

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HIGH TECHNOLOGIES PARK AS A NATIONAL TREASURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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In the modern world it is believed that only an innovative way of development can ensure the competitiveness of the national economy and the well-being of the population. The main sources of competitive advantages of the national economy of any country are highly experienced staff, scientific and technical potential.

The transition to an innovative way of the development is an urgent task for the Republic of Belarus. To use this potential effectively, modern technology parks are being created in the country, whose activities are aimed at introducing new technologies and implementing scientific research.

A significant contribution to the dynamic development of the IT sector in the Republic of Belarus is made by the High Technologies Park (HTP), established in 2005 on the initiative of the President of our country with the aim of favourable development of economic sectors.

As noted by the famous world publications The Wall Street Journal and Forbes, in a short time, the HTP in Belarus has turned into a Silicon Valley, has become a world centre of high-tech developments and a national treasure of the country. [1]

Today, the digital developments of HTP residents are known all over the world. Belarusian companies work with world giants. Applications and software of Belarusian developers are used by billions of people. In terms of production and exports, the country has been among the world leaders for a long time. The export of computer services per capita in 2021 amounted to \$320. For comparison, in Poland it is \$266, in the USA it is \$155, in India it is \$56. [2]

For the period of activity of the HTP from 2005 to 2015 149 companies became its residents, which occupy 80% of the entire IT industry of the Republic of Belarus. [1] In 2021, the HTP accepted more than 52 companies as residents representing various sectors of the economy: medical technology, mobile application development, e-commerce, gaming industry, Web platforms and others. The largest ones are Tinkof Development Center LLC (Russia), Innotech (Russia).

The consumers of HTP products are companies from 55 countries of the world, among which are global corporations: Google, Microsoft, Coca-cola, Samsung. Participants from 17 countries of the world have shares in Belarusian companies. Among the leaders are the USA, Russia, the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain.

The HTP of Belarus has a competitive position in comparison with such countries as India, Ireland, Israel, China, Russia and the Philippines.

Foreign analysts rate the Belarusian IT market higher than the Russian or Ukrainian market, as it is represented by more flourishing companies that have the necessary financial and labour resources to conclude long-term contracts.

Belarus hosts the largest and most reputable European IT outsourcing providers in Eastern Europe and the CIS. Over 40 years of high-tech scientific research has created the world's leading system of technical education and training.

Unlike other European and Asian Parks, Belarus HTP is a virtual Park. Resident-companies have the right to operate in any locality of the country, which allows them to use the educational, infrastructural, and professional potential of the entire country.

Competitive indicators of Belarusian exporters in the global IT market are as:

- good educational system;
- relatively low cost of services;
- technical skills and creativity of IT specialists;
- advantageous geographical position;
- good communication skills;
- stable macroeconomic situation;
- state support.

The HTP is a unique and favorable environment for IT business development in the Republic of Belarus, where huge tax incentives are combined with specially trained IT staff. The territory of the HTP is located in close proximity to the main transport networks of the city: the central Minsk Avenue, the Minsk Ring Road, the main road to the National Airport of Belarus (the distance to the airport is 40 km), the Berlin-Minsk-Moscow railway line.

Now Belarus is one of a few countries whose specialists are involved in the construction of space stations, global communication systems, military and nuclear development projects.

Belarusian service providers specialize mainly in the creation of complex high-tech projects that value quality and creativity.

Basically, they fulfill orders for the development and adaptation of programs for financial business processes, CRM (Customer Relationship Management), and also provide a range of services for IT consulting, software testing, etc.

Currently, about 20 largest companies (out of 200 operating companies) can be identified in the domestic market of export-oriented programming, of which 5 companies are world market leaders.

A number of international organizations offer examples of rating indices to assess the competitive advantages of the IT sector. However, most of them do not take into account all the competitive aspects of the Belarusian IT sector.

All these achievements are mostly due to the high level of IT education in Belarus. The HTP is actively involved in creating a unique system of continuous training for the industry, from kindergarten to university. More than 40 branches of university departments have been created at the HTP sites and the park territories. For more than 5 years the educational project "Programming-the second literacy" has been implemented in schools.

Belarus is at the top of the ranking of the online educational platform Coursera. In the Global Skills Report 2022 Belarus takes the honorable first place among 33 countries in Europe in the category of Technology. Belarus maintains the second position in the world ranking, Indonesia is among the leaders. [2]

Belarus has 55 universities and 16 thousand students graduate with ICT and related technical skills annually. Belarusian software engineers have repeatedly won the world software competitions, demonstrating the highest level of qualification and experience.

The team of the Belarusian State University has been among the best of more than 3,000 teams for many years.

The independent consulting company "Market-Visio Consulting", specializing in professional research and analytical services in the field of information technology and telecommunications, classifies Belarus in the "Promising players" group or in the "Up" category and believes that it has real opportunities to take higher positions in the global IT market.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the High Technologies Park of Belarus has become a global brand, pride and national treasure of the country. Belarus is a real centre of attraction for talented people, successful companies and international corporations.

References

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