

## Science:

# A Happy Exchange

## STCU grants US \$4mn

by Ruslan Karpov

KYIV Ukrainian scientists have been granted another US \$4mn for scientific research projects for this year by the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine. The STCU Board met June 8-9 in Kyiv to approve another 36 projects. The STCU was set up by Canada, Sweden, the US and Ukraine in 1995 to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction by providing scientists and engineers from the former Soviet Union with employment opportunities on peaceful scientific projects. The STCU now funds almost US \$22mn in projects in Ukraine, and supports 3,400 scientists and researchers.

The meeting allocated another US \$288,000 to five existing projects that will employ over 700 scientific specialists in weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. The governments of Canada and the US established a travel fund for STCU scientists to meet US and Canadian technical experts on their home turf for proposal development and project collaboration. The meeting also approved one project each for Uzbekistan and Georgia, whose representatives were present. The Japanese government is participating for the first time in STCU activities. It presented a special US \$300,000 contribution for four specific projects. "We're here for the first time, but not for the last. We're familiar with the excellent knowledge of Ukrainian scientists and want to broaden cooperation and information exchanges between Ukrainian and Japanese scientists," said Japanese mission deputy head Hiroyuki Imahashi.

The projects that received funding at this meeting cover a variety of fields, including: an environmentally safe chemical bonding method, wide-band radar systems for communications, non-

destructive materials testing, radiation monitoring systems, new sensors for non-invasive detection of gas pipe leaks, improved ultrasound visualization for medical diagnosis, improved microwave distance measurement, fireproof ceramics, and quartz for liquid crystal screens.

"In order to receive financial support, scientists must submit a project proposal to the STCU," explained US State Department representative Cynthia Mentz. "After the Science and Technology Ministry proves that it does not contain any strategic factors, the project goes to scientists in the US, Canada, Sweden and other countries. Scientists decide which projects benefit society most and give them financial support."

"If a scientist fulfills a project supported by the STCU and invents something, this invention will belong to him or her based on Intellectual Property rights," said US State Department representative Jim Noble. "The STCU does not have any claims to the profits from the invention. The only thing we do is try to convince the scientist to sell the rights to the invention to the US." The Swedish government plans to withdraw from the board, although it intends to continue its relationship with STCU as a EU member. The EU is finalizing joining procedures, and the STCU board expects to see funding double once it is on board.

"We're very grateful to the Ukrainian government for its support. The only problem I can think of is when bringing in equipment for projects - obviously for nonprofit purposes - we still have to pay VAT," said Noble, describing a problem familiar not just to scientists. "The government owes us US \$280,000 in VAT refunds... but the problem is that no mechanism for refunding exists." •

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**UKRAINIANS WORK HARDER FOR THEIR BASKET**

KYIV. According to data from the World Economy Weekly magazine, in 1997 a Ukrainian worker with an average salary had to spend 227 hours of his working time to pay for a basket of consumer goods basket. By comparison, a Hungarian worker had to spend just 158 hours. The figures for Bulgaria, Poland and Austria are 143, 95 and 41 hours respectively. Of all the countries of Central and Eastern European states, only Russia's figure of 269 hours is worse. (InfoBank, June 8)

**OLD PROBLEMS DOG AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

KYIV. The president of the Farmers Association in Dnipropetrovsk oblast Mykhailo Sayenko has said that the leasing of land is the main problem in agriculture at present. He added it is almost impossible now to rent land while a total of 484,000 hectares of land are not being utilized in Dnipropetrovsk oblast alone. He stressed that farmers also have difficulties with technical provision, since they can not afford to buy agricultural machinery. (UNIAN Biznes, June 9)

**CENTER ATTRACTS INTEREST FROM JAPANESE**

KYIV. The Governing Board of the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine convened June 8-9 in Kyiv. Another \$ 4 mn was given to the scientific research projects this year. The projects will employ over 700 scientists, the majority of whom have expertise in weapons of mass destruction and their delivery system technologies. At this meeting the board welcomed representatives from Uzbekistan and Georgia. One scientific project was approved for Georgia and one for Uzbekistan. The 36 projects approved at this meeting bring the total value of projects funded by the STCU to almost \$ 22 mn. Indeed, the Japanese government participated in STCU activities for the first time and announced a special contribution of \$ 300,000 to 4 specific projects. (R. Karpov, June 9)

**SALE OF METALLURGY SHARES IS POSTPONED**

KYIV. The SPF has postponed a tender to sell a 20% stake in the Donetsk-based metallurgical works' shares for cash. The tender sale will now be held by Dec. 1, 1998. The Donetsk-based works' 20% stake is the last stake in the company's ownership fund to be privatized. The SPF has ordered an evaluation of the stake be undertaken. (InfoBank, June 8)

**REVIEW OF DAY'S TRADING ON PFTS MARKET**

KYIV. Total demand was Hr 1.904mn and total supply Hr 84.094mn. Trading volume in corporate securities were worth just over Hr 100,000 and in T-Bills about Hr 600,000. Azot grew by 24%, while the value of oil continued to decrease in price. (A.Kolomiyets, June 9)

**WHAT'S ON TODAY**

- A meeting at the Union of Journalists will discuss issues concerning the reorganization of the work of bankrupt enterprises. Cabinet representatives will take part.

**Wood15 Index, June 9**

Index	Hr Daily Change, %	US \$Daily Change, %
918	-0.88	-0.88
Base=1000 on June 13, 97		

**Pro-U-50 Index, June 9**

Value	Daily Change, pts	Daily Change, %
78.05	-1.38	-1.74
Base=100 on Jan. 1, 97		
-A. Kolomiyets		

**KAC-20 Indexes, June 9**

Index	Value	Daily Change, pts	Daily Change, %
Simple: high	758	-28	-3.56
low	747	-7	-0.93
close	755	0	0.00
Weighted: high	784	-20	-2.49
low	768	-16	-2.04
close	773	-11	-1.40
Metallurgy	1333	2	0.15
Chemical	306	9	3.03
Oil and Gas	1008	-27	-2.61
Energy	289	3	1.05
Mach.-Build.	1181	0	0.00
Base=1000 on Jan. 1, 97			
-A. Kolomiyets			

**Currency Rates, June 9**

Bank	Currency	BUY	SELL
NBU	\$	—	2.058
	RBL 10	—	3.3355
CradoBank	\$	2.045	2.07
	RBL 10	3.25	3.45
Perkombank	\$	2.045	2.065
	RBL 10	3.20	3.35
Aval Bank	\$	2.04	2.05
	RBL 10	3.05	3.35
Praveks Bank	\$	2.048	2.065
	RBL 10	3.20	3.30
Aggio Bank	\$	2.052	2.06
	RBL 10	3.20	3.36
Oschadny	\$	2.045	2.06
	RBL 10	3.10	3.40
-N. Mykytas			

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