enterprises. IBA has employed a great number of graduates of the Belarusian universities.

EPAM is one of the largest software engineering firms. The leadership of the company is mostly Belarusian in origin and they are mostly graduates of the Belarusian Universities. Evidently we have a good scientific potential.

Many of other smaller and larger business firms and corporations (as well as individuals) face the possibility of outsourcing rather than economically well-organized conditions in their own country.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenka emphasized this project would become one of concrete steps to create conditions for tapping the potential of young scientists on Belarus.

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WHAT TO USE WHEN THE OIL RUNS OUT

ЧТО ИСПОЛЬЗОВАТЬ, КОГДА НЕФТЯНЫЕ ЗАПАСЫ ЗАКОНЧАТСЯ

В современных условиях постоянного увеличения цен на нефть и неизбежного увеличения ее добычи перспектива того, что нефтяные запасы на нашей планете скоро будут исчерпаны, вместе с растущей угрозой глобального потепления делают проблему поиска альтернативного источника энергии все более актуальной. В работе рассмотрены основные возможные заменители нефти.

Part of the attraction of oil for most of us has probably always been its key-turning, switch-flicking simplicity. This one substance has given us food, warmth, chemicals, medicines, clothing, and above all mobility. So it is natural enough for us to look for one neat and simple replacement which will be the perfect substitute for oil in all its versatile guises. But the harsh truth is that nothing is going to be capable of doing everything that oil does — not yet, perhaps never.

So planning for the fast-approaching end of the age of oil means accepting we shall have to rely on many partial solutions rather than one big one.

Hydropower has been around for a long time. It is non-polluting, but works only where there is available water. Wave and tidal power are newer variations which will work in countries with coastlines; both have a lot of development ahead of them.

Hydrogen is often seen as the fuel of the future. It is virtually limitless, as it is a constituent of water, and is non-polluting, but needs to be processed for use as fuel. Also it is hard to store and transport, and at the moment

takes a lot of electricity to make. Its day may come when cheap electricity is available from *solar power*. It's been around a long time, but it's taken a while to develop an effective way of harnessing the Sun's energy.

Wind power: turbines can provide useful amounts of energy in countries with vigorous winds. However, they will not produce a round-the-clock supply, and often arouse local opposition because of their noise, appearance, and threat to birds.

Geothermal energy uses the heat in the Earth's core, either from rocks and water near the surface or through drilling deep wells. It heats most buildings in Iceland, and is widely used in several other countries.

Nuclear power can deliver energy without adding to greenhouse emissions in the process, but it has several severe handicaps. Many people oppose it because they believe it is dangerous, and there is so far no way to dispose safely of nuclear waste.

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BRAIN DRAIN

УТЕЧКА МОЗГОВ

Throughout history people often tended to abandon their homeland in search of better conditions and stimulus for work elsewhere. According to estimates, about 125 million people work abroad nowadays. Brain drain is a movement of highly skilled individuals from home countries to those which offer them greater opportunities in their speciality, appealing living conditions and lifestyle.

Belarus has faced the brain drain for more than fifteen years. On average 15 doctors and 35—50 candidates of science leave the country per annum, let alone hundreds of student non-returnees (each year one fourth of students leaving for work in the USA do not return home). During the last decade the number of scientists in our country fell drastically from 110,300 to 53,300. According to the polls, 42,7 % of Belarusians would prefer to leave the country if given such an opportunity.

The majority of immigrants from Belarus are promising researchers, graduates and highly skilled professionals. Western enterprises, universities and research centres particularly value Belarusian physicists, mathematicians, programmers and engineers. The USA is believed to gain $ 20,000 annually on each skilled migrant, while it costs Belarus $ 600,000 to prepare a doctor of science. Moreover, enormous numbers of young specialists on arrival to the new country fail to find jobs adequate for their skills and education, and thus have to pursue low-skilled occupations.