**Tech Industry. IT-Industry of Belarus**

There’re many reasons why you should work in the tech industry. Not only it’s one of the most active and evolving fields on the planet, it offers a high-quality income and shows strong growth.

First of all, technology is the pinnacle of research, development and creative thought in the country, if not the world. While traditional sciences such as medicine and engineering certainly hold a share of innovation, no other field seems to give you the opportunity, or the downright encouragement, to create something new.

Technology also involves meaningful work. Don’t be fooled into thinking that IT jobs are all about dumbed-down smartphone games; technology involves important careers that improve people’s lives and creates valuable and useful solutions to real-world problems.

There’s also a large variety of work available, as technology is integral in nearly every industry in the country, including agriculture, transportation, journalism, entertainment, real estate and manufacturing. Technology careers involve lots of scientific reasoning, hard data, commitment and dedication, so being a creative right-brain thinker is actually beneficial. You should also enjoy problem solving, as nearly every posting for IT-jobs or careers in tech requires it.

Like most careers, a technology careers starts with education and learning. A desire to learn is vital, especially if you want to land one of the best paying tech jobs in the industry. Systems, software and equipment are evolving faster than ever before, so you need to be fully committed to constant training through classes, certifications, seminars and industry information. If you have an education, training or experience in information technology, you may be able to enjoy the independence and earning potential of self-employment.

However, there’re many technology experts who are either freelancers or have a small tech firm, providing IT-services to numerous businesses. These services can include network setup, security analysis, hardware installation, software development and more.

What concerns IT-industry in our country, in the past several years Belarus has earned the reputation of the leading “IT country” in the Eastern European region. It’s placed 13th among the 20 leading countries in the sphere of IT outsourcing and high-tech devices.

Software development has existed in the country since 1998, but the development of the IT sphere in Belarus began only in September, 2005, when by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus №12 the legal basis for the successful work of the “Belarusian Silicon Valley” (or High-Tech Park) and the attraction of investments to the software development industry was laid. Today Belarusian companies working within the HTP differ by the progressive management and the effectiveness of marketing decisions.

According to the International Finance Corporation, by 2020 the revenue of the IT-sphere of Belarus may reach 3-4 billion US dollars, or 4.5% of the total GDP of 2012. Belarus occupies the leading position in Central and Eastern Europe in the export volume of computer and information services per capita. This figure amounted to over 35 US dollars per person. Significant amounts of money can be profitably invested in the projects of the IT-sphere of Belarus. Major foreign investors are companies from USA, Great Britain, Israel, Germany and Russia.

According to the conditions formalized for the residents of the HTP by the Decree of the President №12 in 2005 and which remain in force until 2020, the residents of HTP are exempt from taxes, duties and mandatory payments to the republican budget.

Information and communication technologies are also in the priority areas, which will attract investments. The number of companies in Belarus, producing intelligent products which are in demand around the world, is growing rapidly.

In 2011, the massively multiplayer online game "World of Tanks", developed by the Belarusian studio "Wargaming.net", has set a record, officially registered in Guinness Book of Records.

Among the Belarusian game developers the company Viaden Media is also highlighted - the largest company in the country in the field of gaming applications for mobile platforms and social networks. One of its recent programs is the application for sports All-in Fitness. The other company, "EPAM Systems", is one of the key-players of the Belarusian IT-industry, which provides complex software engineering solutions through its award-winning Central and Eastern Europe service delivery platform.

Belarusian developers have strong positions in the categories of applications for communication. For example, the authors of the popular program Viber, competing with Skype in the mobile market, are Israelis.

Established 20 years ago in Minsk, the alliance of IT-companies "IBA Group" is by far one of the largest developers of solutions and services in the sphere of high technology in Central and Eastern Europe. The IBA brand has more than 20 companies in Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, the USA, the UK, Germany, Czechia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and Cyprus.

Thus, if earlier the status of the state, its international or economic weight was determined by access to natural resources, then in the modern world the level of technological development plays an increasingly important role in the life of the state.