's fingers on the keyboard.

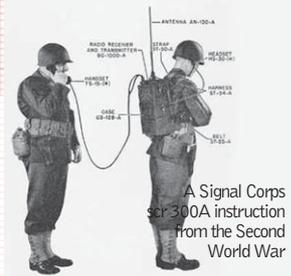




Kazimierz Prószyński filming the streets of Paris, 1909



Top: demonstration of the bulletproof vest in Cracow. Left: label on the package of color photography paper



AEROSCOPE AND PLEOGRAPH

The pleograph, i.e. a camera for recording and projecting movies, was constructed by **KAZIMIERZ PRÓSZYŃSKI** when he was only 19. It was first demonstrated at a show in Warsaw in 1894, a year before the Lumière brothers screened a movie in Paris using their patented cinematograph. Prószyński also invented the aeroscope, which he patented in 1909. It was a hand-held movie camera, which was used by newsreel cameramen to record air battles during the First World War. During his lifetime, Prószyński filed for more than 90 patents, mainly in the field of cinematography.

SOURCE PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/WLADYSLAW LEWISIEWICZ, 'KAZIMIERZ PRÓSZYŃSKI', INTERPRESS, WARSZAWA 1974

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY, COLOR MOVIES, BULLETPROOF VEST

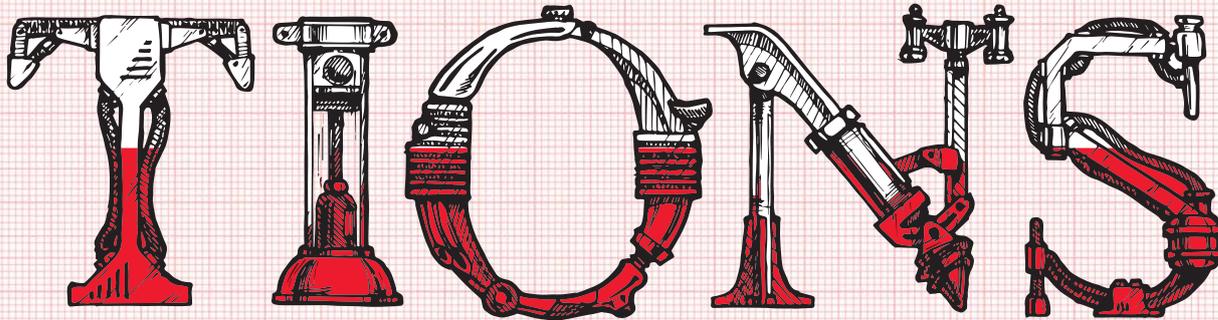
Coming from Poland's territory annexed by Austria, **JAN SZCZEPANIK**, who is sometimes called the Polish Edison, made several dozen inventions, mainly in the field of photography, film and weaving. In 1902, he patented an original method of using the phenomenon of "fading colors", i.e. their gradual loss of intensity caused by light. He also managed to come up with a system of making color movies, which was used in 1921 to make a film titled "The Mountain Pass" in the Alps, regarded very highly for its faithful depiction of colors. Szczepanik also invented the first bulletproof vest that performed its function.

SOURCE PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/HTTP://WWW.TARNOW.PL/SZCZEPANIK/ZYCIORES.PHP

PORTABLE RADIO SET

Among the Polish inventions known everywhere in the world was the SCR-300 radio. It was the first radio set that could be carried in a backpack, with manually adjusted frequency. It weighed 16 kg, and soldiers used to call it walkie-talkie. It was created in 1943 by a group of engineers led by **HENRYK MAGNUSKI** for Motorola (or rather for the U.S. Army that used the device during WW2).

SOURCE PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/PLB1



MAKE-UP FOUNDATION

The term "make-up" was coined by **MAKSYMILIAN FAKTOR**, known as Max Factor. He was a well-known movie make-up artist, and his list of clients included the greatest stars of American cinema: Marlena Dietrich, Pola Negri, Ginger Rogers, Charlie Chaplin, John Wayne, and Frank Sinatra. Max Factor was the one who dyed Rita Hayworth's hair red, and, using a specially-prepared powder, lightened Rudolf Valentino's dark complexion. In 1914, he devised a quick way of putting on and removing make-up. He also got the idea of putting cosmetics in tubes, patented liquid foundation, and found out that greasepaint could be applied more conveniently when it had the form of a lipstick.

MELEX

Melex is an electric vehicle that was created by engineers working in the PZL-Mielec Transportation Equipment Company. It is well-known especially to golfers, but this Polish construction has been so successful that today its name denotes an electric vehicle in many countries of the world.

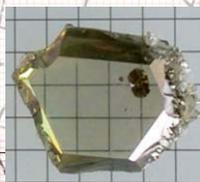
PEROVSKITES AND ENERGY

OLGA MALINKIEWICZ, a 31-year old physicist from Poland, has discovered a new way of using perovskites (a kind of mineral) in photovoltaics. The discovery was recognized by the European Commission, and in 2014 Malinkiewicz received a prize in the Photonics21 competition. The new technology will make it possible to tap into the energy of the Sun more easily. Due to the ease of obtaining the mineral and the simple process of making the cells, this technology will be cheaper than any other currently used in photovoltaics.

TECHNOLOGY FOR PRODUCING GALLIUM NITRIDE CRYSTALS

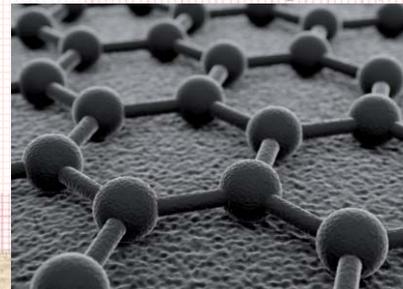
In 2001, scientists working at the Warsaw Institute of High Pressure Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences managed to produce high-quality gallium nitride crystals, which are used in the blue laser, among others. Further developed in Japan, the technology is now used in Blu-ray drives and in LED diodes.

Photo: Gallium nitride crystal



MASS PRODUCTION OF GRAPHENE

Although graphene was invented by the British, Poles working at the Institute of Electronic Materials Technology invented an original method of cheap mass production of this material. The technology is now protected by a worldwide patent.



Invention under protection

Patents are granted for inventions that are new, have commercial potential, are non-obvious and were adequately described in the patent application. It is also necessary to keep an invention secret before filing the application with the Patent Office. There are two main categories of inventions: objects (articles, substances, devices, electronic systems, etc.) and methods (processes of production, functioning, obtaining, etc.). In some countries, a patent can be granted for inventions that concern a novel use of a known substance. The right to apply for a patent can be exercised by the inventor or inventors. However, if the invention was made while performing duties connected with one's professional contract, or other contracts, this right can be exercised by the employer (unless the parties agreed otherwise). The inventor's name must always be included in the patent application, even if it is not the inventor who submits it.

SOURCE PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/ARCHIVAL INC PAN

Investment-reinvestment

NEW COMPANIES IN THE WSEZ

Since April, seven new permits to conduct business activity have been issued by the WSEZ. The new companies that have decided to invest in the Wałbrzych zone are: **Framo Morat Polska, CEDROB, CW Lundberg, Almes Poland, Kayser Automotive Systems, BIG Pierogi** and **Favorite Gifts Print Europe**.

- **FRAMO MORAT POLSKA** is part of the international **FRANZ MORAT** group. The company produces drive systems, from cog wheels to transmission gear to complete gearbox mechanisms. The group owns production facilities in many countries in Europe and elsewhere. The new investment will be located at a production-storage facility **in Nowa Ruda**, which will be equipped with technological lines for the production of transmission gear and drive systems. **The company has declared capital expenditure in an amount exceeding 10 million zlotys, and will hire at least 40 employees.** It has been the 350th permit to conduct business activity in the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone issued by "INVEST-PARK". There are currently five entrepreneurs in the Nowa Ruda subzone, employing a total of over 730 people.

- **CEDROB** will build and equip a production facility **in Kluczbork**. The company will make and store feed mixtures for farm animals. The Polish entrepreneur **will take on 70 employees and invest at least 70 million zlotys.** It has been the fifth investment in the special economic zone in Kluczbork, which still has 4 ha of investment-ready land.

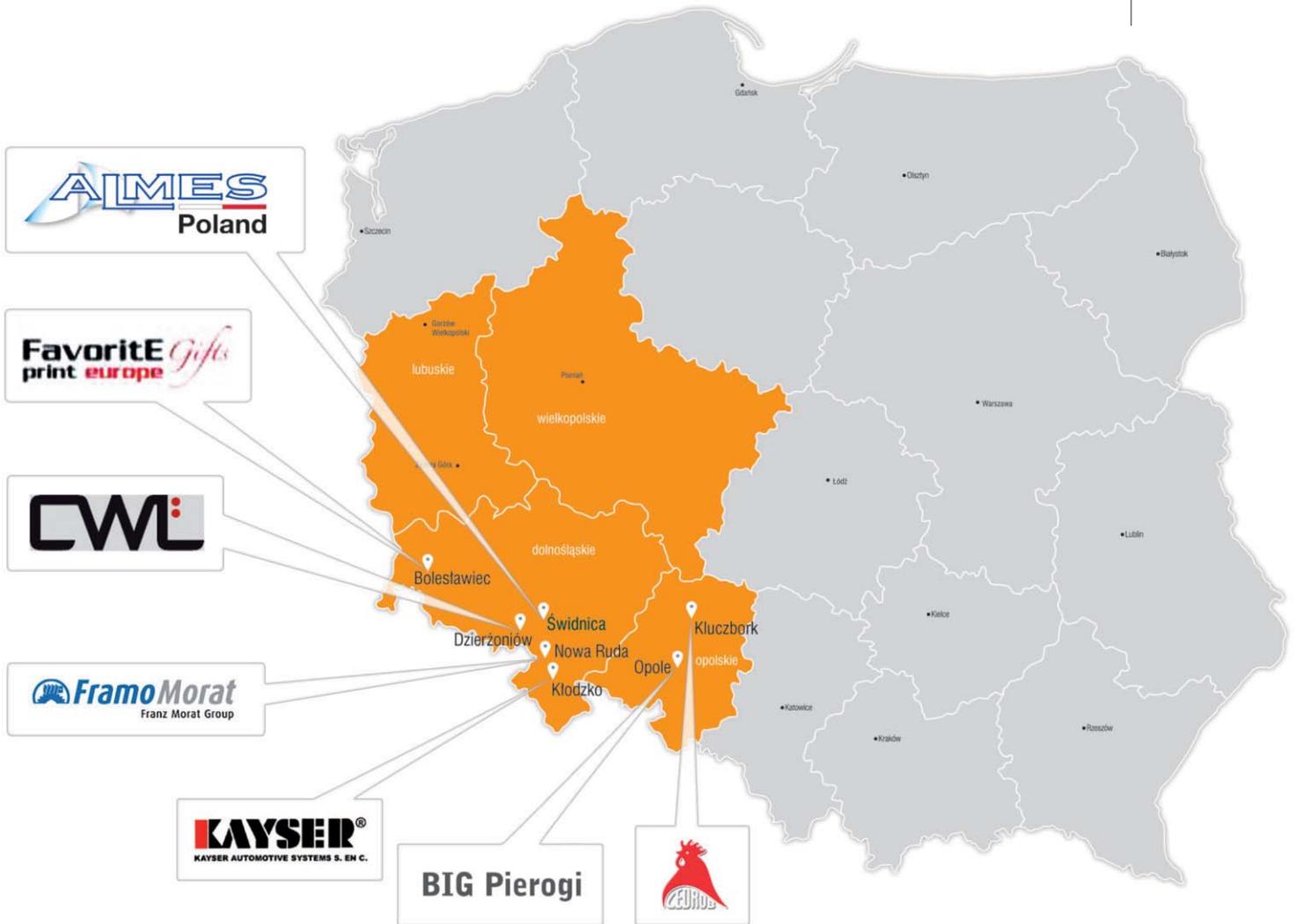
- **In Dzierżoniów, CW LUNDBERG** will erect a facility where it will produce roofing snow fences, special catwalks and ladders. The Swedish firm **will incur capital expenditure in the amount of 5 million zlotys, and employ at least 7 people.** There are currently 17 companies in the WSEZ in Dzierżoniów, which have invested around 709 million zlotys and employ more than 2,100 people. The subzone has 44 ha of land waiting for investors. "INVEST-PARK" is planning to begin the construction of a production and storage hall in Dzierżoniów this year.

- **ALMES POLAND**, an Italian manufacturer of domestic appliances, will invest **in Świdnica**. The company will produce and install electromechanical elements for the domestic appliances industry, mainly cooling fans, pumps, actuators, engines, etc. **Ten people will be hired, and the investment will cost over 3 million zlotys.** There are currently 13 companies in Świdnica. Entrepreneurs can still locate their investments on 52 ha of land at their disposal.

- **KAYSER AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS** will generate at least **80 jobs in Kłodzko**. The company will produce vehicle components at its production-storage facility, including fuel and ventilation lines and air ducts. The components will be installed in new cars produced by leading global carmakers (Volkswagen, Audi, Seat, and Skoda). **The German firm will invest 11.5 million zlotys.** Kayser Automotive Systems has been the fourth investor in the Kłodzko subzone of the WSEZ. The company has joined KPM Meble, GE Power Controls, and Miranda 4, which have already invested around 250 million zlotys and employ over 1,000 people.

- **BIG PIEROGI** will open a facility **in Opole**, where it will make readymade meals and dishes (mainly dumplings). Thanks to the investment, **worth 12 million zlotys, 130 people will be employed.** Ten entrepreneurs are already operating within the Opole subzone, with a declared staff headcount of over 1,000 people.

- **FAVORITE GIFTS PRINT EUROPE** will hire **50 people in Bolesławiec**. The company will produce advertising materials. The Dutch entrepreneur **will invest almost 9.5 million zlotys.** There are still almost 55 ha of investment-ready land in Bolesławiec.



PERMITS HAVE BEEN CEREMONIOUSLY GRANTED

The ceremony of presenting the investors with symbolic permits to conduct economic activity in the Wałbrzych zone has become our tradition. The event is held at a unique venue, the Książ Castle. This year, the entrepreneurs who have decided to make an investment in the WSEZ, or expand their current activity, are planning to employ more than 500 people and incur capital expenditure of at least 320 million zlotys (we wrote about the permits granted in the first quarter in the previous issue of "IPI").

► In the photo: FRANK BAUMGARTEN, proxy of FRAMO MORAT, receives the permit from BARBARA KAŚNIKOWSKA, President of the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK", and MARZENA WOLIŃSKA, Deputy Mayor of Nowa Ruda.



⇨ Collected by MONIKA KORZEWICZ, m.korzewicz@invest-park.com.pl

ROBERT SMIRNOW

GREEN CARS NOW!

Consumers' preferences, governmental regulations and a fashion for being environmentally-friendly influence the progress of innovation and technology in the car industry. According to Deloitte, by 2020 "green cars" will account for around 1/3 of car sales in the developed markets and around 1/5 in the developing ones. This trend is clearly visible to **ROBERT SMIRNOW**, President of **NYSA ZAKŁAD POJAZDÓW**.

He has dreamt of becoming a car designer since early childhood. He used to help in his father's garage when he was still in kindergarten. He later went to a technical school of motor vehicle engineering in Strzelin and, having graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the Wrocław University of Technology, received a job offer from Germany.

PRACTITIONERS NEEDED

"I had the advantage of having practical knowledge about how various mechanisms in vehicles work, I knew what they consisted of and which tools should be used to fix them. That's why after graduation I began working for Sommer, a German firm specializing in making commercial vehicles, where I started my professional career as a designer. I worked for German automotive compa-

nies for 12 years, being responsible for designing entire vehicles and individual components," Mr. Smirnow says.

His services were sought by many German companies (including Audi, among others), but he felt too attached to Lower Silesia, where he was born and where his family live, to stay there. He decided to set up his own business in Poland. Together with his sister, an HR specialist, he established MKR Group. Combining the President's knowledge and his sister's experience led to setting up a company providing services connected with steel constructions. "The company developed well and we concluded that we could do something even more interesting, something that would build on my talent for designing in the construction and automotive industries. Thus we decided to revive Nysa, an old make of Polish light commercial vehicles," the President explains.

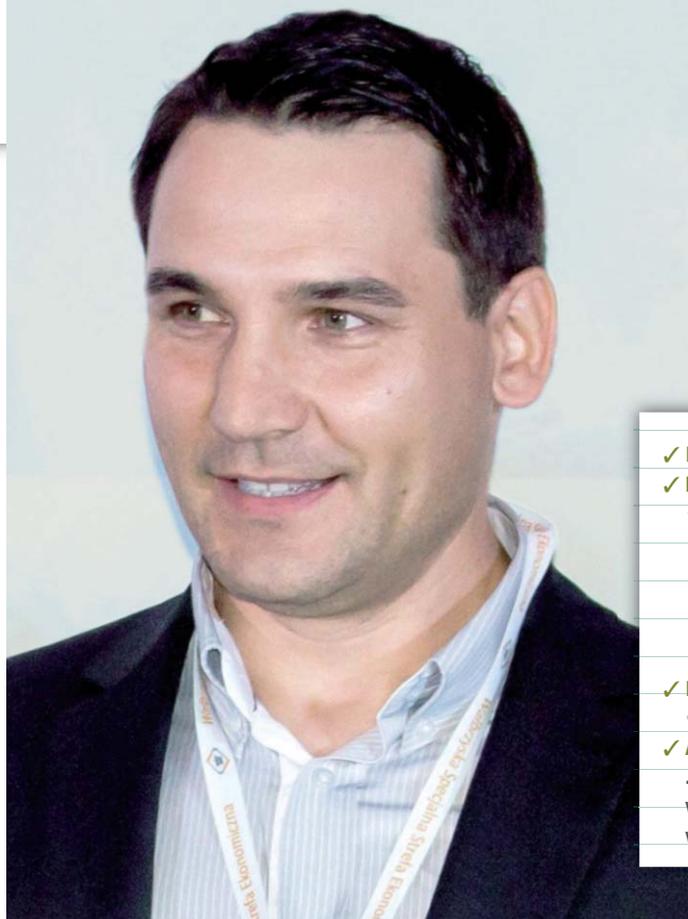
CHEAP, LIGHT, ECO-FRIENDLY

As President of Nysa Zakład Pojazdów SA, Mr. Smirnow has his own idea of making light commercial vehicles that would differ from currently produced vehicles in some respects. "This is going to be a totally innovative project characterized by three points: light, eco-friendly, inexpensive. I am currently working on the Nysa vehicle, which will be produced using mostly light and superlight materials. It will be powered by electric or hybrid technology, so it will be extremely friendly to the environment. I would like the vehicle to cost roughly as much as conventional petrol motor vehicles and have a comparable range," Mr. Smirnow enumerates.

Is it possible to produce a vehicle that would be simultaneously light, eco-friendly and cheap? Mr. Smirnow believes so. An R&D center is currently being built, where he would like to make prototypes offering the possibility of mass-production, which will significantly decrease the cost. The main emphasis in the research will be placed



• The ZSD Nysa was a Polish light commercial vehicle produced from 1958 to 1994 at the **LIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES FACTORY** in Nysa. The factory initially specialized in the production of special bodyworks, and later it manufactured light commercial vans with a capacity of up to 1,000 kg. In the photo: the NYSA N59M minibus at the Museum of Motor Vehicles at the Topacz Castle near Wrocław.



✓ **BORN** in Strzelin

✓ **EDUCATION:**

- Technical School of Motor Vehicle Engineering in Strzelin
- Wrocław University of Technology
- currently – MBA postgraduate studies at the Wrocław University of Economics

✓ **EXPERIENCE:**

- designer at automotive companies

✓ **AT THE WEEKENDS...**

...he likes to rest in the open air, do sport or explore walking routes in forests and mountains with his daughters

on the construction of the bodywork and the battery. Apart from complete vehicles, bodyworks of commercial vehicles and trucks will be produced from materials invented in the company lab. In the future, complete commercial vehicles are going to be manufactured here.

LOCAL MARKET FIRST OF ALL

The construction of the facility is scheduled for the next year whereas R&D work has already begun in Wrocław. Currently, manufacturers of car elements are being sought.

The plant situated within the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone will not only generate several hundred jobs for the locals and fill the gmina's coffers with taxes but also considerably revive the local market. An important part of the investment will be stimulating the development of local firms that will provide components and services.

"We will need various components in our future activity, from small screws to metal and plastic details to wire harnesses and engines. Unfortunately, we won't be able to buy all of them locally, but there are lots of car

elements that we'll purchase from nearby firms, thus supporting the local market. I'm in favor of supporting Polish products," Mr. Smirnow says.

INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL

President of MKR Group Robert Smirnow comes from the gmina of Strzelin and he openly admits that he feels a sentimental attachment to it. His decision to invest here has been influenced by its prime location near Wrocław and an expressway. "It's going to be an R&D center, and for this reason I insisted on situating it near the universities that we could cooperate with. Another factor was the fact that there's a car engineering technical school in Strzelin that I used to attend (today: a vocational education center). We would like to cooperate with the school and establish a specialized class to discover talents and train the students to meet our needs. Our project also includes a company training center for students to see how to design, how to make short product lines," Mr. Smirnow explains. ■

⇨ **MONIKA KORZEWICZ**



In July, 2014, Robert Smirnow and his sister Katarzyna Smirnow-Birkmann received a permit to conduct business activity in the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK". The construction of the new plant will have finished by the end of 2017, and it will cost around 25 million zlotys. The plant will ultimately employ about 200 people. The permit was presented by Deputy Minister of Economy Ilona Antoniszyn-Klik (on the right)



The Bielawa subzone of the WSEZ is situated near the south ring road of Dzierżoniów, whose construction is scheduled to begin this year. The road will offer easy access to Świdnica and A4 Motorway as well as to Ząbkowice Śląskie and National Road no. 8



BIELAWA

A MODE ECO-FRI TOWN

Bielawa is a town full of ambitions and ideas that is dynamically changing its image – from a textile industry center to a place teeming with entrepreneurship.

It is thought that the name “Bielawa” is derived from a Slav word denoting a stream (*biela, bila* – “white”). The first documented mention of Bielawa dates back to 1288. An event that put Bielawa on the pages of history course books was the local weavers’ rebel of 1844, which was later described by Nobel Prize winner Gerhart Hauptmann.

Bielawa was famous for its weaving industry for almost 200 years. In their heyday, the two largest factories in the town (Bielbaw and Bietex) together employed over 13,000 workers. Today, Bielawa is trying to attract investors operating in different industrial and services sectors.

Bielawa lies in Dzierżoniów County, in the center of the Dolnośląskie province. Together with two nearby towns, Dzierżoniów and Pieszyce, it constitutes an agglomeration with almost 100,000 inhabitants



LENDLY



OFFER FOR INVESTORS

Bielawa offers plots of land suitable for small, medium-sized and large enterprises. The main incentive for potential investors in the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone in Bielawa consists of tax exemptions. The investors can situate their ventures on 11 ha of attractive land.

The areas located in the Bielawa subzone are supplemented by the local Entrepreneurship Incubator. It is the best solution for those who are thinking of starting their own businesses, but have neither a seat nor sufficient capital. The former office building of Bieltex has been thoroughly modernized to perform the role of the Incubator. It now offers production and office spaces with a total area of around 1,350 m², including two conference rooms.

Every entrepreneur wishing to invest in Bielawa can count on the local authorities' openness and support as well as favorable conditions and a possibility of applying for a tax exemption.

A GREEN ISLAND OF LOWER SILESIA

For many years, Bielawa has emphasized the need to respect the natural environment and the necessity to educate the citizens in how to do it. By influencing the inhabitants' sense of responsibility for the natural world and choosing the right investments, Bielawa is aiming to become a model eco-friendly town. Among the actions intended to achieve this aim is teaching ecology at all levels of education.

In 1999, Public Kindergarten no. 1 was transformed into Green Kindergarten. Hills, valleys, a sand-and-stone river, and other attractions for the little ones were built. It was accompanied by complementing the curriculum with subjects connected with environmentalism.

The next step on the way to foster pro-environmental thinking was establishing the "Sun School", first of this kind in Poland and Central-Eastern Europe. The school is currently functioning as part of the Center for Renewable Energy Sources.



Bielawa is situated in a picturesque spot at the foot of the Owl Mountains, the oldest mountain range in Europe. It stretches over 126 km from Srebrna Pass in the south to the Bystrzyca Świdnicka Valley in the north. The four main tourist routes go across Owl Mountain Landscape Park, which covers an area of 8,000 km².



Forest School is an educational center that enables the youngest inhabitants of Bielawa to learn about ecology in an innovative way. By participating in activities at the center, children can actually see what they talked about in the lessons, do interesting experiments and observe many natural phenomena. All of this strengthens their bond with the natural environment and raises their awareness of the need to respect it



The youngest students are vividly interested in classes devoted to learning about the life of bees. Direct contact with live insects and their careful observation shape the children's sensitivity to the natural world around us

When pro-environmental education had already been implemented in kindergartens and post-secondary school, the natural thing to do was to introduce it to primary and middle schools. Since September, 2006, Primary School no. 7 and Middle School no. 3 have been functioning as environmentally-friendly educational institutions.

The efforts of the local authorities and citizens' involvement in pro-environmental actions were appreciated by the Senate of the Wrocław University of Technology, among others, who in December, 2007, passed a resolution to establish the Off-campus



Architectural attractions, walking and running routes, a swimming pool, ski lifts in Bielawa and in the Owl Mountains make this region an interesting holiday destination for the whole family all year round



The Bielawa subzone of the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone is where Techspring functions. The company produces coils and springs for the electrotechnical and automotive industries. The firm employs almost 30 people. There are still 11 ha of investment-ready land

Educational Center in Bielawa. Specialists in renewable energy sources are being taught here at the university level.

GREEN INVESTMENTS

The varied pro-environmental educational initiatives in Bielawa are supported with the right investments, including an amphitheater and the Elves Square, Forest School, the Interactive Center for Energy Saving, and the Ecological-Educational Gardens for Natura 2000 in the Town Park. The construction of the Technology Incubator is about to finish, which is carried out by Dzierżoniów County in cooperation with the DBU Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt – German Federal Foundation for the Environment) and the town of Bielawa. ■

⇒ **Compiled by MAŁGORZATA WŁOCHAL**
on the basis of materials prepared by the Town Office of Bielawa

■ PIOTR ŁYŻWA, Mayor of Bielawa

“In Bielawa, we think not only about the present-day inhabitants but also about future generations. For this reason, we develop an economy and entrepreneurship based on respect for the natural environment. We know that the natural landscape and care for the environment matter both for us and for the new entrepreneurs, who would like to do business in beautiful surroundings.

It is worth joining the best and investing in Bielawa because we are among those few places in Lower Silesia that have a comprehensive offer for all types of businesses. Investors can browse through prime locations in the Bielawa subzone of the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone “INVEST-PARK”, in the Bielawa Industrial Park, and a number of post-industrial halls. Anyone wishing to start a business is welcome to visit Bielawa Entrepreneurship Incubator or the Lower Silesian Incubator of Art-Entrepreneurship.

Come to Bielawa!



How to determine a company's size

ALL ABOUT THAT STATUS

Any entrepreneur who has a company registered in Poland can apply for a permit to conduct business activity in a special economic zone. When assessing the application, the company's size does not matter – a microcompany stands just the same chance as a large corporation. However, the company's status does influence other matters, for instance the amount of public aid, purchase of fixed assets within a given project, or the minimum duration of an investment project in a region.

The maximum amount of public aid depends on the company's size. In general, the smaller the company, the larger the percentage of aid granted.

EXAMPLE

In the Dolnośląskie province, a **small** company that has incurred capital expenditure in the amount of **10 million zlotys** may be granted **4.5 million zlotys** of income tax exemption while a large company investing the same amount may receive only **2.5 million zlotys**.

EXAMPLE

A company that describes its status as medium-sized purchases second-hand machines and production lines. If it turned out that the company is in fact a large enterprise, i.e. its status was determined incorrectly, the value of the purchased fixed assets would not be included in calculating the amount of eligible public aid.

Regional investment aid levels for provinces within the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone

Size of enterprise	Lubuskie and Opolskie provinces	Dolnośląskie and Wielkopolskie provinces
large	up to 35%	up to 25%
medium	up to 45%	up to 35%
small and micro	up to 55%	up to 45%

SECOND-HAND FIXED ASSETS NOT FOR ALL

Microcompanies as well as small and medium-sized enterprises are allowed to purchase second-hand fixed assets whereas large firms – only new ones. Incorrect determination of a company's status may thus result in deeming expenditure on these fixed assets as ineligible.

ASSETS UNDER TEMPORARY SURVEILLANCE

One of the conditions of using income tax exemption is the period of maintaining the ownership of assets and the investment. The company's size is important in this case, too. **In the case of SMEs, this period is three years while for large companies it is five years.**

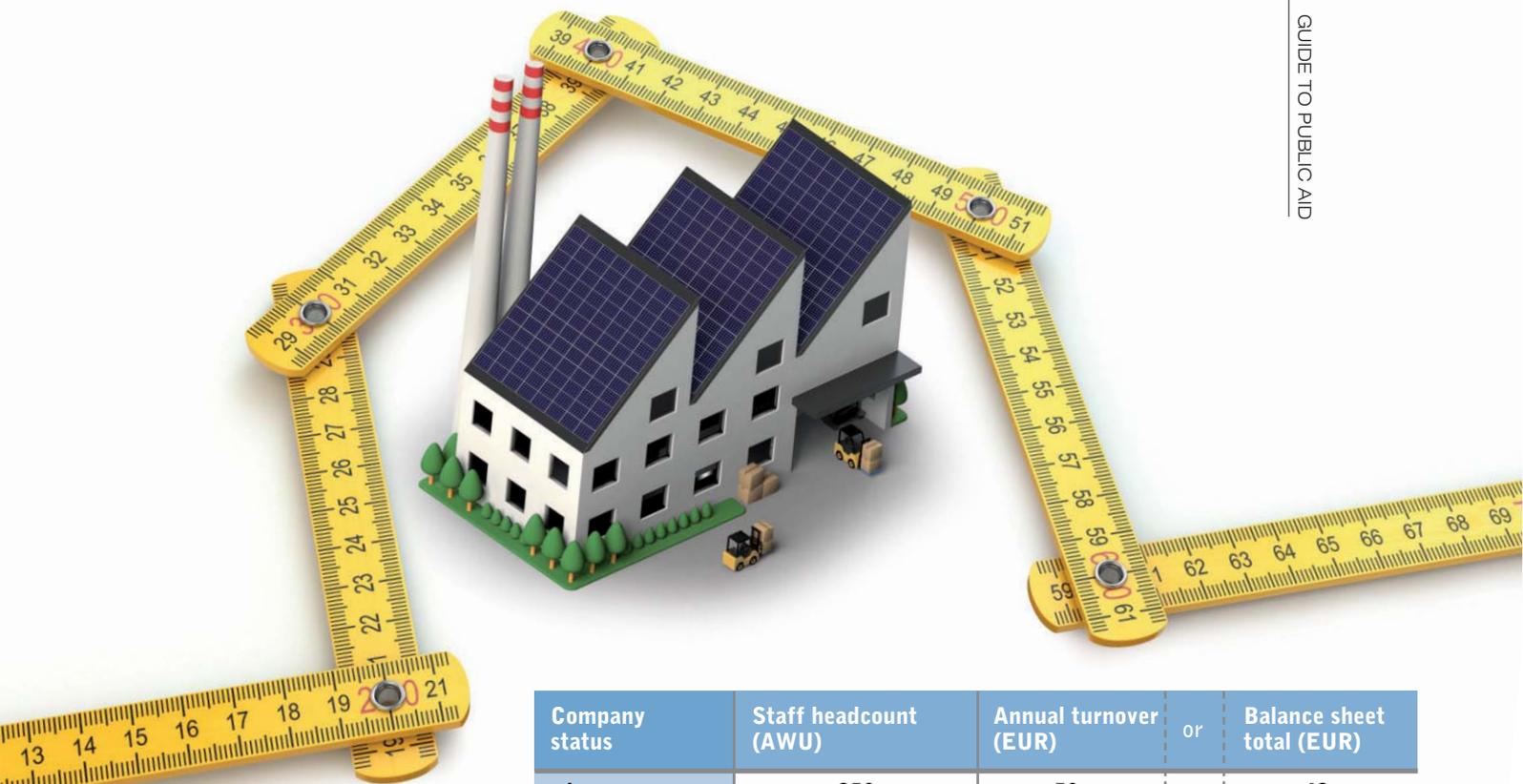
Therefore, if an investor incorrectly determines the company's status as an SME and decides to sell the assets after three years, it will be necessary for the investor to return the funds received as public aid.

HOW TO DETERMINE A COMPANY'S STATUS?

In order to find out if a firm is micro, small, medium-sized or large, it is necessary to take into consideration:

- ✓ staff headcount and
- ✓ annual turnover
- or annual balance sheet total.

Data concerning the number of employed persons, net revenue and balance sheet total must refer to a closed fiscal year.



Company status	Staff headcount (AWU)	Annual turnover (EUR)	or	Balance sheet total (EUR)
large	≥ 250	> 50 m	or	> 43 m
medium-sized	< 250	≤ 50 m	or	≤ 43 m
small	< 50	≤ 10 m	or	≤ 10 m
micro	< 10	≤ 2 m	or	≤ 2 m

THE MYSTERIOUS AWU

Staff headcount is measured in “annual work units” – AWU. It is the number of persons who worked full-time within the enterprise in question or on its behalf during the entire reference year under consideration. The work of persons who have not worked the full year or have worked part-time is counted as fractions of AWU.

When measuring the staff headcount, the following numbers are taken into account:

- employees;
- persons working for the enterprise, being subordinated to it and considered to be employees under national law;
- owner-managers;
- partners engaged in a regular activity in the enterprise and benefiting financially from the enterprise.

As a rule, the staff of a given firm also consists of persons working as microenterprises for the entrepreneur-owner on the basis of a commission contract or other civil-law contract provided cooperation between these two entities is permanent and constitutes the main part of business activity (also from the point of view of the entrepreneur-owner). Moreover, co-owners who derive financial profits from the firm’s activities are also included in the staff headcount as partners, even if they do not perform work related to production, rendering services or management. Persons who have signed a managerial contract with the enterprise are also counted as its staff.

Apprentices or students engaged in vocational training with apprenticeship or vocational training contracts are not included in the headcount. Persons on maternity or parental leave are not included either.

CHOICE IN FINANCIAL DATA

It is necessary to note that while it is compulsory to respect the staff headcount thresholds, an enterprise may choose to meet either the turnover or balance sheet ceiling. It does not need to satisfy both

and may exceed one of them without losing its status. Enterprises in the trade and distribution sector have by their nature higher turnover figures than those in the manufacturing sector. Choosing either the turnover criterion or the balance sheet total reflects the overall wealth of a business and makes it possible to objectively and fairly compare SMEs engaged in very different types of economic activity.

According to EU regulations:

- **microenterprises** are defined as enterprises which employ fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed two million euros;
- **small enterprises** are enterprises which employ fewer than 50 persons and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed ten million euros;
- **a medium-sized enterprise** is defined as an enterprise which employs fewer than 250 persons and whose annual turnover does not exceed 50 million euros or whose annual balance sheet total does not exceed 43 million euros.
- an enterprise which employs 250 persons or more and whose annual turnover exceeds 50 million euros and/or whose annual balance-sheet total exceeds 43 million euros is defined as a **large enterprise**.

LINKS ADD UP

Establishing the data of an enterprise is only the first step in determining its status. It is also necessary to investigate whether a given company is autonomous or linked (by capital or by partners/shareholders) with other entrepreneurs. If such links occur, the financial data and staff headcount of linked entities must be also taken into consideration.

We will give more details about how to do it and what links are taken into account in the next issue of “IPI”. ■

➔ ANNA ZIARKO

The author is a chief specialist at the WSEZ “INVEST-PARK” and an experienced consultant in public aid issues.
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Center for Energy Technologies in Świdnica

SAVE ENERGY AND EARN MONEY

The race for European Union's support has already begun, and so has the search for interesting technologies and ideas that would make it possible to decrease the cost of energy and earn money. The new 2014–2020 multiannual financial framework offers amazing opportunities for investors launching ventures connected with reducing energy consumption, generating off-grid power and curbing emissions. Almost €20 billion has been allocated to Poland to be spent on these ventures in the next few years.

For three years, a specialist center has been functioning in Lower Silesia that offers professional assistance to private and public investors in selecting the optimal technological solutions and supports them in raising capital to implement the projects.

TECHNOLOGIES TESTED FIRST-HAND

The Center for Energy Technologies in Świdnica is a research and development facility whose priority is to provide services to the companies and R&D organizations grouped in the CET Cluster. Any company belonging to the Cluster can use a number of services helping it to introduce innovative technologies, products and services to the market. These services are eligible for public aid.

For the members of the Cluster and potential investors, the CET fulfils the role of a green lab which tests 12 different technologies of generating electrical energy, heat, and cold, as well as ventila-



With a surface of over 1,200 m², the experimental object is a testing ground for devising novel solutions with respect to energy saving, low-energy and passive construction technologies, and off-grid power generation

tion and air conditioning solutions, and low-energy buildings techniques. The tests are intended to provide the investors and companies with knowledge required to select those devices and technologies that would rationally save energy, or produce it from locally available sources.

SPECIALIZATION IN PHOTOVOLTAICS

Among the vast array of technologies used at the CET, photovoltaics plays a special role. Since 2012, three PV systems for converting solar energy have been installed at the CET's seat. The Center specializes in designing and producing low to medium power (from several kW do several MW) PV systems and combines this activity with applying for funds necessary to implement PV projects. Its own PV testing installation, specialist project resources (more than



■ **KRZYSZTOF BRZOZOWSKI,**
Development Director, coordinator of the CET
Cluster, one of the initiators of establishing the CET

"The CET is an organization specializing in designing and producing low to medium power (from several kW do several MW) PV systems, and combines this activity with applying for funds necessary to implement PV projects. It requires the cooperation of experts in many different fields, which happens at a very early stage of a project. We have managed not only to build such a team at the CET, but also to set up a spin-off company to commercialize the results of our R&D work in the form of model buildings designs."

A LOW-ENERGY DESIGN OF A BIFUNCTIONAL BUILDING PREPARED AT THE CET



heating-ventilation system with an air source heat pump

photovoltaic panels directly producing electrical energy

highly efficient heat recovery ventilation systems

two-layer wall with 25 cm thick insulation

external blinds and shading that protect the building against overheating

BMS – intelligent automation and control



This is a residential building that also performs the role of a health clinic.

Floor space: **300 m²**

Annual savings on heating in comparison with a traditional building: around **7,000 zlotys**

Estimated profit after 15 years of exploitation, resulting from energy savings and sales of energy produced from own sources: around **126,000 zlotys**

a dozen experts) and auxiliary facilities (own machines and devices, a team of installers) make the Świdnica-based CET the leader of the nascent photovoltaics market.

LOW-ENERGY BUILDINGS

Part of the CET's activity is designing low-energy buildings. The designs concern residential buildings as well as commercial and public ones. They include not only the architectural concept but also the entire specification of all the devices, installations and materials necessary to ensure 3–4 times lower energy consumption than traditional buildings. The designs enable the investors to greatly reduce the cost of exploitation.

WHO CAN USE THE CET'S SERVICES AND HOW?

The CET offers its expert advice to public investors (e.g. gminas), businesses (enterprises), cooperatives (housing cooperatives and commonhold associations), and natural persons. All of them will find professional advisory and technical assistance to help them construct new buildings or retrofit the existing ones, use renewable energy sources, especially in photovoltaics, and look for ways of reducing energy consumption in buildings and production processes. ■

All those who know the Świdnica subzone of the WSEZ will have no trouble finding the CET, which is situated near Road 35 leading to Wrocław. The CET is located in Stalowa Street, in close proximity to many companies functioning within the WSEZ. More information about the CET:

www.cte.fea.pl and www.grupa-dce.pl.

IT IS WORTH APPLYING FOR SUPPORT

■ **PAWEŁ KARPIŃSKI,**
Deputy Director of the Department
of Environment, Marshal
of the Dolnośląskie Province Office



"Last January, the Sejm passed the Act on Renewable Energy Sources, which had been expected for a long time. The Act triggered a certain unease among the large investors because it changed the current system of green certificates of origin, which are granted automatically to any producer of energy from renewable sources, to an auction system, in which the government will sign 'contracts' for supplying green energy with those entities that will offer the lowest prices. However, the absence of the act and the investors' uncertainty about the adopted solutions financing the RES market in Poland caused stagnation in the market, so passing the new law might turn out to be beneficial in the long term. The act also includes an important 'prosumer amendment', which offers stronger financial support to small individual producers of energy from renewables in the form of feed-in tariffs.

The development of renewable energy sources in Lower Silesia will be mostly stimulated by considerable funds available within the 2014–2020 Regional Operational Program. Within action 3.1, 'Production and distribution of energy from renewable sources,' as much as €32.5 million will be allocated. The beneficiaries will include self-governments, entrepreneurs, universities, non-governmental organizations, housing cooperatives and commonhold associations, and even religious associations. We believe that this vast group of potential recipients will make it possible to invest these funds as efficiently as possible, developing power generation from renewables in Lower Silesia so that modern and environmentally-friendly machines will become part of our everyday lives."



FAMILY PICNIC ZONE

▶▶▶ Sound systems weighing 60 tons and five kilometers of cables were used during the Zone Family Picnic, which took place in Wałbrzych on 16 May. Thousands of Wałbrzych dwellers came to the party and consumed 15 tons of food and beverages. Employees of companies from the zone and their families participated in plays, competitions with attractive prizes, and sports games (sumo wrestling turned out to be a hit). There were also concerts by local artists and the star of the evening – singer Mesajah.

The youngest ones had their stage and a city of inflatable castles in the stadium. Circus artists walked on stilts and handed over 20 kg of sweets. Disabled children were especially looked after – each of them had their own minder. The event was organized on the initiative of zone companies functioning in Wałbrzych: **CERSANT, MIGAPOL, NSK, OPALEX, POLST, QUIN, TRISTONE, RONAL, TOYOTA MOTOR MANUFACTURING POLAND, and TOYOTA TSUSHO.**



Apprenticeships for mechatronics students

WAŁBRZYCH RAN WITH "INVEST-PARK"

More than 300 people entered the run organized as part of the "Poland Runs" national action.

Wałbrzych dwellers have been running with "INVEST-PARK" for several years now. This year, the company sponsored T-shirts for all the contestants. Our employees and their families did a good job representing "INVEST-PARK".

▼ In the photo: **IZABELA MAŁEK** (no. 10) of the Department of Communications and Marketing, with her daughter **HANIA**.



Thanks to the WSEZ's support, **SCHOOL COMPLEX no. 1 in Dzierżoniów** acquired modern hydraulic stations. Further elements of a modern mechatronics lab will be purchased soon.

"Entrepreneurs are looking for specialists, so school leavers need to have hands-on knowledge. In this way, they will find good jobs. We are fully convinced that we should support such initiatives," said **TOMASZ JAKACKI**, Deputy President of the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK".

◀ "Choosing this school was no accident. I would like to work in an area combining electrics, electronics and IT. I'm fascinated by robotics. This lab will enable me to perfect my skills, and it will help me both at the university and at work. When I compare myself with my friends who went to secondary schools of general education, I can already say that practical knowledge is my advantage, and I wouldn't have acquired it on my own," said **BARTOSZ BRĄCZYK**, student of grade three (in the photo with **STANISŁAW ZIELONKA**, the lab supervisor).

TOKEN OF GRATITUDE FOR FIREFIGHTERS

▶ The WSEZ "INVEST-PARK" donated six fireproof uniforms to firefighters. They were symbolically handed over during a ceremony at the Książ Castle, which marked the Firefighter's Day in May.

"Helping firefighters is advantageous to both sides. Security is an extremely important issue for us and for our investors as well. The fire brigades can always count on the Zone's support," said **TEODOR STĘPA**, Deputy President of the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK".



OF events



WSEZ "INVEST-PARK" IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LOWER SILESIAN AVIATION CLUSTER



In order to facilitate cooperation between schools and companies, the Educational Cluster "INVEST in EDU" was established by the Wałbrzych zone in February (we described it in the previous issue of IPI).

Initially grouping 46 entities, it was joined by another 30 during the second conference "Smarter: How to Educate for the Economy", which was held in Bolków. The first tangible results of its functioning are already visible. Enrollment for two company-sponsored classes, preparing the students to become cutting tool operators, has already begun. Fifteen students in each class will begin their education in September. The classes will be supervised by two companies from the zone: SEGEPO-REFA from Świebodzice (in School Complex no. 5 in Wałbrzych) and GKN DRIVELINE (Upper-Secondary School Complex in Oleśnica). Apart from being reimbursed for the purchase of course books and protective clothing, the trainees will also have an opportunity of undergoing paid summer apprenticeships.

During the conference, the best entrepreneurs, teachers and students received awards from the Minister of Economy and the WSEZ. The following companies were presented with statuettes: GKN DRIVELINE, ZAKŁAD PRODUKCJI AUTOMATYKI SIECIOWEJ, MAHLE POLSKA, ROBERT BOSCH, GESTAMP POLSKA, and 3M WROCLAW.

INCREASINGLY
SMARTER



Science centers and international corporations which design and manufacture subassemblies for the aircraft industry have been invited to cooperate to the benefit of the industry. The cluster has also been joined by the other two economic zones functioning in the Dolnośląskie province (Kamienna Góra and Legnica SEZ). Its partners include the Ministry of Economy, Marshal Office of the Dolnośląskie province, and Lubin Municipal Office.

One of the initiators of establishing the cluster was HS WROCLAW (UTC AEROSPACE SYSTEMS), a company functioning in the WSEZ that provides services connected with maintenance, repairs and check-ups of subassemblies installed in planes and helicopters.

400 million zlotys has been earmarked for projects developing new technologies in the aviation industry carried out within the "INNOLOT – Innovative Aviation" program.



THE S8 – ON THE WAY TO INVESTMENTS

A conference under this title was held in Łódź on 14 May. This is also the name of a cooperation program of four special economic zones and five provinces, which is aimed at coordinating economic and investment actions.

"A comprehensive network of good roads is the basis for the success of any investment. For this reason, we are doing our best to make expressways synonymous with a business-friendly atmosphere in those regions that they cross," emphasized ILONA ANTONISZYN-KLIK, Deputy Minister of Economy. During the Łódź conference, presidents of four economic zones: Łódź, Wałbrzych, Warmia-Mazury, and Suwałki signed an agreement supporting SMEs' investments along Expressway S8. Moreover, marshals of the Łódzkie, Mazowieckie, Dolnośląskie, and Wielkopolskie provinces signed a letter of intent to jointly promote and support local initiatives connected with the S8.

"S8 Expressway, from Wałbrzych to Białystok, has brought us closer and we hope that it will also bring closer the self-governments and investors," President of the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK" BARBARA KAŚNIKOWSKA said.



MOTO-ZONE

So far, almost 19,000 jobs have been generated by automotive companies functioning in the Wałbrzych zone. It is more than 46% of the total number of employees within the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK" territory. The automotive industry is developing rapidly in Poland. Due to the presence of large international corporations in our market, we are the leading producer of components for all types of vehicles. However, the multinationals would not be able to fill all the orders if it were not for many small, local firms that supply top-quality products and services.

On 18–19 June in Opole, 105 companies held over 400 B2B meetings during the Auto Forum Suppliers' Day, co-organized by the WSEZ. ▲



MEETING OF GERMAN INVESTORS

The entrepreneurs from the other side of the Odra river constitute the largest group of foreign investors in the Wałbrzych zone. So far, 29 German companies have invested here more than 3.5 billion zlotys and generated 3,500 jobs. Many investment projects are currently being carried out.

During the meeting organized at the Topacz Castle, "INVEST-PARK" presented its plans for the nearest future. There was also a special attraction – a visit to the Museum of Motor Vehicles. Since 2014, the following German companies have joined the Wałbrzych zone: VOLKSWAGEN in Września, BSH in Wrocław, TURNINGTEC in Bolesławiec, SUER in Kościan, and, most recently, FRAMO MORAT, which leases a production floor in Nowa Ruda.

The holiday center of the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone
"INVEST-PARK" in Pobierowo is the perfect place
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