



Science & Technology Centre uses Ukraine's Nuclear Expertise

Ukrainian nuclear scientists have received \$1.6 million U.S. in grants for projects that will channel their expertise into peaceful activities. The funds were allocated by the Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine (STCU) during its first board meeting held in Kyiv on December 14-15, 1995. One project will apply laser technology to advance ophthalmology. Another will use exhaust systems from nuclear rockets to develop a powerful system for boring tunnels.

The STCU is an intergovernmental organization established by an agreement signed on October 15, 1993, by Canada, Sweden, the U.S. and Ukraine. The STCU was conceived as the result of the

political, economic and scientific restructuring of the former Soviet Union. Its main purpose is to promote non-proliferation by supporting civilian-oriented research and development activities of Ukrainian scientists and engineers formerly engaged in strategic weapons research. A similar centre exists in Russia. The donor countries allocated \$18 million to Ukraine for this purpose and agreed that Canada would provide the Executive Director. Canada's contribution is funded through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Last April, Canada appointed Ostap Hawaleshka to the position of STCU Executive Director, and under his energetic leadership, a site was provided by the Ukrainian government, restructured to western standards, and officially opened in December.

Following its first call for proposals, some 100 were received. Delegates from the four sponsoring countries sifted through these proposals, considered 30 and approved 13. (The remainder may be revised and resubmitted.) The process involved sending proposals to Ukraine's State Security for clearance and from there to Canada, U.S. and Sweden for peer review. In Canada, this was a review committee of the Natural Science and Engineering Council of Canada.

Prof. Wasyl Janishevskyj, Dean of Engineering at the University of Toronto and Canadian representative on the board, said he hoped that this would be a substantive assistance for Ukraine, as it is targeted at an industry which is in great need of help in its conversion efforts. He noted, "Despite the many difficulties, this Centre is working very well, largely due to efforts of Ostap Hawaleshka."

Before taking up this new position, Mr. Hawaleshka headed the industrial engineering department at the University of Manitoba (he founded the department in 1970); served as president of the North Winnipeg Credit Union for many years; and co-managed a production company and restaurant

in Winnipeg. He has also worked as a consultant for CIDA and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on projects in Europe, South America and the Caribbean Islands. Thus, he came to his new job with international, scientific,

managerial and financial expertise. In addition to these qualifications, Mr. Hawaleshka has a Ukrainian background, speaks the language fluently, and is familiar with the history and culture of Ukraine. When asked what attracted him to the position, he said, "I was presented with a unique opportunity to combine all my previous experience and practice, to work on a project that will allow me to make a small contribution to the development of this country, the country of my parents."

At a time when the effectiveness of international assistance to Ukraine has come under close scrutiny, the STCU has the makings of a success story. The Centre itself strikes a visitor with its professional atmosphere, complete with a friendly and competent staff, bilingual information presented upon request and an approachable, helpful Executive Director. Although these features are standard practice in Western countries, most international assistance offices in Ukraine have a rude, Russian-speaking guard or receptionist who is unhelpful or even obstructive.

The STCU plans to issue a call for proposals at least twice a year and provides assistance to Ukrainian applicants to develop and present proposals in a format and with sufficient detail to be submitted for Western-style scientific peer review.

(With Ukrainian Weekly files)

Canadian Opportunities at the STCU

STCU Liaison Officer, Edward Speers, noted that, as of February 1996, there were 77 projects cleared with the STCU, and these are now abstracted and available for research collaboration or investment by Canadians. All are archived on the INTERNET at:

<http://www.cam.org/~ukugmtl/stcu.html>

These projects present golden opportunities for Canadians. New industries, not available in Canada, are involved in several of the proposals, which cover a wide spectrum -- from plasma scalpels to boring wells at a rate of 70 metres/minute.

In general, Ukrainians presenting the proposals are well-trained, highly educated engineers and scientists, experienced in the techniques of armament, space and other industries. For world security it is desirable that they be engaged in peaceful pursuits which will assist the Ukrainian economy to recover, and thus not be drawn into other countries' conflicts.

Mr. Speers said that in Canada, the response to the project proposals from the business and academic communities has been most encouraging. Researchers and business people recognize the potential for significant scientific and commercial partnerships. There are many potentially profitable opportunities and more will present themselves as further abstracts are added, as proposals are cleared from Ukraine.

NOT KIEV, KYIV, OR KIEW

KYIV

... IT'S OFFICIAL

An official English spelling of the Ukrainian capital has now been approved by the Ukrainian government.

The Committee on Legal Terminology, headed by the Justice Minister Serhiy Holovaty, last October adopt "Kyiv" as the official spelling of Ukraine's capital. It noted that "Kiev" did not correspond to the Ukrainian spelling of the name.

From now on "Kyiv" is to be used in all legal and official acts of Ukraine.