

Ukraine charges German PvT Capital with decontamination in Chernobyl region

- Regensburg-based company and Helmholtz-scientists will establish Bioenergy-Program BEConLa (BioEnergy from Contaminated Land)
- Several hundred of millions of investment in long-term humanitarian and social project

(Berlin) Ukraine's Government has commissioned an international german-dutch-ukrainian joint venture headed by Germany's PvT Capital GmbH from Regensburg with the remediation of soils in the Chernobyl region. Together with renowned scientists from the Leipziger Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research UFZ the BEConLa-project „BioEnergy from Contaminated Land“ shall be executed in the following decades to accelerate the decontamination of the soils by tillage operations and at the same time produce harmless and clean fuels like Biodiesel and Bioethanol. For the time being up to 400.000 hectares are going to be designated for remediation.

The responsible “Ministry Of Ukraine Of Emergencies And Affairs Of Population Protection From The Consequences Of Chernobyl Catastrophe” therefore had established a commission (“Interagency Council”) with experts in November, which is now headed by Deputy-Minister Vitaly Romanchenko, and consisting of responsible Ukraine representatives (ministries, local authorities, scientists) and of PvT's representatives and of Prof. Frank-Dieter Kopinke and Prof. Holger Weiss from UFZ. (www.ufz.de)

Dr. Christiaan Verbakel, President and Chief Operating Officer of PvT Capital GmbH: „Through decades of professional and worldwide experience in the business fields of „fine chemicals“, redevelopment of industrial facilities, decontamination of soils and Bioenergy-Technologies we are able to present a tailor made concept and thus new perspectives to the people of the Chernobyl region by the BEConLa-programme. It is our declared goal to invest several hundred millions of Euros and to create thousands of jobs during the next decades. I am convinced that we will succeed in developing clean and eco-friendly fuels from contaminated and previously worthless soils, while revitalizing them. In doing so we are gravely sanifying the infrastructure - in a region which has lain idle for over 20 years- and establishing sustainable employment and training programmes for the people of Chernobyl. Worldwide vanguard scientists of the Helmholtz-UFZ will accompany and supervise the corresponding programmes, measures and arrangements. These arrangements will include: The supervision of the tillage programme and its impacts on the decontamination, the implementation and further developments of innovative technologies for the conditioning of biomass and its transformation into safe fuels, the storage of the decontaminated by-products as well as the working conditions during the revitalization of the soils. We are very glad about this long-term humanitarian and social project, our co-operation with the Government of the Ukraine and the environment-specialists of the Helmholtz-Institute.“

The tillage operations shall be executed by experts from The Netherlands which will provide their long and worldwide experience in the business of agriculture, infrastructure, transportation and logistics. Regional farmers should be integrated.

During the next weeks a task-force is going to identify and inspect the affected estate. Furthermore the work plan for 2008 will be defined until end of January. The focus in 2008 will be placed on the preparation of the farming programme and of the infrastructural preconditions.

With the implementation of the BEConLa-Program the government of the Ukraine follows an alteration of strategy. Lately the United Nations have decided to focus their activities in Chernobyl in the future on the construction of a sustainable social and economical infrastructure.

Please find the Ministry's press release here:

http://mns.gov.ua/news_show.php?news_id=6478http://mns.gov.ua/news_show.php?news_id=6478

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