

## Electric vehicle adoption belarus

MINSK, 12 April (BelTA) - A program to guide the development of electric transport in Belarus in 2021-2025 has been laid down by the Council of Ministers" resolution No.213 of 9 April 2021, BelTA has learned.

The program is aimed at creating a new area of economic growth on the basis of forming a branch of the mechanical engineering industry that will make electric vehicles. The program will also enable conditions to encourage broader adoption of electric motion vehicles, conditions for expanding electric transport infrastructure and for minimizing environmental impact.

Within the framework of the program it will be necessary to start manufacturing electric vehicles, basic components of electric vehicles and the relevant infrastructure. It will be necessary to create electric transport infrastructure, including charging stations. The stations will have to be placed in an optimal manner taking into account peculiarities of consumers (public passenger transport, freight transport, personal electric vehicles). It will also be necessary to minimize economic, ecological, and social risks.

The program consists of two subprograms. One is designed to ensure R&D efforts and create the manufacturing base in order to increase the number of electric vehicles in Belarus. The other one will focus on creating a vast network of electric vehicle charging stations in the country. The network will have to offer quality and affordable charging services to electric vehicles, enable their comfortable and unhindered travels across the country. The network will have to meet the relevant world standards.

A number of steps will be taken as part of the program, including the establishment of an experimental enterprise to make electric vehicles, the development of government standards in this field, efforts to improve lending for Belarusians to buy electric vehicles from dealerships in Belarus, the exemption of electric vehicles from parking fees, and other steps.

SMOLEVICH DISTRICT, 16 July (BelTA) - The number of electric vehicles in Belarus has increased to 4,000, Belarusian Energy Minister Viktor Karankevich said during an event to mark the Day of Electric Transport at the China-Belarus Industrial Park Great Stone on 16 July, BelTA has learned.

"According to the latest data, the number of electric vehicles in Belarus now stands at 4,000. In H1 2021, a total of 2,112 electric vehicles were imported into our country. That was slightly more than in the whole year of 2020 (1,810 vehicles). Electricity consumption by charging stations has been growing. In January-May 2021 it totaled 3.8 million kWh, up by 23% year-on-year," Viktor Karankevich said.

"Our country is also interested in increasing electric mobility. The necessary conditions are being created and incentives have been offered to drive EV uptake. The promotion of electric transport, the expansion of the EV charging infrastructure network was named by the head of state as one of the priority tasks in the current

five-year period. The construction of the Belarusian nuclear power plant opens up new opportunities for the industry to build its capacities," the Energy Ministry noted.

The minister went on saying that it is important that not only individuals, but also businesses are beginning to switch to electric vehicles. "They can save a lot using electric transport. Gomelenergo is a case in point. It was one of the first electricity suppliers to implement a pilot project to renew its fleet using electric vehicles. The purchase of electric vehicles by other electricity suppliers is also under discussion," he stressed.

Viktor Karankevich expressed confidence that electric transport holds a lot of promise and in the near future the demand for it will grow significantly, including in Belarus.

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