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УДК 338

## **INNOVATION POTENTIAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

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Innovative activity is becoming an indispensable condition for increasing the efficiency of organizations in the modern economic conditions. The external environment is characterized by dynamism and uncertainty, and action in it is associated with a high degree of risk. Therefore, the rejection of innovations is even more risky. Leading manufacturers base their success on the fact that "innovations are inevitable and manageable, that innovation management is the key to maintaining a high level of efficiency." The inability to use innovations characterizes the inability of an enterprise to adapt to the external environment and ultimately leads to bankruptcy. The development of innovative activities and the development of innovative projects is a key vector for the success of production development in the modern economic conditions of the Republic of Belarus.

Belarus, in terms of its potential, is the most favorable place for the functioning and development of entities of the innovation infrastructure. This is due to the fact that the country has a high-quality resource potential, primarily a large number of researchers engaged in research and development, a well-educated population, a high concentration of financial resources, etc. The main forms of training highly qualified researchers are postgraduate and doctoral studies. In 2023, the number of postgraduate students in the republic was 4,4 thousand people. 786 people graduated from postgraduate studies. 640 people studied in doctoral studies, 178 people completed doctoral studies. 51 people became doctors of science, 293 people became candidates of science. In 2023, 26,7 thousand people in 462 organizations were engaged in scientific research and development (in 2022 – 25,2 thousand people in 448 organizations).

The structure of personnel engaged in scientific research and development has remained virtually unchanged in recent years: researchers – 64,2%, technicians – 8,1%, support personnel – 27,7%. One fifth of all researchers have an academic degree: 519 doctors of science, 2687 candidates of science. In the total number of researchers, women accounted for 38,7% (Doctors of Science – 22,2% and Candidates of Science – 40,8%). Young people under 29 years of age (inclusive) accounted for 21,9% of the total number of researchers.

As can be seen from the presented table 1, the number of organizations performing scientific research and development increased by 155 units compared to 2000, by 14 units compared to 2022 and amounted to 462 organizations.

In terms of innovative development, positive dynamics of indicators are observed for 2019-2023. Thus, the number of organizations implementing technological innovations during the analyzed period is slightly, but increasing compared to 2019 (table 2).

Innovations are extremely important for the development of the national economy of the state. The development of new technologies and the introduction of innovations into the activities of enterprises help to solve complex economic, social and environmental problems. With their help, the volume of production is constantly growing, not only the GDP increases, but also its qualitative change. Under the influence of innovations, technologies and developments, new public institutions and organizations are created, the standard of living of the population increases and employment problems are solved. Innovations are necessary in all spheres of life and work, since they are a reliable source of future development of the country's economy, stable and long-term economic growth.

Table 1 – Key performance indicators of organizations that carried out scientific research and development

Indicators	2000г.	2005г.	2010г.	2015г.	2020г.	2022г.	2023г.
Number of organizations performing research and development, units	307	322	468	439	451	448	462
The list of employees performing scientific research and development, persons.	32926	30222	31712	26153	25622	25233	26738
of them have an academic degree: doctor of science	819	780	748	649	560	523	519
candidate of sciences	3856	3255	3193	2844	2760	2603	2724
of which researchers	19707	18267	19879	16953	16697	16426	17169
Internal expenditure on scientific research and development, million rubles (2000-2015 - billion rubles)	66,0	441,5	1140,6	4495,4	807,0	919,8	1250,0
of which internal current expenditure on research and development, million rubles (2000-2015 - billion rubles)	62,8	402,1	1072,7	4299,6	734,6	868,4	1157,0
Volume of completed scientific research and development, rendered scientific and technical services, million rubles (2000-2015 - billion rubles)	99,1	832,7	1427,8	5443,2	878,7	1036,7	1312,2

Table 2 – Key indicators of innovative activities of industrial organizations of the Republic of Belarus 2019-2023.

Indicators	2019г.	2020г.	2021г.	2022г.	2023г.
Number of organizations that spent money on innovation, units.	501	528	521	521	525
Including industrial organizations	422	447	448	449	457
Information technology organizations and activities in the field of communications and information services	79	81	73	72	68
Expenditures on innovations of industrial organizations in current prices, thousand rubles.	1408411	1473566	1158969	816612	1279462
Level of innovation activity of industrial organizations, %	24,5	26,2	35,0	35,1	34,8

Today, innovations play a vital role in the life of society and the state. In many countries, they are part of public policy, since they contribute to increasing the competitiveness of products, improving the technical base of production, solving acute socio-economic problems, and are also considered one of the main indicators of the development of the economy of the state and society as a whole. If we take into account that the economic state of the country is largely determined by the efficiency of enterprises, we can conclude that innovations at the enterprise level are no less important.

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