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## THE ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS MARKET

Today Belarus has entered the era of innovations. Development of the innovative technologies can help our country to reach a new level in the economy. No doubt, every kind of business needs money, and the easiest way of getting money for the development of business is finding investors. The problem is that most of the innovative businesses are venture, the risk is very high and so it's difficult for them to attract new investors. And speaking particularly about Belarus, venture investment is not a common thing for our country; it's not developed well, so for us it's even a bigger problem than for the rest of the world. That makes AIM (The Alternative Investments Market) one of the key steps to the new era in the economy of Belarus.

Originally the AIM market is a division ("small part") of the London Stock Exchange LSE, an exchange platform for growing companies, established in 1995. It was created in order to help young growing companies and the companies that do not meet the requirements of the main market listing (due to the small number of shareholders or the lack of a three-year financial report for instance). The difference between the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) and the London Stock Exchange (LSE) is that the requirements for the access to the first one are not very strict, there are great differences in the criteria and the procedure for admission, and the entry fees are much lower.

Since 2005 AIM has become one of the key markets in Europe and Asia. And also since its inception more than 3,000 companies have placed their shares in this market. The AIM is an international market and Belarusian companies theoretically may submit their stock there, but in practice it can be problematic as the cost of submitting the stocks on the market is still not scanty (about 5% of the volume of attracted investments); it takes two or three years to get the access to the market for the foreign firm, moreover the style of making business in Belarus is quite

conservative, which does not help entering the market. So introducing a similar system will be really beneficial for Belarus.

It can be made both as a part of the Belarusian Currency and Stock Exchange or as an independent financial institution (in the form of the Exchange of innovative technologies).

Creating such system will:

- enhance the prestige of the Belarusian economy in the world;
- create more favorable conditions for private sector development in general (investing in which is also risky);
- allow young innovative organizations to attract investors for a short period of time;
- help experienced companies who don't have the opportunity to access the main stock market.

Thus, launching a similar to the AIM system in Belarus will bring lots of benefits not only for the private or innovative sector, but for the whole economy, which also includes the country itself.